

HILLSIDE HOTLINE



END OF MARCH 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

March was an exciting month - it came in like a lion [snow day on Monday, March 2]and was filled with the celebration of reading – “Other Voices, Other Lives – ONE WORLD!” Nzinga, an African griot, told a *pourquois* story about how the ostrich got its long neck. Our kickoff assembly was lots of fun!

*Our SNOW DAY delayed our testing, but New York State Math tests were taken by **3rd Grade** [Tuesday 3/4/08 & Wednesday 3/5/08] and **4th Grade** [Wednesday 3/5/09, Thursday 3/6/09 & Friday 3/7/09]. Great job, 3rd and 4th graders!!

* **On March 9th, Felix Pitre presented Stories and Songs of Latin America in two assemblies [2,3,4 & K,1]** It was an interactive program which used music, storytelling, puppetry and instruments to bring the culture of Latin America to life in order to help give us a better understanding of the people of Latin America and their customs. Performed mostly in English in his own bilingual style, Felix Pitre took the audience on a journey filled with laughter and learning. Perfect for our Other Voices, Other Lives – ONE WORLD theme!

*Early Dismissal on March 11 – Excellent time for staff development!

***ORIENTATION FOR INCOMING KINDERGARTEN PARENTS** = Thursday, March 12 at 7:00 PM in the Café. A great turn out of enthusiastic parents!

*The Placement Process, the formation of classes for 2009-2010, has begun. A letter explaining the process was sent home in early March.

*Irish Dancers performed for the school on March 17 adding to the festive atmosphere. How do they do it? Lots of practice! Thanks to Mrs. Stanton!

*The fabulous 1st Grade MARKET took place in the Café and Small Gym on March 20th. Lots of fine merchandise and the hustle and bustle of a real marketplace. A lively international bazaar! Exciting and meaningful for staff, students, and parents!!

*Authors/illustrators Pat Schories and Alyssa Satin Capucilli gave of their time and talent to meet with K and 1st grade levels respectively to share their experiences writing books for children. Fantastic! Many thanks to them both!

*Nzinga, a Nigerian griot or storyteller, returned to tell stories to the fourth grade classes during their library time. Lots learned and lots of fun!

*The AMAZING BOOK SALE!! Thanks to the PTSA for all its hard work pouring through the hundreds of used books and organizing the Used Book Sale. Our children and staff were excited to be able to find some “treasures” of reasonably priced literature. An outstanding way to end our March is Reading Month! Thank you, PTSA Parents!!

***PARENTS AS WRITING PARTNERS EVENING ON THURSDAY, MARCH 26TH AT 7:00 IN THE CAFÉ.** 55 students and their parents/guardians/siblings shared their stories and celebrated their wonderful accomplishments. **Write on!!**

*Lt. Dosin, a Hastings Police Officer, presented a Pedestrian Safety Program to all grades on March 30th. **Thanks, Lieutenant!**

***Parents, after you e-mail the teachers regarding a student's absence, you also need to call the attendance line at 478-6272. Thanks!**

REMINDER - NUT ALLERGIES are real. Remain vigilant and check the ingredients of food items sent to school for classroom use to make certain that they do not contain nuts or nut products.

Lost & Found clothing will soon be donated to some worthy charity, so please visit the area and claim your child’s clothing as soon as possible.

Extra Clothing- please make certain your child has a change of clothes in their backpack in a Ziploc bag.

Parking: Parents, please park on the street or in the pool parking lot.

The Hastings PTSA 10th Annual Used Book Fair was such a great fund-raising success that we would like to thank everyone for their support: Thank you to all the parents, teachers, staff, and students who donated books, purchased books and volunteered their precious time to work at the fair. Special thanks go to our incredible committee: Jodee Davis, Carol Ehler, MaryAnn Fiebach, Diana Jaeger, Joanne Levine, Lisa Litvin, Philippa Nichols, Randi Odesser, Nancy Oren, Suzanne Page, Diane Penner, Joanna Riesman, and Jacquie Weitzman who helped us price, display, sort, and lift all the books; to Adele Gorman for handling our publicity and scheduling; to Elizabeth Civitano and Dawn Campson who sold Hastings logo wear at the fair; to George and Ernie who miraculously found boxes, storage space and tables and who did much of our heaviest lifting; to the custodians at the MS/HS who brought us all the donations that were dropped there; to Hillside Librarian Dee Ratterree, Principal Bill Huppuch and Assistant Principal Laura Sullivan for their support.

We set a new record this year by raising \$9293 from the books plus \$1750 from the logo wear. These new funds will be used for PTSA grants and scholarships throughout the district. Last, but hardly least, the surplus books have gone to various charities both local and abroad, as well as into our Hillside library, curriculum development

program, and classrooms. Everyone enjoys the book fair, but our favorite part is seeing the joy on each child's face as they chose and pay for their selections and then show them to friends and family. It is priceless, and yes, 2 fifty cent books really do add up to 1 dollar!

We already look forward to doing it again next year, so start saving your books now!

Happy Reading!

Donna Laing and Becca Mudge
Co-Chairs, Hastings PTSA Used Book Fair

Looking forward to APRIL... FOCUS ON THE ENVIRONMENT MONTH

*SPRING RECESS April 6 – 10

*East Coast Assistance Dogs Assembly April 15th

*KINDERGARTEN SCREENING April 13th - 17th

*K-12 ART SHOW April 17 & 18

*Earth Day celebrated in Westchester County April 19th

*Hillside Liaison Meeting – April 20th 6:45 in the Hillside Café

*BOARD OF EDUCATION – April 20th

*BLT Meeting April 20th

*District DSEL Committee meeting April 22

*REPORT CARDS – April 23rd for 1-4 grades

*FOUNDATION GALA – April 25th

*4th Grade NYS Science Test April 27, 28 & 29

*Small Chorus Competition and Trip April 27 in the PM

*WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK – April 27th – May 1st . Get involved!

