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Main Office -- 781-455-0461

Hillside News April 6, 2018



IMPORTANT DATES



- 06 Talent Show 7:00 - 8:30 PM
- 09 + 11 MCAS - 4th Grade ELA
- 10 Delayed Opening 10:20 AM No AM K or AM KASE
- 16 - 21 April Recess
- 24 5th Grade to Wheelock
- 25 PTC Meeting 8:45 AM
- 26 + 27 MCAS - 5th Grade ELA

REMINDER: 2018/2019 TRANSPORTATION REGISTRATION FORMS FOR GRADES 1-12 MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 15, 2018.

NOTE: NO AM & PM Kindergarten on 5/31 due to tours and screening for new Kindergarteners. AM & PM KASE will be held.

PTC Hillside Hornet Buzz

Happy Spring Hillsideers!!!

We hope to see many of you at **2018 Hillside Talent Show tonight (April 6th at 6:45pm at Newman Elementary School)! Tickets may be purchased at the door. Good luck to all of the performers and other participants. We are excited for the show!**

HILLSIDE CARES /BROWN BAG DINNERS & C2C –

Wow! The Hillside Cares event on March 25th was a huge success! We had close to 40 people show up, and in well under an hour, we put together approximately 100 brown bag dinners. It was awesome to see how many Hillside families donated food and materials to this effort, and how families volunteered to spend their afternoon working on this project together. It was generous and important work that will directly help homeless individuals in Boston this week. This event was a first for Hillside, but it will definitely be repeated!

Thank you also for all of the wonderful donations and to everyone who donated and helped deliver items for the C2C Drive. Way to go Hillside!

A HUGE THANK YOU to Sarah Burns for hosting and organizing the Brown Bag Dinners event and running the C2C drive!!!

SPIRIT GEAR SALES ARE OPEN! Our last round of spirit gear sales for this school year will run from through Friday, April 13th. We will have samples of the new spirit gear at the Talent Show tonight. Please stop by the table to check out the new gear and sizing. Go to <https://hillside18.itemorder.com/sale> to check out the new items and place your orders. This is a great time to stock up before the summer.

The **Hillside Lost & Found** is getting full! Please have your child check the Lost & Found area across from the cafeteria and claim any of your items. Anything unclaimed by April 13th will be donated to Circle of Hope in Needham. Please email Sarah Burns at sarahmag18@yahoo.com with any questions or if you would like to deliver the unclaimed items.

Purchase Your Yearbook Now! Yearbook ordering is underway!. There are two easy ways to order a copy of this year's special book: Order online (by April 17th) at www.online-pay.memorybook.com/parent, enter pay code 87787 and click next; or complete the form sent home with your child and return to Hillside by April 13th. Please contact Samantha Shap at samshap333@hotmail.com with any questions.

Soliciting Donations for the Calendar Raffle!! It's feeling like spring and it's time for the Hillside Spring Raffle! If you have a connection with any local businesses, please consider donating a gift certificate or prize to our raffle! Our kids and families love going to new places in town! Neighborhood gifts are also a big hit! Consider gathering money with neighbors and purchasing a fun item like movie/dinner gift cards, Beats headphones, sports event tickets, etc. Please submit donations by May 5th and thanks for helping to make our Spring Raffle a great success! If you have and questions please contact Jen Leonard-Schaffstein @ leonardschaffstein@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Events

Mark your Calendars! The next **PTC Meeting** is **April 25th** at 8:45am in the Hillside Cafeteria. Come for coffee and hear about the latest happenings from our PTC co-presidents and Mr. K! At this meeting we will also be electing a PTC co-president. Come join us!

Festival of Cultures! Hillside is celebrating our 3rd Annual **Festival of Cultures** on **Friday, May 18th at 6.30pm** in the Hillside gym. Come along to this fun event to see the creative displays from the participating countries. Please return the flier if you would like to join in and share your country and culture with the Hillside community. We had 18 countries represented last year and would love to have a few more this year! If there are any questions please contact hillsidefestivalofcultures@gmail.com.

NEW THIS YEAR! Please join us on **Friday, June 1st** for a **Movie Night** outside on the Green Machine (no rain date). More details to follow. The Movie Night will replace the Spring Carnival for this year.

Please SAVE THE DATE of June 5, 2018 to help us throw an amazing **Thank You Luncheon** for our teachers and staff!!! To make this luncheon a huge success, we need many, many volunteers!! We will be sending out more information soon. Any questions, please contact Caitrin Dunphy at caitrin.dunphy@gmail.com.

