



# Hilltop preschool



Learning With Love

## January/February 2012 Newsletter



### THANKS FOR THE GREENERIES!

**IMAGINE OUR CHILDREN'S DELIGHT UPON FIRST SETTING** bright eyes on a beautiful, magical forest at Hilltop! Here's one of the many, many reasons why Hilltop is an experience parallel to none. A *great* idea is tossed out—planting after-holiday conifers in the yard—everyone says “Yeah! That’s awesome!” and it happens, thanks to a strong community coming together with love for all our children.

Can you imagine the wonderment and excitement each of our children felt, coming back to Hilltop after a long break, to find themselves amidst an amazing forest that just wasn't there during our “How We Celebrate” event? The chasing and running! The hide-and-seek! The imaginations churning! The creative play unfolding! It's a great thing, folks.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped make this crazy, wonderful idea concocted by adults a reality for our little loves!





# PARENTING FROM THE HEART

**“Tired of nagging and scolding with little response?  
Do you want peace, cooperation and harmony in your home?”  
—Linda and Ty Hatfield, creators of Parenting from the Heart**

Family bliss can be yours, with loving guidance from our own Lynette Anderson. Besides acting as Hilltop’s director and visionary, Lynette is a certified Parenting from the Heart instructor. For those of you unfamiliar with the PFTH course, it’s a philosophy with a mission to help parents nurture the unique spirit within each child; cherish caring and unconditional loving relationships with their children; model truthfulness, kindness, integrity and mutual respect with their children; recognize mistakes as a wonderful opportunity to learn; and resolve conflicts peacefully in the home with a win-win attitude.

The Hatfields created their family vision based on these beliefs:

- Every child is unique, and their individuality is valuable to the family and to the world.
- Every child can have high self-esteem, be self-motivated and respectful of themselves and others when parented from the heart.
- How we treat our children today has a direct influence on their self-opinion and the choices they will make as teenagers and adults.
- Parents have the single most important influence on children’s lives.
- Empowering our children to make meaningful decisions every day enhances the quality of their lives and gives them the ability to be their creative selves.
- Parenting is fun!

As a certified PFTH instructor, Lynette shares the tools to create a family who experiences a sense of “team”; with children who experience connection and win-win cooperation with siblings and friends; that communicates in a healthy, productive manner; that honors each individual’s unique spirit; and who has children with strong self-esteem.

Hilltop’s own PFTH course is slated tentatively for the week of either January 23 or 30. It involves 18 hours of hands-on, life-changing parenting skills to empower your family. Fees are \$250 for an individual; \$350 for couples and \$70 for those wishing to retake the course. Please don’t hesitate to talk to Lynette for more information. Also visit [www.parentingfromtheheart.com](http://www.parentingfromtheheart.com) for comprehensive details.

♥ Create the family of your dreams! ♥

## TANAKA FARMS

**FEED YOUR FAMILY’S NEED FOR HEALTHY FOODS AND SUPPORT LOCAL AGRICULTURE.**

**HEARD FELLOW HILLTOP FAMILIES TALK ABOUT THE DELICIOUS, WHOLE,** organic fruits and vegetables from Tanaka Farms and want more details?

Irvine-located Tanaka Farms CSA (community supported agriculture) provides families a simple way to enjoy fresh, organic, seasonally grown produce on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. Enrolling is a snap: Visit [www.tanakafarms.com/CSA.html](http://www.tanakafarms.com/CSA.html) and enter your information at “How to Sign Up” (select Hilltop as your delivery site). A large box is \$30, and a small is \$20; select either weekly or bi-weekly delivery. Boxes are delivered to Hilltop on Wednesdays and are usually there at 9:30 a.m.

What’s even better is that Hilltop’s Yahoo Groups site features recipes tried and true by our own Hilltop chefs—our families! Visit the Files folder and click on Recipes for such delights as Boysenberry Oat Bars, Chicken and Basil Roulades, Green Smoothies, Baked Eggplant and Homemade Marinara, Midsummer Corn Chowder with Basil & Tomato, and more!

If your child doesn’t attend on Wednesdays, the extra trip is definitely worth it! Jennifer Dupuis, Bella D’s mom and Tanaka chef extraordinaire (you’ll notice most of the Files recipes are hers) was in that position last year. “But it is such a great program, and the fresh, organic produce is so amazing that I found it totally worth dropping by on Wednesday to pick up my box,” Jennifer says. “Even the kids are excited to pick it up, and they are anxious to see what’s in the box each week. We even snack on the yummy strawberries or sugar snap peas on the way home in the car.”



# UNIQUE GIFTS PLAYTHINGS

The Company of Angels store at Waldorf School of Orange County extends its Hilltop fundraiser.

The Company of Angels will continue to give Hilltop 10% of all purchases made now through the end of the school year—just remember to mention you're part of the Hilltop family.

