



Principal's Message

December is here----the holidays, the lights, decorations, shopping, and spending time with family and friends. It is also a stressful time.

Children can become overwhelmed and stressed during these next few weeks. It is important to continue to follow a structured routine whenever possible. Make sure your child is getting plenty of sleep and continues to stay focused on their school work. This is the perfect time to go to the library to get holiday books to read with the family.

Winter weather will be arriving. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately. We like to have the students go outside every day, weather permitting. They need warm winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves, etc. If you send the gear we will do our best to ensure that they wear it!

On behalf of all of us here at Hilltop, we want to wish you happy holidays and a healthy new year. We hope that you are able to enjoy this time with family and friends.

Joe Maroni

Community Service

As we enter the holiday season, it is a good time to reflect on how fortunate we are to be a part of the Canfield Schools and community. It is also a great time to teach our children to help those who may be less fortunate. With this in mind, Hilltop Elementary School will be participating in two community service programs this holiday season.

Toys for Tots:

The U. S. Marine Corps Reserve "Toys for Tots" Program collects new, unwrapped toys during November and December each year, and distributes those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted. Please consider donating to this great program. Collection boxes can be found at the front entrance of the building. **This campaign runs from now until December 14th.**

Koins for Kids:

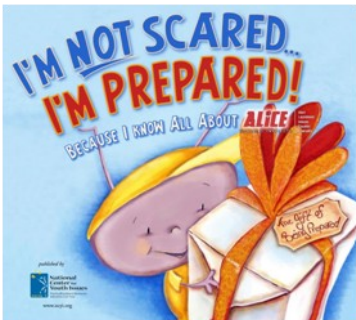
Koins for Kids is a charitable campaign to raise money and awareness for Akron Children's Hospital Mahoning Valley. This campaign was created to start a tradition of giving to benefit the children and their families who are serviced by this world class hospital. The "Koins for Kids" campaign has raised more than \$100,000 for the Akron Children's Hospital. Local school children participate in the campaign by participating in fundraising activities and personalizing holiday snowman decorations in exchange for donations to the hospital. The schools raising the most funds in each county will receive an ice cream social plus a DJ for a school dance. **We will be collecting for "Koins for Kids" from Monday, November 26th through Friday, December 7th.**

Building Safety and Security

Canfield Local Schools has adopted a strategy for lockdown procedures known as the A.L.I.C.E. plan. A.L.I.C.E. is an acronym for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate. Prior to the A.L.I.C.E. plan, lockdown procedures involved the staff locking their doors, moving the students to a part of the room where they could not be seen, and quietly remaining there until an “all clear” announcement was given. The A.L.I.C.E. plan offers a different philosophy in light of recent school violence. The philosophy of A.L.I.C.E. is to use technology and information in a way so that staff and students can make informed decisions in a crisis, remove as many people as possible from the danger zone, and provide realistic training so that those involved in a crisis have a better chance of surviving.

Younger students need constant reminders of safe practices in order for them to make good decisions related to their personal safety. Parents can prepare their child(ren) for the A.L.I.C.E. plan by helping them understand the following objectives at home.

- There are people of all ages, color, and types who can be mean and may wish to harm them.
- Self-confidence comes from trying things that are hard and getting better each time.
- There are many solutions and options when faced with a problem.
- When your child is prepared for difficult situations, they can make informed decisions and will have more self-control.
- Your child is smart and capable if they have the knowledge.
- Help your child identify and assess possible crisis situations.
- Have your child demonstrate the ability to get away from someone who has their hands on them.
- Have your child explain the different safety drills and what they mean.
- Help your child name where they need to go in case of evacuation (different for each classroom).
- Discuss the importance of following the teacher’s directions without hesitation.



ALICE collaborated with ‘Award Winning’ children’s author Julia Cook to create an Age Appropriate instruction storybook that **teachers and parents** can use as a tool to teach the ALICE concepts to elementary aged school children. Cook’s books have been referenced in publications such as: **Parents Magazine; The New Yorker; Chicago Tribune; Yahoo.com; Dr. Laura.com and BabyZone.com**

The teacher at the Ant Hill School wants her students to be prepared—for everything! One day, she teaches her students what to do if a “dangerous someone” is in their school.