Committee Messages:

YEARBOOK PHOTO DEADLINE EXTENSION!

Message from the Yearbook: Submit photos online as follows: • Go to: <https://images.memorybooks.com/>

login • If it does not automatically log you into the site, enter username: 409683606 • Browse to select the photo(s) you wish to upload. • Enter information about the photo and provide contact information in case the staff needs additional information. • Click "Save Details". It's that easy!

The last day to submit photos is NOW

04/09/2018 so submit your photos today!

Any questions, please contact Sam Shapiro @ samshap333@hotmail.com.

Community

Needham Public Schools NEEDS YOUR HELP!

NPS is now in the process of developing its strategic plan for technology that will guide the district's future programmatic, operational, and financial decisions in this area. A very BIG THANK YOU to those who responded to our recent parent survey. Your feedback has helped tremendously to inform the work of the planning team!

To further explore parents' thoughts on the matter of technology, we are looking for 10-12 people who would be willing to participate in a **focus group** on the evening of May 2nd. The purpose of the focus group is to trigger creative thinking, to envision possibilities for the future, and to consider areas for programmatic growth or change. Details are outlined in the attached flyer. If you are interested in participating please fill out the form at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdDd4gfKRmAV06Wx_1GLud6e2wPGM_E8IxI0-tgOICPO6Yew/viewform by April 27th.

Other 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

The PTC depends very heavily on parent volunteerism. We are fortunate to have many very dedicated parents who step up each year to run committees, but we are always looking for more help! Below are some great volunteer opportunities we hope you will consider:

Co-PTC President (2018-2019): We are looking for the next Co-PTC President to join Meg Rosenbaum next year. If interested, please email Erin Apstein (eringapstein@gmail.com) or Meg Rosenbaum (megrosenbaum11@gmail.com).

Communications/Website (2018-2019): We are looking for a parent to update our PTC website throughout the year. Maintaining the current website is

easy – mostly you just need to use a text editor and rearrange/update text that is already there. When the occasional addition is needed, a copy/paste from some other section of the website is easy to manage. No deep knowledge of computers and/or HTML is needed. The current chair (Gabi Gutierrez) is available and willing to help with the transition. If interested, please email Erin Apstein (eringapstein@gmail.com) or Meg Rosenbaum (megrosenbaum11@gmail.com).

Festival of Cultures Coordinator (2018-2019): We are looking for a few parents to take over organizing and hosting (at Hillside) the Festival of Cultures Event next year. This fun event allows members of the Hillside community to share about their country and culture with the rest of the Hillside community. It is a truly wonderful and unique event!

First Grade Cafeteria Volunteer Coordinator (2018-2019): We are looking for a parent volunteer to organize volunteers to help 1st grade students get through the lunch line more quickly so that they have ample time to eat and help them learn to clean up before the next lunch shift comes in. Email Erin at eringapstein@gmail.com or Meg at megrosenbaum11@gmail.com if you are interested.

Seeking 1st Grade Cafeteria Volunteers: Parent volunteers help the students get through the lunch line more quickly so that they have ample time to eat and help the 1st graders learn to clean up before the next lunch shift comes in. You can sign-up for as many or as few days as you can offer. To sign up, either contact Erin Ellis at erinellis03@gmail.com or go to the Sign up Genius link: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050d4badaa22a31-first1>

To ensure you get all our future updates, please **LIKE us on Facebook (Hillside Elementary School PTC, follow us on Twitter at @hillsideptc and register your information through our website www.HillsidePTC.org** so that you will receive our email blast.

PTC Co-Presidents

Erin Apstein, eringapstein@gmail.com

Meg Rosenbaum, megrosenbaum11@gmail.com
www.HillsidePTC.org

News from the Gymnasium

4th Grade Gymnastic Sentence Sharing

As some of you know, for the past several weeks our students here at Hillside have been tumbling, balancing, jumping/landing, and traveling in a variety of ways through a very exciting educational gymnastics unit with Mr. Tatro in PE.

Our 4th grade students are getting ready to show off the fruits of their labor and began to create and practice gymnastic sentences last week which utilize skills learned in class.

Gymnastic sentences are routines that the students create on their own which combine their creative thoughts and ideas along with their physical ability to move through space.

