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Hillside News

June 14, 2019



IMPORTANT DATES

- 6/18 -- Grade 5 Field Day
- 6/19 -- Last Day of School; Early Release 12:15 PM
- 9/02 -- Labor Day, No School
- 9/03 -- First Day of School, School Begins 8:20 AM
- 9/04 -- First Day of Kindergarten
- 9/25 -- PreK-8 Early Release Day, Dismissal 12:15 PM
- 9/30 -- Rosh Hashanah, No School



News from Mr. K...

This is our last newsletter of this academic year and also the last one being sent from Hillside! With that said, it's fitting that our last topic is the new Sunita Williams Elementary School. We are on schedule to open this September and, though construction is over 90% complete, the summer months will be very busy with the delivery of new furniture, new equipment and the curriculum resources and materials the staff are presently packing to be sent over. There are also a number of required and essential inspections, which need to be successfully completed before we can occupy our new wonderful space. Many

parents and some students have asked if we will be able to have an open house for families before September and, because we cannot determine the possibility of that happening at this time, I have included two links which I shared at this past Wednesday's meeting for you to access for an update on the building. The first is the latest [bird's-eye-view](#) of the building and campus, taken by Needham photographer and resident, Yehuda Inbar. The second is a [virtual tour](#) of the school filmed earlier this week. Please pardon the inconsistencies in sound and inexperienced realtor guiding you through the building!

At that meeting we also started a conversation about some of the logistics that need to be worked out about how to ensure that safe drop-off and pick-up procedures are in place and to plan safe walking or biking routes. If you are interested in being a part of the safe routes conversation, please contact Hillside (soon to be Sunita Williams!) parent, Libby Moore at libbyzugmoore@yahoo.com for information on how you might be able to help your children and neighborhood friends walk or bike to school via the safest route. Necessary work is being done on the roads and sidewalks around the new campus and should be completed soon. School staff and I will continue to meet with the Needham Police and town officials to address these procedures and routes over the coming weeks, and I will update you in August on our progress.

I hope you have a wonderful summer!

Mr. K

PTC Hillside Hornet Buzz

PTC Highlights:

- **Fifth Grade Parents: [Have you signed the Waiver for the BSC?](#) If not, [sign here.](#) **Volunteers Still Needed for 5th Grade Field Day!** [Sign up here.](#)**
- **The PTC *REALLY* needs you! Check out the open Committee Chair Positions for 2019/20**
- **2019-2020 School Supply Kits now available for purchasing [online](#)**
- **Plan to purge some books over the summer? Please consider saving them for the Sunita Williams Used Book Sale - details below**
- **Claim items from Lost & Found before the last day of school. All unclaimed items will be donated.**
- **Join our Hillside/SWES float in Needham's 4th of July Parade!**

It is hard to believe we are writing the last Buzz of the school year, and the LAST EVER as the Hillside PTC!!! A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to all of our Committee Chairs and parent volunteers who brought such wonderful programming to Hillside this year...we couldn't have done it without you! It's the generous and caring Hillside families that make our community so special, and we are grateful that our community stays intact as we move to Sunita Williams Elementary School. We hope everyone has a wonderful summer, and we look forward to transitioning to our amazing new building together in September!

Thank you!

Thank you to all those who participated in the Calendar Raffle and congratulations to the Winners!! **A BIG THANK YOU** also goes out to all the **CALENDAR RAFFLE DONORS** - *Fuji Restaurant, The Moore Family, Volante Farms, Trader Joes, Stacey's Juice Bar, Mr K, Treat Cupcake, Abbott's Custard, Dedham Community Theater, Tree Top Adventures, SDSS Kung Fu, The Tarragona-Barbera Family, Y3K, Mathnasium, In Home Jams, First Aid Beauty, Proud Mary's, Harvey's, The Paint*

Place, The Clarke/Glendale Road Families, The Lawrence Family, The Abbott/Ware/Border Road Families, Kings Bowling, The Birch Street Families, The Lawrence Family, The Blacksmith/Brentwood/Kent/Lewis/Meadowbrook/Newell/Prospect Street Families, Goldfish Swim, Roche Bros. Your generosity puts smiles on the faces of children claiming their prizes and ensures the success of this beloved annual PTC fundraiser! A Big Thank you also goes out to the Committee Chairs **April Crawford** and **Jen Leonard-Schaffstein** for running this fundraiser.

