



Principal's Message

Happy March 2019! Spring is quickly approaching and the calendar is starting to fill up with events for our students and their families. Our Scholastic Book Fair will be held during the week of March 11-15. The theme for the Book Fair is dinosaurs. The Book Fair "KISS" (Kids Invite Someone Special) Event will take place on Thursday, March 7th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. First grade will be holding it's annual Grandparents' Day on Thursday, March 14th beginning at 9:30 am. Our first graders are working very hard on a special performance for their special guests. Our annual Family Fun Night will take place on Friday, March 15th at Canfield Village Middle School. This event is so big and so much fun that we couldn't contain it at Hilltop. Homeroom pictures will be taken on Wednesday, March 20th. We look forward to seeing you and your families at many of these events.

I would be remiss if I did not thank all of the PTA volunteers that helped out with our Valentine's Day parties on February 13th. Our volunteers made sure that our students had a great day.

Parent & Principal Night

Hilltop Elementary School will be hosting our second Parent & Principal Night this year to meet and share information with parents. All parents are welcome to attend and participate. The meeting will be held on Thursday, March 21st at 6:30 p.m. in the Hilltop lobby. The presentation will focus on building security and statewide testing. Please RSVP to Kathy Palumbo at 330.533.9806 by Tuesday, March 19th if you plan to attend.

Important Dates

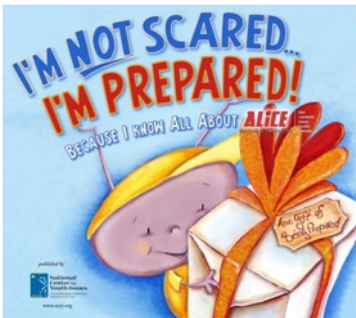
March 1:	Dr. Seuss Day
March 7:	Scholastic Book Fair K.I.S.S. event (5:00-7:00 pm)
March 11-15:	Scholastic Book Fair
March 14:	Grandparents' Day (1st grade only)
March 15:	Family Fun Night (6-8 pm @ CVMS)
March 20:	Homeroom Picture Day
March 21:	Parents & Principal (6:00 pm)
March 26:	Kindergarten Registration (9:00 am– 2:00 pm)
April 1-2:	4th grade AIR Assessment– ELA
April 3-4:	3rd grade AIR Assessment– ELA
April 8-9:	4th grade AIR Assessment– Mathematics
April 10-11:	3rd grade AIR Assessment– Mathematics

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	Pasta	Macaroni and Cheese

Items we are currently in need of include: canned soup, canned fruit, juice boxes, pasta sauce, and graham crackers.

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.

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

March is a very exciting time in kindergarten! We are beginning to prepare for our Muffins with Mom program which will be held in April. We are also going to be learning about spring. In math, we are beginning unit 6 which explores solid shapes in our world. We will also learn to draw 3D shapes. This lesson is always a favorite for our kindergarten friends! Our number corner focuses on ways to make ten including ten frames, fingers, and more. In reading, we are continuing to work in our guided reading groups and are becoming better readers each day. We are also practicing writing a sentence beginning with a capital letter and ending with a period. The kids love practicing this skill in our journals!

1st Grade Update

We have a lot to feel lucky about in first grade! The students have been busy reading and focusing on comprehension strategies. In Math we continue to work on becoming more fluent with our addition and subtraction facts, telling time, and counting coins. In Science we are beginning to “go green” as we study recycling and the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling. Our Flat Stanleys are starting to arrive back home to Hilltop after visiting family and friends around the world! This has been a good application for practicing our map skills. We are excited to welcome grandparents to our annual Grandparents’ Day Program on March 14. Our guests will have the opportunity to see a short program and visit some of their grandchildren’s classes. Students are filled with enthusiasm as spring is just around the corner!

2nd Grade Update

Second grade students are excited about reading and talking about books. We are learning about the differences between fiction and non-fiction. Students have been enjoying biographies, fantasies, fables, fairy tales and folk tales. We look forward to sharing our own research reports later this month.

3rd Grade Update

Third grade has many exciting things happening this month! Students are currently reading books and are working on different reading skills such as making inferences and predictions, and asking and answering questions to monitor comprehension. Students are also working hard to perfect their writing by adding details by citing evidence from the text. **3rd graders will take the Ohio State English Language Arts test APRIL 3rd and 4th!** In Math we have been focused on multiplication and division, as well as measurement. In Social Studies, students will be starting to learn about economics. Lastly, third grade scientists will be discovering and exploring the different types of matter. Third grade is busy as always with extraordinary educational opportunities every day!

4th Grade Update

Fourth grade is really preparing for the state tests. In social studies, the students are learning about government at all levels. In science, we are continuing to learn about earth’s living history. In reading, the students continue to read in small groups on a variety of topics incorporating many skills. Working on writing different types of essays is a main focus as well. In math, the students are finishing a geometry unit. The students will then begin working on multiplication, studying data, and graphing. On April 1-2, the students will be taking the English Language Arts state tests. On April 8-9, the students will be taking the Math state tests. As always, please make sure your child has plenty of rest and a good breakfast before coming to school. We begin testing right away.

Music

The 3rd and 4th graders have received their soprano recorders, and are practicing reading rhythms as well as the notes of the Treble Clef. If you are a parent of a 3rd or 4th grader, please encourage them to practice their recorder in a quiet place at least 15-20 minutes a day. Also, recorders should be washed in warm water with a mild soap (such as dishwashing liquid) at least once time per week.

The 1st Graders are busily preparing for their performance at Grandparent's Day on March 14, 2019. They will be singing several songs at the beginning of the day in the gym at 9:30 a.m. We hope to see everyone's grandparents there!

Library

What is 31 hours long, lasts for one week, and puts approximately 2,824 books into the hands of the students? None other than our book fair! We need moms and dads to set-up, work during the sale, and to tear down. Please consider being a part of this amazing team! For more information contact Patti Hockensmith or Steph Kelly by email at ifindthem@gmail.com. Book Fair is scheduled for the week of March 7 - 15. Looking forward to working with you!

Physical Education

Physical Education's agenda for March will include; playing with the big cage ball, traveling on floor scooters, and playing cage ball soccer. We will move into kick ball with the older students, play blast ball kick ball, and then box ball with the younger students.

Art

In the Art Room, the focus for March is upon *"The World of Architecture and Structures"*. In this unit, we will be learning about famous architects and structures around the world. We will be exploring periods in architecture and creating both three-dimensional and flat pieces of artwork.

Fourth graders are starting their *Altered Book Project*. The theme will be *All About Me*.

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**

Quotes of the Month

“Beware of false knowledge; it is more dangerous than ignorance.” ~ George Bernard Shaw

“Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young.” ~ Henry Ford