Friday April 14th
Mrs. Fuller 8:45-9:25
Mrs. Mangan 9:30-10:10
Mrs. Hsu 10:15-10:55
Mrs. Katz 11:00-11:40

Parents are welcome to attend sharing sessions if they so choose. Follow Mr. Tatro on Twitter [@MrTatro_PE](https://twitter.com/MrTatro_PE) for up to date information on the what's going on in Physical Education or visit our website at www.hillsidepe.weebly.com

Mr. Tatro can be reached at rob_tatro@needham.k12.ma.us

More Hillside Hornet Buzz

Hillside is celebrating its 3rd **Festival of Cultures** on Friday, May 18th at 6.30 pm in the Hillside gym. Come along to this fun event to see the creative displays from the participating countries. Please return the flier if you would like to join in and share your country and culture with the Hillside community. We had 18 countries represented last year and would love to have a few more this year! If there are any questions, please contact hillsidefestivalofcultures@gmail.com

Hillside Green Team is recycling sneakers!

Donate your worn-out shoes - ones that would otherwise go to into the trash - and recycle them into something new, like tracks, playgrounds or other materials. If your shoes still have life in them, we encourage you to donate your sneakers or hand them off to someone who could use them. But once they reach retirement, bring them to a box at Hillside:

Start date: Now

End Date: May 3

Where: Collection boxes around the school



SEPAC Educational Program (all are welcome)

Beat Procrastination! Task Initiation Strategies to Help Create Successful Students

This workshop seeks to understand the all-too-common practice of procrastination, and offers academic interventions to help mitigate this stress-inducing habit:

- Better management of nightly homework
- Planning and time management strategies for short- and long-term assignments
- Strategies to get “unstuck” when having trouble initiating tasks
- Organizational strategies to help keep track of papers/ assignments/belongings

Wednesday, April 25th

Refreshments: 7:00pm

Program: 7:30-9pm

Broadmeadow School Music Room*

[120 Broadmeadow Road, Needham](#)

*note location change

Presenter **Dan Levine** is the President and Founder of *Engaging Minds*, a learning and tutoring center that teaches students how to learn, including study skills, organization skills, and time-management skills. Dan has an MBA degree from Boston University and a bachelor's degree from Connecticut College.

Presenter **Melissa Wilson** is the Lead Educator at *Engaging Minds*. She holds a Master's Degree in School Adjustment and Mental Health Counseling from Cambridge College and a BA in English from St. Anselm College.

2018 SEPAC AWARDS

Now Accepting Nominations!

Do you know a teacher or staff or staff member who goes above and beyond in their work with students with special needs? Nominate them for a SEPAC Award!

Past award winners include teachers, specialists, administrators, and staff members who have been nominated by SEPAC members. If you know of an outstanding educator who you think should be recognized with an award for their work, please **submit a nomination by April 27th**.

[Learn More >](#)

[Submit a Nomination >](#)

We look forward to seeing you at the awards ceremony, which will take place on **May 16th, from 7:00-8:30pm**, in the Broadmeadow Performance Center.

Needham Junior Cheer Registration Opens April 1 for the fall season, Grades 2-8.

Cheer is a challenging hybrid of dance and gymnastics with all of the benefits of participation on a team sport! In addition to practices and games, there's a regional competition in November. Needham High School students act as junior coaches and choreographers and they really get to know each child personally. <https://needhamfootball.net/cheer/>

Needham Open Studios, Saturday, May 5,

10:00-4:00, Sunday, May 6, 12:00-4:00

Celebrate our 20th year with artists in 15 locations around town opening their doors to demonstrate their work. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet artists, see how they work, and learn about their inspirations and methods. This year there will be special demonstrations, hands-on activities, and even performances at select locations throughout the weekend, and you can visit our web site to see the list of participating artists, the map of locations, and the schedule of special activities at needhamopenstudios.com.

Fun for the whole family at the Needham History Center & Museum's annual Pansy Day Festival! Pony rides, animal presentation, face painting for the kids while adults enjoy the traditional pansy plant sale and shopping in our gift and heirloom shop. Saturday, April 7 from 10am - 3pm.

For more information please contact Gloria Greis at 781-455-8860, greis@needhamhistory.org, or visit www.needhamhistory.org.

Needham Junior Football & Cheer Play for a Day

Play For A Day and find out what it's like to be part of the Needham Junior Football team! Open to all kids currently in grades 1-7 and their WHOLE family! Prizes, Games, FREE food, meet a Patriots player and more!

