

# Parent Information Series

2017/18

We are offering a series of parent education events and resources to support the connection between home and school. The purpose of these events is to strengthen the student, parent and teacher relationship by having programs, speakers and conversations that focus on Montessori philosophy and practice, parenting skills and child development issues.

Dear Parents,

As we look to the year ahead, the faculty and I have designed a series of Parent Information Meetings for all parents of current students, those interested in considering the school in the future, or any interested members of the community.

Our goal is to continue the conversations that deepen families understanding of the Montessori philosophy, child development and parenting topics that strengthen ties between home and school.

Additionally, we hope these events provide opportunities to connect with the your child's school experience, the faculty and administration and the community. We also hope to include some potlucks and childcare when appropriate.

I look forward to sharing these events with our community.

Sincerely,



Tamara Mount,

Head of School

---

## **The Parent Information Series**

---

September Parent Meeting

**The Year Ahead and Supporting Home to School Life**

**Thursday, September 14, 2017**

---

October Parent Meeting

**Montessori Outcomes - Discussion with Alumni**

**Thursday, October 12, 2017, 6:30 - 8pm**

---

November Parent Meeting

**How to Understand and Reduce Anxiety in Children**

with Paul Foxman, Ph.D.

**Thursday, November 16, 2017, 6:30 - 8:30pm**

---

Open House for Prospective families

**Exploring the Montessori Environment and Experience**

**Tuesday, Dec 5, 2017 & Jan 31, 2018, 9 - 11am**

---

February Parent meeting

**How Each Program Embodies Hilltop's Mission Statement**

**Saturday, February 3, 9-12 noon (snow date Feb 10)**

---

May Parent meeting

**Moving Up Night -**

**What Lies Ahead for Your Child and Yourself**

**Tuesday, May 1, 2018, 6 - 7pm**

---

**Middle School Graduation**

**Friday, June 8, 2018, ceremony begins at 6pm**

---

September Parent Meeting

## **The Year Ahead and Supporting Home to School Life**

**Thursday, September 14, 2017**

---

**Lower School** 5-6pm TP & LE, CH

**Upper school** 6-7pm UE & MS

This is an evening meeting for all parents to learn about the upcoming year, curriculum topics, expectations of students and building student-parent-teacher relationships. We strongly believe that parents play a critical role in their children's education. We hope to help parents have a greater understanding of their child's work and development, ways to be involved in your child's education and creating consistent expectations and experiences!

**Specific program topics to be included are:**

**Toddlers:** Supporting Independence, Homelife and Boundaries

**Children's House:** How Parents Can Support What We Do

**Lower Elementary:** How We Support Social Development & Extending Class Routines to Home

**Upper Elementary:** Family/School Communication, How We Support Executive Function Skills

**Middle School:** Media and Technology

October Parent Meeting

## **Montessori Outcomes - Discussion with Alumni**

**Thursday, October 12, 2017, 6:30 - 8pm**

---

High School students, college students and young professionals who attended Hilltop Montessori School, for

middle school or starting in pre-school, return to share their Hilltop experiences. How did their education at HMS prepare them for their subsequent education and for life? Parents of our current students as well as prospective parents are encouraged to attend this event. Faculty will also be in attendance.

November Parent Meeting

**How to Understand and Reduce Anxiety in Children**

with Paul Foxman, Ph.D.

**Thursday, November 16, 2017, 6:30 - 8:30pm**

---

Join us for an evening with psychologist and anxiety expert, Dr. Paul Foxman, PhD, Founder and Director of the Center for Anxiety Disorders in Vermont, and author of *The Worried Child* and *Dancing with Fear*.

- How, why and when anxiety develops in children
- The different forms of anxiety
- What parents can do to reduce stress and anxiety
- When and how to refer for professional help
- Managing children's media exposure

Dr. Foxman will wrap up the evening with time to answer your questions.

**Open House Tuesdays** / December and January  
**A Look at the Montessori Environment and Experience**  
**Tuesdays, Dec 5, 2017 & Jan 31, 2018 9 - 11am**

---

All families are invited to join us as we observe the classrooms in action, talk with students, current parents and teachers about the programs, the school and the Montessori method of learning.

This event is designed for parents and interested adults. Call to let us know you would like to join us. 802-257-0500 School closings will be listed on our website if we need to cancel due to weather conditions at [www.hilltopmontessori.org](http://www.hilltopmontessori.org) or under "Cancellations" at WKVT or WTSA radio

February Parent Meeting  
**How Each Program Embodies Hilltop's Mission**  
**Saturday, February 3, 2018 9-12 noon (snow date Feb 10)**

---

As the school works towards our AMS (American Montessori Society) accreditation and a review of the school's mission statement, it seems like a perfect time to include the entire community into the conversation. There's more than meets the eye, what is "responsible independence" and why does it matter? Join the faculty in this discussion, what the mission means for you and your child and how it informs all that we do here at Hilltop.

May Parent Meeting

**Moving Up Night -**

**What Lies Ahead for Your Child and Yourself**

**Tuesday, May 1, 2018 6 - 7pm**

---

Whether your child is moving up to a new program or becoming an older member of the classroom community, the coming year holds with new roles and responsibilities. Join the faculty in each program for a presentation and discussion.

- **Growing through the 3-year cycle in the Children's House**
- **The Joyful Scholar in the Elementary Years**
- **The Adolescent Identity**

**Middle School Graduation Night**

**Friday, June 8, 2018 - ceremony begins at 6pm**

---

Graduation is a wonderful event for all parents. From challenges and successes, with humor and heart, these speeches presented by graduates will inspire and inform you with many stories from their Hilltop experience. Please join us to hear these final words from students as they reflect on their experience at Hilltop.

**99 STAFFORD FARM HILL  
BRATTLEBORO, VT 05301  
WWW.HILLTOPMONTESSORI.ORG**