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Hillside News April 13, 2018

Main Office -- 781-455-0461



IMPORTANT DATES



- 16 - 21 April Recess
- 24 5th Grade to Wheelock
- 25 PTC Meeting 8:45 AM
- 26 + 27 MCAS - 5th Grade ELA

Enjoy your Spring Break -- See you on Monday, April 23rd!!!

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.

News from Mr. K

After last year's successful trip, a second group of Needham families is heading to China this weekend to spend April vacation sightseeing and visiting some of our sister schools. The students will be spending a few nights with host families in Daxing during part of the week and, once again, we have the chance to host Chinese students when they visit Needham at the end of next month. About 30 fourth and fifth graders are coming to Needham the week of May 28th, and we are hoping to host five or so students at each one of the elementary schools and High Rock when they are here. I will be sending an email with more specific details via the Hillside list serve next week. In the meantime, if you are at all interested in hosting a student (or two if you have the room!) and have any questions, please contact me. It is truly a mutually wonderful opportunity and experience for students from both countries.

Speaking of April break, warmer weather is finally here, and it is a good time to remind everyone **how helpful and healthy walking or biking to school can be**. I also want to acknowledge the hard work of our fifth grade Student Sidewalk Detail (SSD). They are out there every morning helping our adult staff ensure students who need to be dropped off (hopefully in car pools when possible) arrive safely. Please help them by following the drop-off protocol found on page 6 in our School handbook. You can also help by **donating an umbrella** for them to use on rainy mornings.

If you have an extra and are willing to donate one, you can drop it off at the office. Thank you.

And speaking of our school handbook, the **email guidelines** found on the first page are also very important, especially the third bullet:

- Responses to email may come quickly but should not be expected sooner than snail mail (three working days). So, if you feel you need an immediate response to a question, please call the school.

Please review the whole email section and contact me if you have any questions.

And finally, if you have driven down Central Avenue lately, you couldn't help but notice this sight:



I am thrilled to let you know that the **Sunita Williams School** project is on schedule and look forward to sharing more pictures and updates in future newsletters.

Have a wonderful, safe and relaxing April break!

Mr. K

PTC Hillside Hornet Buzz

We hope everyone has a safe and relaxing April Break. Come back refreshed so we can finish the school year strong!

WOW!! We were so impressed with all the performers who took the stage last Friday at the **8th Annual Hillside's Got Talent** (we agree, you sure do!!). Congratulations to all who performed and participated!! Thanks to our parent volunteers who helped out with auditions, rehearsals, and on the big night and to Lori Donovan who facilitated logistics for us. And a huge THANK YOU to April Crawford, Lauren Schneider, and Kim McCollum who organized a truly professional event - BRAVO!!!

LAST CHANCE FOR SPIRIT GEAR! We are still accepting orders through the end of day today, Friday, April 13th so if you are interested in purchasing any items please go to <https://hillside18.itemorder.com/sale>. You won't want to miss this chance to stock up on some spring/summer essentials.

Purchase Your Yearbook Today! Hurry, there are only a few days left to order your yearbook. Orders must be completed **ONLINE** by April 17th at www.online-pay.memorybook.com/parent, enter pay code 87787 and click next. 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 any 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. Please 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 attached 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.

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!

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

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



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.

Needham Public Library

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.

Volunteer for the 5th Annual -- Let's Build Engineering Extravaganza!

We are gearing up for this year's event and we need you! Volunteers run engineering challenges for children and their families. No need to be an engineer - our activities are easy, hands-on, engaging and fun. We provide all details in advance of the event. Please consider joining us this year!

Come for the entire time or choose one or two shifts (link below!):

- Shift 1 - 9:30 - 11:15 (set up and running an activity)
- Shift 2 - 11:15 - 12:45 (running activity)
- Shift 3 - 12:45 - 2:15 (running activity and small amount of clean up)

Coffee, water and volunteer support readily available...

When: Saturday, April 28th, doors open 10am - 2 pm

Where: Broadmeadow School, Needham

Cost: Suggested donation - \$5/family (*not required!*)

Why? It's a lot of fun (and educational, too. Shhhh!)

Flyer Attached...

Sign up and Questions to: Liz Lee at

info@letsbuildengineering.org or

Sign up here: <http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0E4DA5AC22A46-5thannual>

Learn about Let's Build at www.letsbuildengineering.org

The Fringe Theater is proud to present *Beauty and the Beast* at the Christ Episcopal Church in Needham this weekend!! Fun for all ages, this modern take on a classic fairy tale will have you laughing, singing, and dancing in your seat! You can expect songs you know and love - and *many* Needham elementary, middle and high school students are in the cast!! Show times are Thurs April 12 at 7:30p.m., Friday April 13th at 7:30p.m., Saturday April 14th at 2:30p.m. and 7:30p.m. and Sunday April 15th at 2:30p.m. For more info and tickets: <http://thefringetheatre.org/show-info>.

