

THE  
Hillside  
School  
2697 Brookside Road  
Macungie, PA 18062

# Mission



*The mission of The Hillside School  
is to maximize the potential of the child  
with learning disabilities  
through excellence in education.*



# THE Hillside School



The Board of Trustees of  
The Hillside School announces the  
retirement of Head of School

*Sue M. Straeter*

# The Hillside School

December 1, 2011

Dear Wendy,

Amazing transformations.

These two words describe what I have been privileged to witness throughout my 18 professional, and personally rewarding years with The Hillside School.

In June 2006, I was extended the opportunity to be the new Head of School. As the past Assistant Head of School and Hillside teacher, it was more than a make-sense trajectory; it was a meant-to-be transformation all my own.

It challenged me. It was never easy. But it was always worth it. The collective inspiration of my fellow educators and staff, passionate parents and dedicated students, made every moment of my Hillside experience more meaningful.

Together with them, I share the gift of knowing what it is to help children realize their true potential. Hundreds of learners amazingly transformed—changed forever and for the better because Hillside was here when they needed it and all of us most.

I will never stop advocating for children who learn differently, and as I look around, I see promise everywhere. I have every faith that the proven success of my colleagues, together with the solid leadership of the board, will enable a Hillside community that is ever more dynamic, vibrant and able for generations of students to come.

The job I love, yes, is coming to an end. But the opportunities created and accomplishments achieved, they will well survive my tenure.

I may be leaving Hillside, but I am not leaving it behind. The heartfelt memories and lifelong friendships are mine to keep. They are inextricably woven into all the amazing transformations I have witnessed; every single one is a cherished chapter of my Hillside story.

With gratitude for the wonderful years,



Sue M. Straeter, Ed.D.

January 26, 2012

## To our Hillside Families and Friends:

After 18 years at The Hillside School, and over 35 years in education, Dr. Sue Straeter has decided to retire effective June 30, 2012.

The Hillside School Board of Trustees has reluctantly accepted her decision.

On behalf of the board, I would like to say that it has been a pleasure working with Sue. Her hard work, integrity and expertise have made our job easy. Sue first came to Hillside almost thirty years ago, and her stewardship over the last decade as Assistant Head of School and then as Head of School has seen Hillside flourish and continue to gain recognition as the benchmark for the education of children with learning disabilities. For this we honor Sue's tireless efforts and contributions to Hillside, which are worthy of the accolades I know she will receive from our community.

While we reflect on Sue's leadership and celebrate her accomplishments and Hillside's success over her tenure, the board of trustees also looks forward to the future and the process that will choose Hillside's next head of school. I have appointed board member, Marilyn Marles to chair the search committee. Other members of the board on the search committee are Peggy Nallo, Gretchen Krasley, Daphne Uliana, Jim Edwards and myself. The committee is pleased with the number and quality of the candidates we have received thus far. Our process is working well – we have reviewed applications, conducted telephone screenings and in-person interviews of several promising candidates, with several more to be evaluated in the coming weeks. We are confident that our efforts will allow us to recommend to the Board an excellent choice for the next Head of School.

One thing is certain. Our next head of school inherits a Hillside that is strong, a Hillside that is poised for more growth and a Hillside that will continue to move boldly forward into the 21st century with a solid foundation.

Thank you again Sue for your love and commitment to The Hillside School. The board of trustees and Hillside family wish Sue continued good health and success in the next chapter of her life.

Very truly yours,



Wendy R.S. O'Connor, Esquire  
President of the Board of Trustees