

Building Our Community

By Sasha Clayton

I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community, and as I live, it is my privilege - my *privilege* to do for it whatever I can.
—George Bernard Shaw

At a private school, we have the unique privilege of having chosen our educational path, of having elected our academic community. Everyone is not so fortunate. I commend you for making the choices and sacrifices necessary to afford your child the opportunity to participate in this rich community.

In the few short months since my arrival at Hilldale, I have been impressed by the dedication, compassion, and commitment that I have witnessed by various members of this community. At Family Association and Advisory Council meetings, I have been awed by the passion of the parents and staff who want to enact positive change, not just because of their ingenious ideas, which I expect from an intelligent community, but from the willingness of those individuals to take the time and effort to get the job done.

As I look around the school, I am inspired. I see a newly-painted fence, delightful pictures of current students and staff hung about the school, bright, white office walls, a new recycling program, and numerous volunteers listed for the Halloween Carnival. We have an active room parent in every grade, and we will have a book fair and perhaps even a new hot lunch program. All of these efforts and actions are thanks to members of our parent community.

What will my role in this community be? What will yours be? Each of us has unique talents, ideas, and connections which can benefit our community. What I have seen so far is astounding, but as we know, there is much to do. The growth of this school community cannot rest on the shoulders of a few dedicated parents. We must *all* do our part to shape it into the Hilldale community of our dreams.

I hope to see you at fundraisers, parties, forums, meetings, and special events such as the *Make a Difference Day*. Thank you for all you have done and all you will do!