Thank you to our Spring Carnival Chair, **Melissa Jacoby**, and her committee - **Allison Coburn, Meredith Swisher, Danielle Manning, Christy Bird, Geri Fox** and **Julie Hertz** for a **FABULOUS FAREWELL** to Hillside at the last ever Spring Carnival. We had an amazing turnout and lots of smiling faces - all contributing to a wonderful community celebration.

Thank you to our Yearbook Chair **Sam Shapiro** and her committee **Tess Murch** and **Robin Gamrath-Schauman** for our fabulous, end of an era, Hillside Yearbook. They really have gone above and beyond to create this treasured memento for our children. If you are inspired by the current yearbook and you would like to be a part of this committee next year please reach out to Tess Murch tess232000@yahoo.com.

Thank you to our Staff Appreciation Chairs **Caitrin Dunphy** and **Betsy Alperstein** for all their hard work to ensure our wonderful Hillside teachers and staff have a party to remember this evening! Thank you to **Angela DePaul** for donating the beautiful flower arrangements used at the event.

And finally, **Thank you** to our Fifth Grade parents **Seema Layne, Heidi Weisel, Grace Lee, Erin Apstein, Caitrin Dunphy, Sam Shapiro** and **Mike Schaffstein** and the fifth grade room parents **Joanne McHugh, Jodi Rooney, Donisius Nyamweya Omosa, Lauren Greenstein, Coryell Urban, Robin Gamrath-Schauman, Amy Reilly,** and **Beniam Fisseha** for organizing our last ever 5th Grade Party (tonight!) and Field Day (June 18th). And thank you to all the parents who have volunteered to help during these festivities!

The Latest Buzz:

School Tool Box - School supply online ordering for teacher-approved school supply kits is now **OPEN!** Order online and schedule your delivery date to your home for anytime this summer! Not only is this a quick and easy way to get all of your school supplies but a portion of the proceeds benefit Hillside/Sunita Williams Elementary! This program is being offered to rising 1st through 5th graders. (Rising kindergarteners will receive a separate letter this summer from their teacher). No need to know which teacher you have next year— each grade level has a pre-built school supply box already loaded on the school toolbox site—so with one-click you can order all your teacher approved supplies! Go to www.schooltoolbox.com and search for Sunita Williams School! If you have any questions contact Jessica Young at jessicamercer@yahoo.com.

Needham's July 4th Parade! Let's bid farewell to Hillside and welcome the Sunita Williams School to Needham in this summer's 4th of July Parade! We will be decorating a float in the parade again this year. We are looking for volunteers to help with assembly; we are also asking for donations of materials and decorations to make our float awesome! **If you would like to participate in the parade, help decorate or donate any supplies please email April and Shelly at Hillsides4thofJuly@gmail.com** and we will add you to our mailing list and keep you updated on all parade information!! *Please note: this is not a drop off event - all students must have a parent/guardian in attendance.*

Planning to sort through your bookshelves over the summer? Please consider donating them to the first ever **Sunita Williams Used Book Sale!** If you cannot hold onto the books until our first collection in the Fall, please contact our Used Book Sale Chairs, Joanie Daly and Ilana Kaufman (jdayadaly@gmail.com and kaufman.ilana@gmail.com). Thank you!

A Message from Hillside Cares: Please ask your child to **check the Lost & Found** before the last day of school. Sweatshirts, jackets, water bottles, lunch boxes, hats, and other assorted items have been collected and are waiting for their rightful owners to claim them! Any items **left after June 19th will be discarded or donated to Circle of Hope.** Please contact Sarah Burns @ sarahmag18@yahoo.com with any questions.

Upcoming Events

The **5th Grade Party** is **TONIGHT, June 14th** from 4-6 pm at the Boston Sports Club in Wellesley (140 Great Plain Ave, Wellesley). **All children need to have a BSC waiver signed by their parents in order to participate. Please do this in advance of the party by following this [link](#).**

The **5th Grade Field Day** is June 18th. Only parents who sign up can attend - there are still open volunteer positions (sign up [here](#)) - come and join the fun!