Saturday, April 7, 1:30 PM - 3 PM

Needham High School

[609 Webster Street, Needham, MA 02494](#)

<http://www.needhamfootball.net/>

Families and Individuals are invited to enroll in Needham Community Farm Gardening Classes for the summer of 2018. Beginner (Mondays) and Intermediate (Wednesdays) classes will be held for 14 weeks, April through July, in the evenings. For further information go to www.NeedhamFarm.org or call 781-343-1106

The Woman Behind the New Deal: Frances Perkins:

Join the League of Women Voters of Needham on Sunday, April 8, 2018 at 3:00 PM at the Center at the Heights ([300 Hillside Ave, Needham](#)) for a celebration of Frances Perkins, one of the most influential people of the 20th century you may not know. Kirstin Downey, author of *The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life and Legacy of Frances Perkins*, will be our featured speaker. Frances Perkins was Franklin Roosevelt's Secretary of Labor for 12 years and the first woman cabinet member. Learn more about this fascinating woman whose legacy continues to improve our lives today. The event is free and open to the public. Co-sponsored by Progressive Needham, Needham History Center and Museum, the Women's Suffrage Celebration Coalition of Massachusetts, and Needham Women's Club. Contact: president@lwv-needham.org or see the flyer here: <https://lwv-needham.org/frances-perkins/>.

Join Your Community to Support Mentoring at Needham High School

Enjoy an evening with friends and neighbors on Thursday, April 26 from 6:30-9pm at Babson College's Knight Auditorium, 271 Wellesley Avenue, Wellesley, for the eighth annual **Needham Steps Up** fundraising event. All funds raised will support **Needham Steps Up** – a program that narrows the opportunity gap for Needham High School students through mentorship and educational supports. The evening will include a panel discussion with two alumni, Fareha Habib and Gianni Martin, Fareha's mentor Dr. Kali D'Anna, and Gianni's community volunteer Sharyn Greenstein.

The evening will include hearty appetizers, complimentary beer and wine, and a silent auction with a wide variety of great items from local vendors. For tickets, information or to make a donation, visit www.NeedhamStepsUp.org or our [Facebook](#) page.

Sunday, April 29, the 13th annual **Needham Pitch Hit and Run** skills competition will be held at DeFazio Park, beginning at 12 pm following the Needham Baseball and Softball annual parade and festivities. The competition is free to all kids, 7-14 years old. Pre-register online at www.Smileboston.com/PHR or 11 am prior to the event. The PHR is the Official Skills Competition of Major League Baseball offering the opportunity advance to the Sectional Level of Competition, as well as have the chance to compete at Fenway Park in June, and the MLB™ All-Star Game® in July.



Crazy 8's Math Club

The Needham Free Public Library is starting two new Bedtime Math Crazy 8's Clubs where children will build stuff, run and jump, make music, make a mess and more! It's a totally new kind of fun math club. Space is limited and registration is required. Children sign up to attend all sessions each Wednesday. The session for children in Grades K-2 begins at 3:30 pm followed by a session for children in Grades 3-5 at 4:30 pm. To sign up, stop by the Children's Desk at the Needham Free Public Library or call 781-455-7559 x 204

All Elementary Schools

Chinese Storytime

Children ages 5 and up are invited to listen to stories in Chinese followed by a craft project. This program is perfect for native speakers or children interested in learning about the Chinese language and culture. Saturday, April 7th at 10:00 am.

All Elementary Schools

Fairy Tale Book Party

Children in Grades 3-5 who have read one or more of the books *Jack, Red* or *Rump* by Liesl Shurtliff (books available at the Children's Desk) are invited to attend a Fairy Tale Book Party at 3:15 pm on Saturday April 7th. Come for book related trivia, act out a story, play games, and more. Enjoy rock candy, "live-for-ever-elixir" and sludge.

All Schools

The week of April 8th -14th is National Library Week. Come celebrate all that libraries provide. Check out a playaway audio book, playaway kit, a tablet loaded with apps or videos or comics, book on CD, DVD or Blue Ray, magazine, graphic novel or fiction or non-fiction book. Come enjoy a library program. There's something for every age and taste.

All Elementary Schools

Art Makers

Children ages 6 and up are invited to re-create Monet's famous Waterlily paintings in 3D with mixed media. This program will be held on Tuesday, April 10 at 4:00 p.m., and will be led by professional artist, Nicole Donson.