The Company of Angels is truly a unique gift shop. There you will find hand-selected books, including subjects for adults on natural parenting, child development and Waldorf founder Rudolph Steiner, as well as books for children of all ages. Other featured items for infants and youth include wooden and natural toys, and challenging games and puzzles. Lovely handmade items fill every corner: Lyra brand art supplies, unique jewelry, beautiful yarns, heavenly smelling soaps and much more.

Gifts from all over the world are purchased by Waldorf's Nona McConville, who has a gift of her own for providing an array of beautiful treasures. There is always something to admire!



**Location**  
2350 Canyon Drive  
Costa Mesa

**Hours**  
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Phone**  
(949) 574-7775  
ext. 223



## STUFFED ANIMAL ROUNDUP

Upcoming Safari Night offers neglected "strays" new life and love in a new home!

This year, on Saturday, March 24, from 4:30 – 8:30 p.m., perhaps THE Hilltop event that children remember the most takes place: Safari Night. This special night involves food, crafts, games, stories and...a nighttime, flashlight-fueled hunt for stuffed animals that have been hidden throughout Hilltop's yard! But we can't have a safari without safari animals, so now is a great time to start rounding up some of your child's/children's less-loved fluffy creatures and donate them to the Safari Night cause. Your child will come home with a new buddy while your donations will find greater love in a new home!

More details of this event are to come, but soon look for a special "Safari Night Donation Box."

# Let the Music Play!

Music Together registration deadline nears.

Don't miss out on the internationally renowned, research-based music and movement experience, Music Together! Join in your child's joy and musical discovery as Ms. Kindel of Beach Mesa Music Together combines singing, rhythmic chanting, creative movements and instrument play.

## Details

The 10-week semester runs from January 17 to March 20, 2012; each 45-minute Tuesday session begins at 2 p.m. at Hilltop.

## Fees and Registration

The special Hilltop fee is \$155. There is no charge for siblings, and \$15 of every paid registration, along with 100% of any goodwill donations for siblings, will go to back to Hilltop. (Regular fees are \$180 1<sup>st</sup> child, \$120 2<sup>nd</sup>, \$50 3<sup>rd</sup>.)

1. Visit <http://www.beachmesamusictogether.com/register.aspx>.
2. Fill in all required fields and "Registrant" information.
3. Select "Hilltop Preschool" as the location and "Hilltop" as class type.
4. Scroll to the bottom and click "Continue with Registration."
5. Review information.
6. Enter the preregistration code REGGIO in the field for our discount.
7. Complete your transaction!

*A minimum of 8 paid registrants is required!*



## ON OUR CALENDAR

**January 16**  
Hilltop Closed  
MLK Holiday

**January 18**  
General Meeting  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Mandatory)  
7 – 9 p.m.

**January 28**  
Cleanup Day  
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**February 5**  
Surf City Marathon

**February 7**  
Board Meeting  
7 – 9 p.m.

**February 11**  
Fountain Valley  
Fun Run

**February 15**  
General Meeting &  
Priority Registration  
7 – 9 p.m.

**February 17**  
Hilltop Closed  
Lincoln's Birthday

**February 20**  
Hilltop Closed  
Presidents' Day

**February 21-24**  
Blooms/Blossoms  
Conferences

**February 28/29**  
Chauncey and Bruce  
Kindergarten  
Screening

**March 1**  
Community  
Preview Day  
2 – 4 p.m.

**March 6**  
Board Meeting  
7 – 9 p.m.

**March 8**  
Registration Day  
2 – 4 p.m.

**April 30/March 2**  
Picture Days

## HOOF IT!

### Get moving at the Surf City 1/2 Marathon and Fountain Valley 5K Fun Run!

ENRICH YOUR PERSONAL HEALTH AND FITNESS GOALS, AND HILLTOP'S budget! The **Surf City Marathon** (13.1 miles) is scheduled for Sunday, February 5, 2012. Don't run? Sponsor one of Hilltop's own runners! Visit [www.runsurfcity.com](http://www.runsurfcity.com) for more details. Once again, a Hilltop family has generously offered to match whatever sponsor funds we raise, so if we raise \$1,000, the total Hilltop receives will be \$2,000!

One week later, run/walk the 3.1-mile **Fountain Valley Fun Run**, Saturday, February 11, 2012. Let's organize a walking or running group together! The \$20 entry fee goes back to Hilltop. Visit [www.fv5k.org](http://www.fv5k.org) for more details.



**C'mon! You too can run like these folks!**

## FRIENDLY REMINDER

If you have not already signed up for your maintenance or ways & means obligations, which include a job (painting or repair work) and a scheduled cleanup day, and five W&M hours, please do so soon! Lots of maintenance jobs remain; cleanup days are scheduled once a month on a Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. W&M options include volunteering for Safari Night and our Spring Festival/Trike-a-Thon. Buyout of both obligations is available. Please contact our Maintenance Chair, Brian Schunck, [hilltoptreshaan@yahoo.com](mailto:hilltoptreshaan@yahoo.com), for maintenance; contact Erandy Matejka, [erandymatejka@yahoo.com](mailto:erandymatejka@yahoo.com), for W&M. Your efforts toward making Hilltop the best it can be are greatly appreciated.