I’m Not Scared...I’m Prepared! enhances the concepts taught by the ALICE Training Institute, and make them applicable to children of all ages in a **non-fearful** way. By using this book, children can develop a better understanding of what needs to be done if they ever encounter a “dangerous someone.” Lessons in the book include:

Listen to the teacher and the announcements

There are ways to help the teacher barricade the door

There may be a time to go to a rally point with or without the teacher

This is a great resource that we have provided to our staff to use with our young students. There are several YouTube videos of the book being read available online.

We have also purchased the companion, *I’m Not Scared, I’m Prepared Activity and Idea Book*, which will provide our teachers with ways to protect their students and classroom.

The Pantry at Hilltop

Thank you to everyone who has donated food and supplies to make our Hilltop Pantry a reality. We are now able to distribute food to those in need.

If you are willing to help provide supplies, here is a list of some of the items that we collect and distribute:

Applesauce	Crackers	Peanut Butter
Canned Pasta Sauce	Fruit (Canned or Dried)	Rice
Canned Chicken	Granola Bars	Juice Boxes
Canned Fish (Tuna/Salmon)	Instant Mashed Potatoes	Soup/Stew/Chili
Canned Meat (SPAM/Ham)	Meals in a Box	Whole Grain Cereal
Canned Vegetables	Nuts	Macaroni and Cheese
Cooking Oils	Pasta	

Try to avoid:

- junk food
- items with glass or cellophane packaging, which can be broken in transit
- things that need can openers or special equipment (pop-top cans—whether for veggies, meat or fruit—are a plus)

If you need assistance, please contact the Hilltop office to let us know how we can assist you.

All information will be kept strictly confidential.

You can reach the Hilltop office at 330.533.9806 or email me at jmaroni@canfieldschools.net

Before-School, After-School Care

Canfield Local Schools has partnered with Zion Christian Early Learning Center to offer before-care and after-care to our students. The program will be held at Hilltop Elementary School for students from both C. H. Campbell and Hilltop. C. H. Campbell students will be transported to and from Hilltop each day utilizing our shuttle bus. The program runs from 6:30 a.m. until the start of school each day and from the end of school until 5:30 p.m. The cost of the program is \$5.20/hour for the 1st child in a family and \$4.00/hr for additional family members. If you are interested in the program, please contact Zion Christian Early Learning Center at (330) 792-4066.

Quotes of the Month


"This is my wish for you: peace of mind, prosperity through the year, happiness that multiplies, health for you and yours, fun around every corner, energy to chase your dreams, joy to fill your holidays!"

-D.M. Dellinger

"Holidays have been commercialized. It has become about material things. But the holidays are about sharing stories and being in each other's presence."-Malcolm D. Lee

Statewide Testing

All students in grades 3-4 will be administered standardized testing in English Language Arts and Mathematics through the American Institutes for Research (AIR) testing platform. Testing dates for the 2018-2019 school year are listed below. Please try to avoid these dates when scheduling appointments and vacations. Thank you.

<u>English/Language Arts</u>	
Grade 3: October 23-24, 2018	
Grade 3: April 3-4, 2019	Grade 4: April 1-2, 2019
<u>Mathematics</u>	
Grades 3: April 10-11, 2019	Grade 4: April 8-9, 2019

Lunches

The price for a school lunch is \$2.40, with extra milk costing \$0.40. Please make checks out to Hilltop Cafeteria. We encourage all families to utilize our computer-based prepaid system. This system allows the cafeteria to keep track of food allergies and other student needs in the cafeteria. To learn more about our prepaid system or to view the current menu, please go to: www.canfieldlocalschoolsfoodservice.com. We are asking parents to view the website and check the menu each day. We will not be sending home monthly menus as we have done in the past. Students received their lunch number in their teacher assignment letter. Parents are welcome to come and enjoy lunch with their children, however we ask that you only eat with your child and sit at one of the small tables closest to the entrance. **Parents are not permitted to stay for recess. Parents will be provided with two lunch tickets each year to allow them, or another special person, to eat lunch with their child. Lunch tickets must be handed in upon signing in at the main office and may not be duplicated. Student friends are not permitted to accompany your child to the designated parent lunch area. Parents will always be permitted to take their child out to lunch during the child's assigned lunch/recess times. During the first and last two weeks of school parents will not be permitted to eat lunch with their child so that lunchroom routines may be established. Parents may begin having lunch with their children on Monday, September 17, 2018. The last day to have lunch with your child will be on Friday, May 24, 2019.**

Lunch Times for 2018-2019:

Kindergarten:	10:45-11:15	Grade 3:	11:45-12:15
Grade 1:	11:15-11:45	Grade 4:	12:45-1:15
Grade 2:	12:15-12:45		

Helping our School

We collect Box Tops, Tyson labels, and Sunny Delight labels. Please drop off your labels and box tops in the main lobby. You can also register your Giant Eagle Advantage Card under the Apples for the Students Program at www.gianteagle.com/schools/apples-for-students. Registering your Advantage Card will allow us to get a percentage of everything that registered users purchase. These are some easy ways to help our schools provide the best education to our students.