All Elementary Schools

Bookventurers Book Club

Children in Grades 3-5 are invited to attend the Bookventurers Book Club on Saturday, April 14th at 3:15 pm. Children read the book *Pax* by Sara Pennypacker (copies available at the Children's Desk) and meet to discuss the book, enjoy themed snacks and activities related to the story. Registration is requested. To register, come by the Children's Desk or call 781-455-7559 x 204.

All Elementary Schools

School Vacation Week Programs

Tuesday, April 17th at 2:30 pm New England Reptile and Raptor Program with live birds of prey. **Thursday, April 19th at 2:30 pm** Art Makers for ages 6 and up **Friday, April 20th 2:00 pm** Movie *Coco*, rated PG, 120 minutes.

All Elementary Schools

New England Reptile and Raptors Program

On Tuesday, April 17th at 2:30 pm children ages 4 and up are invited to learn about birds of prey. Naturalist and falconer Marla Issac will present live owls, hawks, falcons and vultures.

All Elementary Schools

Art Makers

Children ages 6 and up are invited to create washer art jewelry. Paint a metal washer and add shiny decorations, beads and other items to make a necklace. This program is led by professional artist Nicole Donson at 2:30 pm on Thursday, April 19th.

All Elementary Schools

Free Movie

Watch the movie *Coco* on Friday, April 20th at 10:30 am. Young Miguel dreams of becoming an accomplished musician like his idol Ernesto de la Cruz. Desperate to prove his talent, Miguel finds himself in the stunning and colorful Land of the Dead. After meeting a charming trickster named Héctor, the two new friends embark on an extraordinary journey to unlock the real story behind Miguel's family history. Rated PG, 120 minutes

All Elementary Schools

Yoga for Children

Children ages 5-9 years old are invited to stretch and relax with a professional yoga teacher at 10:30 am on Saturday, April 28th.

All Elementary Schools

Superhero Celebration

On Saturday, April 28th at 1:00 pm children ages 4 and up can discover their superpower. Children can come in a superhero costume or design their own superhero at the event. Vanquish villains, play games and more.

The Pools at Rosemary Recreation Complex Park and Recreation is offering Super Early Bird Rates for season memberships through April 16. Visit www.needhamma.gov/parkandrecreation for fees and additional information. To register, go to www.needhamma.gov/pronlinereg, stop by the Park and Recreation Office or mail in.

Needham Sharks 2018 Swim Team registration begins Friday, April 6 at 9:00am (ages 6 – 18). The Swim Team home location is The Pools at Rosemary Recreation Complex. The practice and competition schedule is still TBD for the 2018 season. Super Early Bird Resident: \$152 (February 15 – April 16) Early Bird Resident: \$171 (April 17 – May 28) Resident: \$190 (After May 29) To register, go to www.needhamma.gov/pronlinereg, stop by the Park and Recreation Office or mail in.

Park and Recreation April School Vacation Program - Knucklebones - Color Wars - A fun and fulfilling experience, participants compete in traditional and not so traditional sports and activities. Tuesday, April 17 – Friday, April 20, Pollard Middle School. One day is \$50 per participant from 9:00am – 12:00pm. Four days is \$150 per participant from 9:00am – 12:00pm. Limit 25 participants ages 5-11. Pre-registration is required. To register, go to www.needhamma.gov/pronlinereg, stop by the Park and Recreation Office or mail in.

Park and Recreation April School Vacation Program - Right Brain Curriculum - The LEGO Civics Project: Tuesday, April 17 and Wednesday, April 18 (2 day session), 9:00am – 12:00pm. \$100 per participant per session. Eliot Elementary School, Performance Center. Participants learn to build a fully-planned and intricately-designed model LEGO city and learn to govern it. Pre-registration is required. To register, go to www.needhamma.gov/pronlinereg, stop by the Park and Recreation Office or mail in.

Park and Recreation April School Vacation Program - Right Brain Curriculum - The Kids Newsroom: Thursday, April 19 and Friday, April 20 (2 day session), 9:00am – 12:00pm. \$100 per participant per session. The classroom transforms into a working newsroom, complete with editorial staff, reporters, columnists and headline writers. Limit 15 participants ages 7-11. Pre-registration is required. To register, go to www.needhamma.gov/pronlinereg, stop by the Park and Recreation Office or mail in.