PTC Fundraisers

Amazon Smile: When you shop Amazon, be sure to shop via the Amazon Smile link and designate the Hillside Parent Teacher Council Trust as your charity of choice. Amazon will donate a portion of their proceeds back to the PTC every time you purchase eligible items. It takes very little effort, but the pay-off for the PTC is great!

Seeking Volunteers - OPEN POSITIONS 2019 - 2020

Thank you to those who have already signed on to help fill **Open Committee Chair Roles** for the next school! We are still looking to fill some openings. Remember, we cannot run the many events and programs for our community, that help build and strengthen our community, if we don't have people in these positions willing to take on these roles. There are positions to suit all levels of time commitments for both working parents and stay-at-home parents. **All of these roles can be shared by 2 (or more!) people so consider grabbing a friend or two and helping run one of the events/programs looking for new Committee Chairs:**

2019/20 Chair positions:

- Candy Bar Bingo Chair
- Calendar Raffle Chair
- Creative Arts Chair
- Sunita Williams Green Team Chair

2019/20 Shadow/Apprentice Roles which will transition into 2020/21 Chair Role:

- Communications Email Blasts
- Enrichment Grants
- Walk/Bike to School Chair

If you want more information about what is involved in each of the positions, please contact Vanessa Jones vanessajones694@icloud.com. **We would love to have you join the team!**

Child Assault Prevention Program (CAP) Seeking Volunteers for 2019-2020 School Year

Do you have two free mornings a month during the school year? Are you looking for a meaningful and fun way to make a difference in children's lives? If so, then join our dynamic team of trained CAP volunteers who are committed to using guided discussions and role plays to teach children in the Needham Elementary Schools that they have the right to be Safe, Strong and Free with their friends and peers, when they meet adult strangers, and with those who are trusted to take care of them. We are now accepting applications for the 2019-2020 school year. The next training begins on October 20th. For more information or an application, please visit our website at www.needhamcommunitycouncil.org or contact Caren Nemptzow, Director, at 781-444-2415, ext. 2120 or cnemptzow@needhamcommunitycouncil.org



Honor Educators with NEF Gift for Education Cards

Recognize a special teacher or VIP in your child's life by making a donation in his or her name to the Needham Education Foundation

(NEF). NEF Gift for Education Cards make it simple to show your gratitude, while supporting innovation and excellence in Needham Public Schools. If you order online, NEF can send the cards back to you so you can personalize and hand deliver, or we can mail the cards for you. Cards are \$10 each.

To purchase online (by June 12th), visit nefneedham.org. You may also buy cards in person at Proud Mary, Roche Bros., Sudbury Farms, or Volante Farms **through June 21st**. Questions? Contact Maureen Callahan at mcallahan@nefneedham.org.



Needham Community Council Family Fun Night

Friday, June 28 from 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Rosemary Pool Complex

Free admission to the first 100 people -- Free Richie's slush!

Needham Youth & Family Services

The Youth & Family Services Department is offering new and fan favorite **Summer Programs!** Check out the new Summer brochure online www.needhamma.gov/youth. It's also that time of year to submit your applications for the 2019/2020 school year to participate in the Peer Tutor and VIP programs. Be sure to get in your registration forms and applications before they fill up. If you have questions regarding programs, please contact Kristin Scoble at kscoble@needhamma.gov.

Parenting -- Being a parent is something you wouldn't change for the world — but doing it alone can sometimes drive you to exhaustion. Are you a single parent interested in participating in a group addressing issues such as time management, raising healthy children, taking care of yourself, while at the same time getting to know other single parents? Join this FREE 6-week program; childcare is provided onsite, and a light dinner will be served for parents and children. Registration deadline is July 1. For information and to register, contact: Katy Colthart, LICSW at 781-455-7500 x264 or by email at kcolthart@needhamma.gov, www.needhamma.gov/youth

Extreme Looks Summer Program -- "Extreme Looks" is a **free** four-day program that examines how the media goes to extremes that distort girls' self-esteem, body image, and perceptions about relationships. Based on a model of being one's happiest and healthiest self, the group will cover topics such as the impact of social media, the harms of Photoshop, understanding gender roles in modern society, and a deep exploration of individual values. Topics will be approached through hands on activities and crafts. Participants will also learn safe ways to exercise and stay healthy, thus addressing the needs of the mind, body, and spirit. In addition to the program itself, participants will receive a summer memberships to the Needham YMCA.