NHS A Cappella Benefit Concert

Visit www.nhsfriendsofmusic.org to purchase tickets (\$10 students/seniors, \$12 adults) for an **NHS a cappella concert** benefiting Americans for the Arts (americansforthearts.org), April 28 at 7:30pm at NHS auditorium. Featuring NHS a cappella groups and special guests from Natick HS, Wellesley HS and Weston HS. Adult tickets \$15 at door.

Adopt an Animal for the Summer

Enrich your summer with an animal visitor from the Needham Science Center. Our furry, scaly, and feathered friends need temporary homes from mid-June through mid-September. The Science Center will provide you with a cage, initial food supply, and written care instructions. Animals will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis, so please get in touch with us soon. Contact the Science Center at sciencecenter@needham.k12.ma.us or call 781-455-0475.

The Fringe Theatre

is proud to present



5 performances – 1 weekend only!

April 12th – 7:30pm

April 14th – 2:30 & 7:30pm

April 13th – 7:30pm

April 15th – 2:30pm

Thursday - \$12 | All Other Performances - \$15

Join us for our 9th Annual Panto Production!

Fun for all ages, this modern take on a classic fairy tale will have you laughing, singing, and dancing in your seat!

Christ Episcopal Church - 1132 Highland Ave., Needham, MA

www.TheFringeTheatre.org/BuyTickets



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



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:

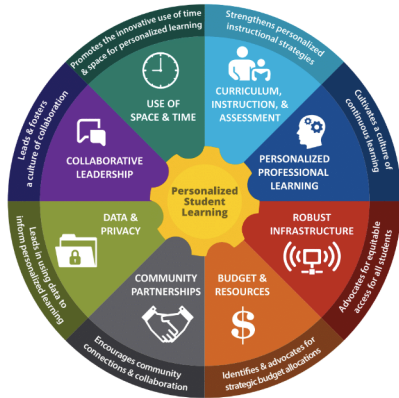


My family would like to host a table display of our native country.
Country:

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.



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.

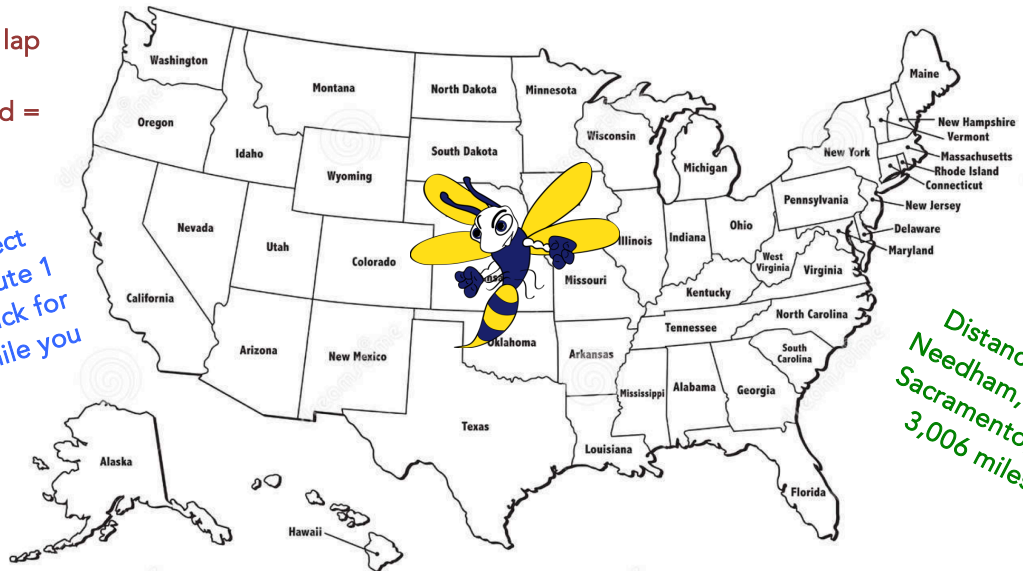
Ideally, we would like to have 10-12 volunteers. However, we will welcome all who indicate an interest. Please let us know by **Friday, April 27th** if you would like to participate in this activity. RSVP by clicking on the following link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdDd4gfKRmAV06Wx_1GLud6e2wPGM_E8ix0-tgOICP06Yew/viewform?usp=sf_link

With many thanks and much appreciation.....

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.