

GROUNDBREAKING ON A HILLTOP

a poem for Two Voices

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September	September
2015	2016
time to begin	time to begin
the ground is broken	<i>the ground is unbroken</i>
mind that deep hole!	<i>Hilltop is made whole</i>
we start work	we start work
on the unsteady, unwieldy, uneven plot	<i>on a firm, unfaltering foundation</i>
piles of	piles of
dirt	pencils
sand	paper
gravel	golden beads
rock	books
and lumber	and binders
sharp	sharp
nails	<i>minds</i>
hard hats	<i>supple hands</i>
heavy hammers	<i>tender hearts</i>
surefooted	surefooted
steel toed boots	cool rubber sole
30 feet up	shoes
on a	on the gym
steel beam	court
exacting dimensions	<i>freeform expression</i>
precise blueprints	<i>wandering green woods</i>
no room for	

mistakes

accuracy to the 16th inch

all level, all straight all

square

“measure twice, cut

once

Big Rig

Boxy, “Rocksy”

ROARING

Diesel Trucks

rumbling the campus

jumbled

jackhammered

jarred underfoot

rebar strong

men shouting

earth moving machines

amazing what man and machine
can do

It will rain

and slow things done

that’s a problem

When it rains

muddy

Messy

mush

one

mistakes

are how we learn

close enough in a pinch

square

triangle, circle, trapezoid, ellipse

once

upon a time”

small silky

sweet scented

Nearly silent

breezes

wrapping around us

stilled

serene

starred overhead

robin’s birdsong

sweet sprouting

baby garden greens

*deer, rabbit, chipmunk, we love you, but
shoo!*

It will rain

PE in the GYM!

No problem!

When it rains

mud!

mess!

mushroom!

one

by twelves	mission statement
two	two
by fours	decades of Mrs. Cindi Stehr's founding vision
three	three
building phases	children she first loved and dreamed for, now surely 3000
four	more
unpredictable seasons	four
108 years	unprecedented seasons
history	<i>109 years</i>
legacy	history
Montessori	legacy
We need to change this	Montessori
move <u>that</u> over <u>there</u>	<i>music is bliss</i>
need to make tough choices	<i>a symphony in the air</i>
may need more discussion	<i>transcendent young voices</i>
pink	<i>Awesome Percussion!</i>
insulation	pink
brown	towers
workboots	brown
red	stairs
firelane lines	red
yellow	<i>rods</i>
hardhats	yellow
white	<i>Tonka trucks</i>
drywall hung & taped floated & primed every wall, everywhere	white
Stone	stretched canvases and clouds on the veranda art "en plein air!"
Masons	Stone
fashion stone into paths	<i>messages</i>
fashion stone into branches	<i>your path, supported in stone</i>
	<i>your family's generosity appreciated in</i>

fashion stone into leaves

fashion stone in walls

move

The earth

With clunky machines

with shovels & wheelbarrows

planing the terrain for

inclines & steps

box up the

**BOOKS and BALLS and
Beatbars and Birdseed
painters, movers woodworkers**

**reorganize, refresh, repurpose,
rededicate**

The original LEED building

SKILLED and DEVOTED

craftsmen

create potential

**This project is a special one,
craftsmen**

green

of this earth

better

Please

patiently pardon our progress

CHILDREN

Stay Clear!

It'll be

A YEAR

**We build upon broken ground
and a hilltop
Hole**

stone

your name, unforgotten in stone

*your place here on the Hilltop, carved into
stone*

turn

The earth

with small seeking hands

with spoons & little trowels

inclines & steps

to connect us all one to another

bring in the

**BOOKS and BALLS and
Beatbars and Birdseed
parents, staff and faculty**

**reorganize, refresh, repurpose,
rededicate**

She still serves us well

SKILLED and DEVOTED

educators

create purpose

**This task is a sacred one,
educators**

and good stewards

leave a place

than they found it

Please

partake of this peace and promise

CHILDREN

Come Here!

It's been

A YEAR

**We stand upon unbroken ground
and Hilltop made
Whole**