



Hilltop preschool



Learning With Love

Newsletter

September/October 2011

Stone Soup Celebration

Friday, November 18, 11:30 a.m.

THE FOLK TALE OF STONE SOUP IS AS OLD AS IT IS VARIED IN ITS TELLING. Versions were long told and passed down by Old World generations; the fable came to North America with European settlers. This lesson in fostering cooperation and community begins with nothing more than a single stone and boiling water.

Villagers with little more than neighbors who are starving soon add whatever soup ingredients they can—a little of this and a little of that—to create a hearty soup that nourishes much more than the body. From many small contributions blossom a wonderful meal, closer bonds, and a greater sense of belonging and caring.

Hilltop has enjoyed its own version of Stone Soup for many, many years; once again we look forward to another joyful celebration with our families, children and friends. On Thursday, November 17, is an exciting trip to the Costa Mesa/OC Fairgrounds Farmers' Market, where children can select the ingredients they wish to add to our soup. Then everyone is welcome to return to the school to help wash, chop and prepare all of nature's goodies. On Friday, November 18, our community comes together to foster friendship and celebrate our abundance together. It's an experience not to be missed!



ON THE CALENDAR

November 16
General Meeting
7-9 p.m.

November 17
Farmers' Market Field Trip

November 18
Stone Soup Celebration
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

November 19
Cleanup Day
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

November 21-25
Hilltop Closed for Thanksgiving Break

December 6
Board of Directors Meeting
7-9 p.m.

December 16
How We Celebrate
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

December 19 – January 2
Hilltop Closed for Winter Break
Back to school Jan. 3

Farmers' Market

Thursday, November 17
Meet at the fairgrounds at 10 a.m.
88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa

Join us at the OC Fairgrounds farmers' market to gather our offerings for our stone soup! Whether you're accompanying your child or he/she is joining a friend, please send along with them some cash for purchase—they love to pick and pay for their own vegetables! Whether or not it's your school day, all are welcome to return to Hilltop after this excursion to help chop in preparation for the stone soup celebration the next day.



Auction Success

Was that AWESOME, or what?

Families and friends of Hilltop all enjoyed an adult evening out filled with great fun, food and auction items for bid—and we reached our fundraising goal! After the final expenses are paid and we can zero in on a tally, Ways & Means chair Erandy soon will share with us all exactly how successful we were.

This event takes an incredible amount of planning, preparation, legwork, sweat and even a few tears, but thanks to the tireless and conscientious efforts of our community as it pulls together—teachers, board of directors, parents, family—we are able to generate a significant portion of funding necessary to make each child’s experience at Hilltop the best it can be.

So to that, everyone deserves a huge pat on the back and even bigger thanks for all the time and effort they put in toward making this annual event another huge success. It’s a sacrifice, to be sure, but the rewards are so very great!



Thank you so much to everyone!



We did it all for all the **little loves** of **Hilltop**.



Denise Marks the Spot!

Ella’s mom, Denise Jerge, was the determined winner of the coveted Plavan parking spot! Congratulations, Denise!

Friendly Reminder: Maintenance Hours

HILLTOP NEEDS your caring, crafty, cleaning hands! If you have not already signed up for your maintenance obligations, which include one maintenance job (painting or repair work) and one scheduled cleanup day, please do so soon! Plenty of maintenance jobs remain; cleanup days are scheduled once a month on a Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Buyout is an option (\$125 for the cleanup day; \$125 for the maintenance job).

Please contact our Maintenance Chair, Brian Schunck, at hilltopfreshaan@yahoo.com, to get your maintenance obligations squared away. You’ll be glad you took care of it early!

A rose can say "I love you," orchids can enthrall, but a weed bouquet in a chubby fist, yes, that says it all. —Poet unknown

3 Easy Fundraisers

- Screamin Coupons! (www.screamincoupons.com)
- Renew your support or sign up for the Ralphs Community Partners program (www.ralphs.com), or the Vons Escrip program (www.escrip.com).
- Set your home page to Goodsearch (www.goodsearch.com) search engine, powered by Yahoo! This site gives money back to the community just for searching the web!

Select Hilltop Preschool to ensure credit!