*Earn Cash for the PTSA with Box Tops

Box Tops for Education make it easy for us to earn extra cash for PTSA sponsored programs. Hot pink Box Tops can be found on hundreds of products you already use. Each Box Top is worth 10 cents (and sometimes more) for the PTSA. Money raised by the PTSA funds programs throughout the school district. Please put collected Box Tops in a sealed envelope (recycled will do,) and label with your child's teacher's name. There is a bright yellow Box Tops collection box in the Main Office. Send them in as often as you like.

Box Tops for Education can be found on the following brands: General Mills, Ziploc, Pillsbury, Yoplait, Betty Crocker, Scott, Hefty, Huggies, Goodnights, Saran, Old El Paso and many more. For a more detailed list, please go to boxtops4education.com.

Hastings Education Foundation. The Fourth Annual Gala Party and Auction will be held on Saturday, April 25th from 7-11pm at Alder Manor.

Recycling – While Hillside works to improve its recycling program, please help at home by including your children in your family's recycling efforts.

Terracycle

Check it out: terracycle.org. This innovative company is reusing 'garbage' to produce and package its plant food and planting pots. Terracycle will donate 2¢ & 5¢ per 8 and 32 oz container to our PTSA (and free shipping!). They paint the pots and sell to plant nurseries. Any brand is acceptable, but they must be the same size and shape as Stoneyfield Farms yogurt containers (see website). Please bring CLEAN containers to the Hillside Office. (Yogurt containers are not recyclable plastic. Westchester only recycles #1 and #2 plastic and these are #5.)

TARGET'S Take Charge of Education program earned Hillside \$165.68 in March! Thanks to those of you who are participating in this program! **It's**

Simple (1)Apply, get approved and get your REDcardSM (if you don't have one already). **(2)Enroll**. Sign up for Take Charge of

Education and designate an eligible K-12 school. **(3)Shop**. Target will donate up to 1% of your REDcard purchases to your chosen

school.*

East Coast Assistance Dogs, Inc. works with at-risk teens in alternative high schools like Children's Village [our neighbor] who learn to teach Assistance Dogs. The organization then places the trained dogs with individuals with disabilities, allowing them to live with independence. For each of them, ECAD provides a new beginning. **Please help support ECAD by coming to Family Fun Day.** The event takes place on Sunday, April 26, 2009 in Dobbs Ferry, NY at Waterfront Park next to the Metro North Dobbs Ferry Train Station, from 12:00 – 4:00 pm.

Family-to-Family

...the non-profit, grassroots, national hunger-relief effort founded here in Hastings is looking for volunteers!!!

Looking for meaningful volunteer work? Help us expand our reach.

We are looking for: Grant Writers, Media contacts, Public Relations contacts, Anyone comfortable making community outreach phone calls – specifically calls to new communities and to our current sponsored communities to assess needs, and people to research corporate in-kind donors for our brand new eBay fundraising shop: *The Closet for Good*

All work can be done from home on your home computer or phone... we are looking for a little time and your skills!!

Even if you're not sure how you can help, please call. For more details contact Pam Koner at: famtofamily@aol.com

or at either of the following phone numbers: (914) 478-0756 or (914) 391-3220.

Visit our website: www.family-to-family.org.



HONESTY -

April's Word of the Month

Honesty is critical to self development and to maintaining a strong learning community. When we are honest with ourselves we can set realistic goals and take actions that can have a meaningful impact on our lives. Being less than honest leads to repeating old patterns and little personal progress. Also, functioning in a learning community necessitates our being honest with others. Based on honest communication, our relationships can become trusting, supportive, and open to risk taking. Of course, we need to be thoughtful about which thoughts and emotions we share "honestly". Our "honesty" should support and nurture our relationships and, thus, the community.

If you do not tell the truth about yourself, you cannot tell it about other people.

Virginia Woolfe

Honesty and transparency make you vulnerable.

Be honest and transparent anyway.

Mother Teresa

Lying is done with words and also with silence.

Adrienne Rich

This above all: to thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night of the day, thou canst not then be false to any man.

William Shakespeare

The first principle is that you must not fool yourself—and you are the easiest person to fool.

Richard Feynman

“When all is said and done,
all our hearts are one!”

Created for Hillside
by **Good Wolf Associates**
“When you’re aware enough
to share your very best.”

Spring has sprung! Enjoy it!





Hastings-on-Hudson District Wide Art Show

The Art Department is presenting its first district-wide K-12 Art Show on Friday April 17th and Saturday April 18th of 2009. The opening reception is from 7:00-9:00 PM Friday evening. The show reopens from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Saturday.

The purpose of this show is to celebrate the student art work - the variety of levels, processes, and projects that the different grade levels have created. Some artwork may reveal a sequence of study or individual variations on a theme. There may be a single class represented, a single grade level or a single assignment. There will be a wide variety of work, themes, approaches and media.

Hillside School* will be represented by students from the following classes:

Mrs. Rubino's Kindergarten Class

Mrs. Galanis's First Grade Class

Mrs. Cirasella's Second Grade Class

Mrs. Kamerdin's Third Grade Class

Mrs. Annunziato's Fourth Grade Class

Everyone is welcome to come and experience the art work that has been created by all the different grade levels in Hastings.

*Due to space limitations, we are only able to present a sampling of artwork from the students at Hillside. During the course of the school year, all of the students at Hillside have had their artwork displayed around the school.