Attendance

All the Canfield Schools will be following the Attendance Policy written in the Parent Handbook. Please become familiar with this policy. If your child is absent, please call the school on the day of the absence. When your child returns to school, please remember to **send a note** with your child. The note should be dated, list the reason for the absence, and be signed by the parent. If you take your child to the doctor, please send a doctor's note to the school office containing the date of the appointment. Notes from parents and medical excuses must be received in the office within 24 hours of the student's return to school in order for the absence to be verified.

Students who arrive after 8:45 are considered tardy and must come to the office and sign in accompanied by a parent. Please do not drop your student off after 8:45 without bringing them to the office.

School Safety

We all want our students to be safe at school and you can help us by following the directions below.

1. When visiting the school, ring the buzzer and identify yourself to school staff.
2. Upon entering the building, go directly to the office, sign in, and get a visitor badge to wear.
3. If you come into the school to pick up your child, please wait in the office while we call your child down.
4. If your child is to go home in a different way than usual, please send a note with your child in the morning. Please do not call after 12:00 p.m. Each unanticipated request to have a student dismissed from class requires a call or visit to the classroom. Our goal is to keep the disruptions to the educational environment to a minimum.
5. Please do not drive into the busing lanes from 8:15-8:45a.m. or 3:00-3:35 p.m.

We want the entire community to feel welcomed in our school and want all of our students and staff to be safe. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Transportation

If you ride the school bus, you will need to be at the bus stop by 7:55 a.m. until the bus route times are established. It is very important for parents to be home each day. Our buses leave Hilltop Elementary School at approximately 3:30 p.m. each day.

Morning Drop-off Information

1. Parents who plan on driving their children to school should not drop off students prior to 8:30 am. Due to a lack of supervisory personnel, students will not be permitted into the building until 8:30 am.
2. The area in front of the school must be kept clear of traffic so that buses can safely drop off children. Cars should not park or drop off their children using the busing lanes in front of the school. Students can be dropped off at the 3rd and 4th grade entrance on the west side of the building.

After School Car Riders

Parents who plan on picking students up at the conclusion of the day should follow our Loop Pick-Up Procedures.

1. Car riders will be dismissed at 3:15 p.m. Parents planning on picking up their children from school should contact the office before 12:00 p.m.
2. All children must be supervised as they are released to their parents and/or pick-up designee. Parents should pull up to the fourth grade doors. Please put your child's pass in the window so the adults can see the name. ALL children must get in the sidewalk side of the car. Please help your child buckle up quickly so we can keep traffic moving. We will have three teachers on duty to help the process go faster. Please wait until you are given the signal to exit the lot. Children MUST be safely in the cars before the group of cars can exit. We ask that you exit the lot ASAP so we can eliminate wait time.

Kindergarten Update

It's hard to believe that it is already December. The school year is flying by! This month in kindergarten, students will be reading different versions of *The Gingerbread Man* and comparing and contrasting these stories. In math, students will begin writing equations, using greater than and less than, and making combinations to five. We would like to wish your family a happy and healthy holiday season!

1st Grade Update

December is always an exciting time in the halls of first grade. We are learning about winter traditions throughout the world. The children will have the opportunity to shop at Santa's workshop and take a ride on the Hilltop Express. First grade teachers would like to wish you a safe and happy holiday!

2nd Grade Update

Second grade students are excited to begin working on their music program "Holidays Around the World." You can mark your calendars for Tuesday, December 18th. Students are enjoying number line activities and math games to reinforce addition and subtraction facts. It is fun to work with partners and in small groups to practice math skills. Thank you for coming to conferences and for working with your child at home!

3rd Grade Update

The third graders are excited to be exploring their family history through the Immigration unit in Social Studies. Each student will be researching and sharing information about their family's culture. This project stems from the reading of *Molly's Pilgrim* in class. The students will be making connections to Molly and her family while learning about the origins of members of their own family. In science, students will be wrapping up rocks & soil and moving into exploring energy. In math, the students will be working on multi-digit addition and subtraction as well as estimation and rounding. The third grade teachers at Hilltop would like to say Happy Holidays to all of our families.