Park and Recreation April School Vacation Workshop at The Glass Bar provides an opportunity to have fun and experiment and test your imagination. Tuesday, April 17 – Friday, April 20. \$140 per participant (4 day session), The Glass Bar, [60 Dedham Avenue](http://www.needhamma.gov/pronlinereg), 10:00am – 12:00pm, ages 8-17. Limit 10 participants ages . Pre-registration is required. To register, go to www.needhamma.gov/pronlinereg, stop by the Park and Recreation Office or mail in.

Park and Recreation April School Vacation LEGO City & Minecraft - Join Event-FULL! and use your imagination to build a Minecraft World...the possibilities are endless! Friday, April 20, Eliot Elementary School cafeteria, 9:00am –

12:00pm. \$50 per participant. Limit 15 participants (1-day session) ages 5-10. Pre-registration is required. To register, go to www.needhamma.gov/pronlinereg, stop by the Park and Recreation Office or mail in.

Spring Town-Wide Clean-Up Day with Park and Recreation - Celebrate Earth Day and participate in the Great Massachusetts Cleanup. Saturday, April 21 (rain or shine), 8:30 – 11:00am. All ages welcome! To register, go to www.needhamma.gov/pronlinereg or stop by the Park and Recreation Office.

Park and Recreation Skateboard EDU 2.0 - New this Spring! - Get rolling on ramps as well as flat ground tricks and learn skate park flow and etiquette. Tuesdays, April 24 – May 22. \$50 per participant (5-week session), Pollard Middle School outdoor courts, 3:30 – 5:00pm. Limit 12 participants ages 7-13. Pre-registration is required. To register, go to www.needhamma.gov/pronlinereg, stop by the Park and Recreation Office or mail in.

Park and Recreation Skateboard EDU 1.0 - Learn how to push, carve, kick turn and board grab and improve your skills. Wednesdays, April 25 - May 23, \$50 per participant (5-week session), Pollard Middle School outdoor courts, 3:30 – 5:00pm. Limit 12 participants ages 7-11. Pre-registration is required. To register, go to www.needhamma.gov/pronlinereg, stop by the Park and Recreation Office or mail in.



LET'S BUILD ENGINEERING EXTRAVAGANZA

Who: PreK, elementary and middle schoolers and their families

What: A fun family engineering and science fair with:

- Hands-on engineering design challenges for all ages,
- Local scientists, engineers, and students demonstrating their work and,
- Snacks, drinks, and pizza for sale.

When: Saturday, April 28th from 10am to 2pm (drop in)

Where: Broadmeadow Elementary School, Needham

View the stars... Inflatable Planetarium -
Catapults in 'The Real Angry Birds' - Visualization of Sound - Hot
Wheels: Exploring Speed and Distance -
Physics of Rhythmic Gymnastics - 'Hoppers' with Olin College -
Make a Hovercraft - And much more!



Needham
Science Center

Engineering Extravaganza

Sat. April 28th
10am-2pm

Broadmeadow
School
Needham

Suggested donation
\$5/family



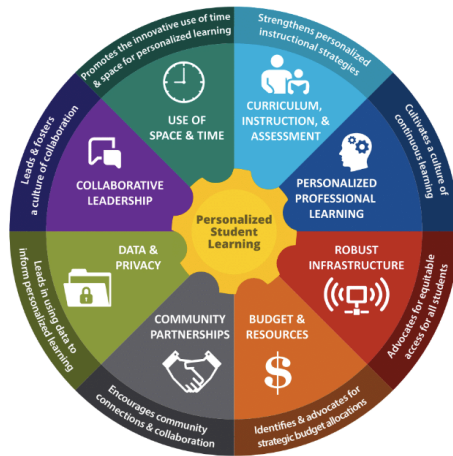
LET'S BUILD:
ENGINEERING FUN FOR
KIDS

AND

THE NEEDHAM SCIENCE
CENTER

Needham, MA

www.letsbuildengineering.org
info@letsbuildengineering.org



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

We need your help!

One of the key activities outlined in the [2017-18 Needham Public Schools Goals](#) is to “develop a strategic plan for technology.” The intent of this activity is for the district to have a vision and accompanying actionable recommendations that further technology-enabled teaching, learning, and organizational productivity in the Needham Schools. It is this strategic plan that will guide the district's future programmatic, operational, and financial decisions regarding technology. A broad-based team is currently engaged in the work of developing this plan.

