**So, you want to be the “Head Room Parent”?**

**Room Parenting 101**

Q. What does the term “Room Parent” really mean?

A. Long ago, the term was “Room Mom,” which in this day and age seems like we wouldn’t allow Dads in the classroom! Now we have opened the door to any parent, guardian, even grandparents. In a nutshell, you as Room Parent are the liaison between teacher and the parents. You will be asked to coordinate 3 parties throughout the school year, with direction from the teacher on what he/she expects for each party. You are also asked to coordinate a gift for your teacher for Teacher Appreciation week in May.

Q. What, when and where are the parties?

A. The first is the Halloween Party and will take place on Monday, October 31st. The second is the Winter Party and will take place in December before winter break. Finally, the third is the Valentine’s Party and will take place Tuesday, February 14th. All parties are held in the classrooms and are from 12:30-1:30 unless teacher needs to change the time.

Q. How are parties funded?

A. A letter will go home to each family asking them to send $6.00 for the classroom parties. That’s $2.00 per student per party. Parents will be asked to send the money to the attention of the “Head Room Parent.” Your teacher will then give the funds to you. You will be responsible for budgeting for each party. As each party nears, you will also want to ask parents to donate items, such as napkins and treats, so that the collected funds can be spread further.

Q. Isn’t that a lot of work for one parent?

A. Not if you know how to delegate. You will receive a list of parents with phone numbers and email addresses so that everyone can be informed about and has a chance to participate in the class parties. Your job is to match the right parent to the job, just by asking what they are willing to do. If you know a parent whose child is also in the class, ask them to work with you as a Co-Room Parent. This is a great way to share responsibilities and make lasting friendships.

Q. Can the Head Room Parent send home flyers with the students?

A. Yes, but you should always have it approved by your teacher first. Be sure to ask your teacher how he/she would like to have them distributed.

Q. What do I need to know about parents parking for the class parties?

A. As you know, Hilltop does not have a very big parking lot and parents can park in available spots and along the curb next to the field. However, FOR THE SAFETY OF EVERY STUDENT, all cars that are parked in the bus line/staff parking lot MUST be moved by 1:30pm.

Q. How do I get my classroom party photos in the Yearbook?

A. You will want to find a parent who is willing to take pictures at the parties with a camera, not a cell phone. Unfortunately, cell phone pictures do not turn out right once they are uploaded to Life Touch so we ask that only pictures be taken with a camera. The yearbook committee will provide submission deadlines. More information will be given at the Head Room Parent meeting.

Q. How can I find out more information once I’ve decided to become a Head Room Parent?

A. We will have an informational meeting at school sometime in September. You will be contacted about the details once they are determined.

Q. What are the benefits of being a Head Room Parent?

A. Almost too numerous to mention! You will get to know your child in a different light, and see young minds grow throughout the year. You will watch your child interact and make new friends. Plus, the smile on your child’s face seeing you walk in and help with the party is priceless. A very important reward is having the chance to help one of the few people who work as hard as you do—your child’s teacher.

If you would like to be a Head Room Parent, and we hope you do, please let your teacher know. There will be a signup sheet in your child’s class room on curriculum night, or contact us at hilltophawkspto@yahoo.com.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Hope to see you soon,

Heather Petzold

PTO Vice-President