The program is open to rising 7th and 8th grade girls, and is scheduled for Monday June 24th – Thursday June 27th from 1:00 – 4:00 pm at the YMCA. For more information please contact Carolyn Tracey at 781-455-7500 x266 or ctracey@needhamma.gov. Learn more at www.needhamma.gov/youth/extremelooks.

Save the Date! The **Rotary Club of Needham** Carnival is coming up July 11-14 at Needham High School. For details, go to www.NeedhamCarnival.com. On that page if you click "going," you will be entered to win a free day for your family at the carnival. This is a good old fashion carnival with rides for kids of all ages, midway games, and carnival food like fried dough and cotton candy. This is a wonderful opportunity to make memories for your family that will last a lifetime.

Summer Track Club Sign Up

All boys and girls age 3.5 - 14 are invited to sign up for the Needham Youth Track Club Summer Program. Spend summer evenings running, throwing and jumping! The program provides instruction, practice, meets, ribbons, trophies and lots of fun. For more information: www.needhamtrack.org (select Summer Program) or e-mail needhamtrackclub@gmail.com or call 781-856-4088. Online registration: www.needhamsummerprogram.org

The Child Assault Prevention Program (CAP) is now accepting applications for volunteers for the 2019-2020 school year. Please join our dynamic and dedicated team of volunteer Prevention Specialists who go into the Needham Elementary Schools in teams of three and teach the children that they have the right to be Safe, Strong and Free with their friends and peers, when they meet adult strangers, and with those who are trusted to take care of them. No prior experience required as training is provided. The next training begins on October 20th. For more information please contact Caren Nemtzw, Director, at 781-444-2415 or cnemtzw@needhamcommunitycouncil.org or visit our website at www.needhamcommunitycouncil.org.

The Needham Community Farm announces new Family Gardening Classes for Spring, Summer and Fall. The hands-on classes are designed for families with young children, require no previous experience, and materials and tools are provided. For more information and to register, visit the website at www.NeedhamFarm.org, or call Susan Shaver at 781-343-1106.

Citizens for Needham Schools — Apply to be a Board Member

CNS is seeking board members who are politically and civically engaged with an interest in issues related to education and the Needham school system. The Board engages in robust conversation and welcomes diverse viewpoints. CNS Board members serve a three-year term and responsibilities include attending 5-6 CNS Board meetings, watching and writing summaries of 2-3 School Committee meetings, and engaging with and providing school-related information to the community on an ongoing basis via social media, school meetings, and your personal network. [Learn more about CNS](#) [Apply now](#)



STEAM Center Hours

Mon-Wed 3:30-8:30

Thursday - 3:30-5:30

Friday - 3:30-5:00

Saturday - 9:00-4:30

Sunday - 1:00-6:30

Drop in to program a robot, build a marble run or snap some circuits together. Explore robotics, computer coding, electricity and engineering using our toys, games and equipment.

Register for Summer Reading!

A Universe of Stories

May 1-July 29th

Sign up for Summer Reading at the Children's Desk of Needham Free Public Library or call 781-455-7559 x 204. Registration begins May 1. Sign up through June 29th. Read and log the time spent reading in a paper or online reading log starting June 24th -August 9th. Earn prizes. This year's theme is outer space. Paper rockets on the Children's Room bulletin board representing each school, will be racing towards a distant planet. Which rocket will arrive first and win the Race in Outer Space? The more you read, the faster and further your school's rocket will go! Get a brag tag and neck chain when you sign

up. Receive 4 pony beads to put on your neck chain for every 2 hours of reading you do. The more you read, the more specialized beads you can collect. Watch out for strange UFO sightings around Needham! Enjoy performers, workshops, STEAM activities, movies and more June 24th-August 12th!

Summer Learning at Needham Free Public Library

Grades K-5

Summer is about reading - and math and science and having fun! We have long known about the "summer slide" in reading. When children don't read over the summer, they lose skills and vocabulary and have a harder time in the fall. However, the same is true for forgetting math skills, or what they learned in science class.

Explore the web links for Summer Learning on the Needham Free Public Library's web page

www.needhamma.gov/library where children can hone their skills and retain what they have learned in school over the summer months through fun and engaging online activities.