If you responded to our recent parent survey, thank you! You have already helped to inform the work of the strategic planning team. We'd like to provide you an additional opportunity to further contribute to this team's work by inviting you to participate in a parent focus group on **Wednesday, May 2, 2018** from **7:00-8:00 P.M.** at the School Administration Building (1330 Highland Ave.) in the second floor conference room. The purpose of the focus group is to trigger our creative thinking, to envision possibilities for the future, and to consider areas for programmatic growth or change. Your ideas will help to inform a common vision and goals for the district.

Ideally, we would like to have 10-12 volunteers. However, we will welcome all who indicate an interest. Please let us know by **Friday, April 27th** if you would like to participate in this activity. RSVP by clicking on the following link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdDd4gfkRrnAV06Wx_1GLud6e2wPGM_E8lxI0-tgOICPO6Yew/viewform?usp=sf_link

With many thanks and much appreciation.....



Hillside Elementary School Festival of Cultures Friday, May 18 @ 6:30pm

Please join us to celebrate the rich diversity of cultures that make the Hillside Elementary School community. It's a fun and free family event. Families will be invited to visit tables which will include country information, activities and materials in an engaging way. Children attending the event will be given passports which will be stamped at each country they visit.

Please be in touch if you would like to participate and share your country and culture.

- Examples of table displays from previous festivals:



My family would like to host a table display of our native country.
Country:

Primary Contact name:

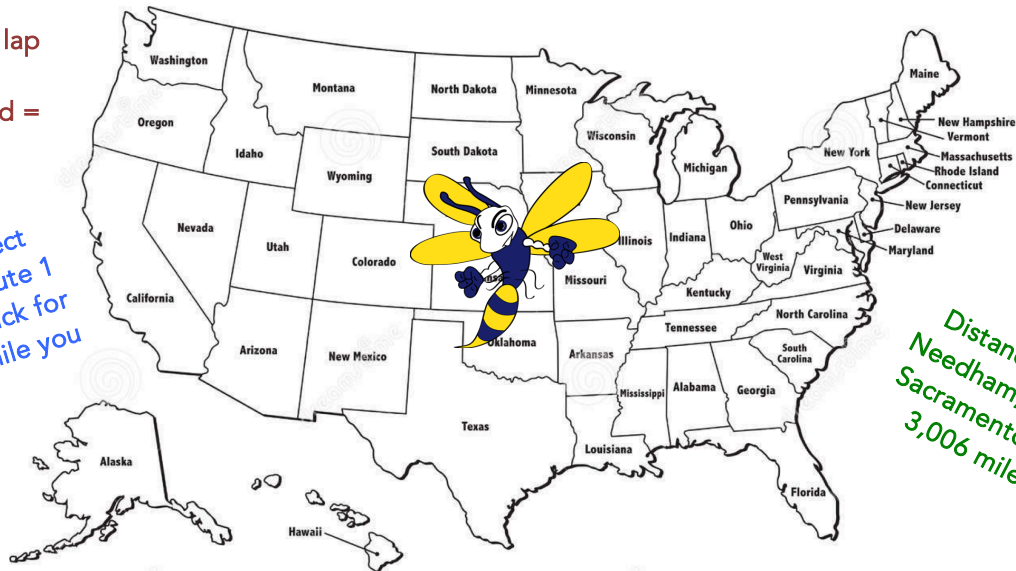
Primary Contact's e-mail address:

Please give this form to your child's teacher or email the contact details to hillsidefestivalofcultures@gmail.com by April 20.

Hornets Buzz Across America

1 complete lap
around the
Hillside Field =
¼ mile

You can collect
and contribute 1
popsicle stick for
every ¼ mile you
run/walk.



Distance from
Needham, MA to
Sacramento, CA:
3,006 miles!

This year, the Hillside Hornets are going to work together to buzz our way across America!!! We will watch the Hillside Hornet travel across the map that's in the Hillside lobby.

Contribute miles by earning popsicle sticks!!!

How to Participate:

- **Morning Mingle:** Run a lap around the Hillside field on Monday and Friday mornings at Morning Mingle. For every proper ¼ mile lap you complete, you can collect 1 popsicle stick and put it into the collection bucket.
- **Walk/Bike to School:** Earn 2 popsicle sticks for walking/biking to school. Add your popsicle sticks to the collection bucket in the front lobby.
- **BONUS STICKS:** If you participate in the Hillside Trick or Trot on October 29th, you can earn bonus sticks! You will get **10 popsicle sticks** for participation in the Monster Fun Run and **50 popsicle sticks** for participating in the 5K.