4th Grade Update

Fourth Grade is hard at work! In science, the students are learning about slow and fast Earth changing processes and how they shape the land. In social studies, early Ohioans including the Mound Builders are the topic. Students got to experience trading like the early Native Americans with Barter Day. Next students will learn about the French and Indian War as well as the American Revolution. In reading, the students continue to read on their level in Guided Reading groups and practice essential skills as a whole group. In English, the students are continuing to work on improving their writing skills. In math, the students are working on multiplication and division strategies.

Early Dismissal

If you are picking your child up from school before the end of the day, please notify the office by noon. Recently, we have had several calls as late as 3:00 pm asking for students to be notified that they would be picked up early. It is very difficult to make dismissal changes that late in the school day due to the disruption to end of the day procedures. Thank you for your cooperation.

Music

The second graders will be performing the annual, "Holidays Around the World" program on Tuesday, December 18th, 2018. There are three performances of the show that day: 9:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. All performances are open to the public. Please check in at the office for the performances taking place during the school day. We hope to see you there!

Library

Thank you to everyone who supported the birthday book sale! We went above our goal of 150 books dedicated to students that will remain in our library for all students to enjoy. The students will have the opportunity to watch and possibly have their name chosen to put a pie in Mr. Maroni's face during an assembly in late December. As we enter this crazy time of year please take the time to sit with your child and read with them. There is nothing more magical than a story shared with a loved one.

Physical Education

In December each grade level will take their bowling tests to measure their bowling knowledge. Next all students will learn to square dance. Children will be assessed on their listening skills, eye-hand and foot coordination as well as their etiquette and socialization skills. We will end the month with our seasonal activities, Santa's Sleigh and Snowball Alley, incorporating a lot of fun movement into these throwing and catching activities.

Art

As we move into December in the Art Room, we will continue our celebration of America and American artists. Our approach will be from a multicultural standpoint. We will be looking into the ways in which each student can become aware of and take pride in their own cultural identity, while gaining respect and appreciation for other cultures in America.

Birthday Treats

Birthday celebrations are so important and we appreciate that you want to help your child celebrate their special day with their classmates, however with all the childhood allergies that are prevalent in elementary schools today it is very important that we take every precaution. Please let your teacher know in advance that you are planning to send in a birthday treat. This will help the teacher plan for children who may not be able to eat that special treat. It is very important that ALL treats come into the office and remain there until lunch time. Food treats must be distributed and eaten inside the cafeteria. Students should notify the lunch room aides if they have a birthday treat in the cafeteria BEFORE passing it out due to allergy concerns. Only students in the child's class are permitted to have a treat. Please do not pass extras out to students in other classrooms. Students are not permitted to take extra treats around to teacher classrooms due to allergy concerns. If at all possible, you could include nutritional information on the treat; it would be helpful and appreciated.

HILLTOP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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<http://www.canfield.access-k12.org/hilltop>

Canfield Local Schools Vision Statement

We will create an educational environment which challenges each student to achieve at their highest potential, leading to top 10 rankings in Ohio by 2022.

Canfield Local Schools Mission Statement

As a community, we educate, motivate, and innovate for individual lifelong success.

**Canfield Local Schools on Twitter:
@CLS_Cardinals**

Important Dates

Nov 26-Dec 7:	Koins for Kids
Nov 26– December 14:	Toys for Tots
December 5-7:	Santa's Workshop
December 18:	2nd Grade Holiday Program (9:30am, 2:00pm, 6:30 pm)
December 21:	Holiday Parties (1:45 pm)
Dec 22-Jan 1, 2019:	Winter Recess (NO SCHOOL)
January 2, 2019:	School Resumes
January 8/9/10:	2nd grade CogAT testing
January 10:	Literacy Night (6:00-7:30 pm)
January 15:	2nd grade Iowa Reading Assessment
January 16:	2nd grade Iowa Mathematics Assessment
January 17:	Dinner with Dad @ Mr. Anthony's in Boardman (6:00-8:00 pm)

We would like to create a Holiday Inflatable Wonderland to line our Hilltop hallways on December 21st. If you have an extra inflatable figure that we can use for that day please contact me at 330.533.9806. Thank you.