

Michael_Kascak@Needham.k12.ma.us

Chanit_List@needham.k12.ma.us

Lori_Donovan@Needham.k12.ma.us

Hillside News April 27, 2018

Main Office -- 781-455-0461



IMPORTANT DATES



27 MCAS - 5th Grade ELA



02 Massachusetts Walk-to-School Day

03 No AM Kindergarten/PM Kindergarten in Session

09 National Bike-to-School Day

24 Early Release Day - No AM or PM Kindergarten (conferences)

28 No School -- Memorial Day

31 No AM or PM Kindergarten - AM & PM KASE in session

FYI: The last day of school is June 18 (early release).

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

Welcome Back Hillside!!! Here's the latest news...

First off, we would like to welcome and congratulate **Vanessa Jones** for being elected PTC Co-President for the next two years. Vanessa is the mom of two children, both of whom are students at Hillside. Isabel, age 9, is in Ms. Shea's third grade class. Emily, age 7, is in Ms. Tarantino's first grade class. We are so excited to have Vanessa join Meg as Co-president next year.

A contest was recently held for our fifth grade students to design an image that represented what kindness means to them. There were so many wonderful designs that resulted. The winning entry was put on a T-shirt with the slogan "Be Kind. Work Hard." on the back of the shirt. We call them Hillside's "kindness" t-shirts. At Mr. K's request, the PTC recently purchased a "kindness" T-shirt for each teacher and staff member at Hillside to wear every Friday. The PTC also

made posters of 6 additional images that were finalists and those will be displayed in the school. We hope seeing their teachers wear the shirts each week will reinforce the message that being kind is cool. Kindness always wins!!!!

Thank you to Sarah Burns and the rest of the Hillside Cares Committee for donating and delivering all of the unclaimed items left in the Lost & Found to **Circle of Hope!**

A very big thank you to **Samantha Shapiro** for all of her time and effort in putting together the 2017-2018 Hillside yearbook! This is a huge undertaking and we are so grateful for Samantha's hard work and dedication. Thank you to **Samantha** for also handling all of the yearbook sales and thank you to all of the wonderful parent volunteers who jumped in to help do the grade level pages. We cannot wait to see the final result!

Another very big thank you to [Sarah Nunes](#) and [Caroline Rubin](#) for all of their time and effort in selecting the Spring spirit wear items, showing the items at the Talent Show for sizing, and coordinating the orders. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in their new spirit wear!

The [Festival of Cultures Committee](#) is looking for a few more families to share their country and culture. Please email hillsidefestivalofcultures@gmail.com if you would like to join in and share your country and culture with the Hillside community. The basic display materials are provided to you and can be done easily by the children at home. We had 18 countries represented last year and it would be awesome to see a few more this year! The [3rd Festival of Cultures](#) will be held on **Friday, May 18th at 6.30pm** in the Hillside school gym. Come along to this fun family event to see the displays and entertainment from the participating countries.

STILL Soliciting Donations for the Calendar Raffle!! Do you have season tickets to the Red Sox, the Patriots, or another local sports team? Please consider donating tickets to the Calendar Raffle! The Calendar Raffle Co-chairs need your help in collecting donated gift cards, items or experiences that Hillside students and families would enjoy winning during our raffle week in June. If you and your neighbors have an idea for a group prize you could donate, please consider pooling the money and purchasing an item or experience to donate. Past donations have included: Newport sailing adventure, iPod Nano, and movie tickets/restaurant gift cards.

This annual fundraiser helps the Hillside PTC raise much-needed funds to support the PTC-sponsored enrichment programs. It also offers participants to win some great prizes. This year, the raffle will run from June 4th – June 8th, with prizes awarded every school day. Please be in touch with Jen Schaffstein at leonardschaffstein@yahoo.com with ideas, connections or items.

Upcoming Events

Mark your Calendars! The next **PTC Meeting** is **May 22nd** at 7:15pm in the Hillside Gymnasium. In addition to updates on the latest PTC happenings, Mr. K will be sharing a slideshow on the latest developments with the design and construction of the new Sunita L. Williams school. We are in a very exciting phase with the new building so you won't want to miss it! Please be sure to join us!

Hillside Night at Fenway is Tuesday, May 29th at 7:10 p.m. For those of you who have purchased tickets, we look forward to seeing you there for a fun night!!! Let's go Red Sox!!!

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!!! This year's theme is "Red Carpet" and we plan on treating the teachers like stars! To make this luncheon a huge success, we need many, many volunteers!! Please be on the lookout for the SignUp Genius to volunteer to help that day or

with specific food items.. Any questions, please contact Caitrin Dunphy at caitrin.dunphy@gmail.com.

Other PTC Fundraisers

Box Tops: Your box top contributions make a difference!! Please keep them coming!!!! Collection sheets and a collection box for sheets/box tops are located at the PTC bulletin board near Lori's desk.

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:

Yearbook Coordinator Co-Chair (2018-2019): Samantha Shapiro would love to have a co-chair next year to help her work with students to put together the Hillside Yearbook for 2018-19. This is creative and very rewarding work!! Email Samantha (samshap333@hotmail.com), Erin (eringapstein@gmail.com) or Meg (megrosenbaum11@gmail.com) if you are interested.

Seeking 1st Grade Cafeteria Volunteers: As we head into the last 2 months of school, we are short on lunchtime help and are asking if you can sign up, please do so! You can sign-up for as many or as few days as you can offer. To sign up, please use this 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 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

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



LAST CHANCE

Yearbook sales have officially closed but we do have a limited number of copies still available. They will be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis for \$25 per copy. Please leave a check made out to Hillside along with your child's name, class and your contact information with the front desk.



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 10 am - 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

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.

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 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.

First Lego League (FLL) Information Night

Is your rising 5th through 8th grader interested in technology/programming/designing/robotics? Do you want to know more about how to lead a team (no experience necessary)? The FLL (<http://www.firstinspires.org/robotics/fll>) program is a parent lead program that runs from September through December, and allows teams of (ideally) 4 to 6 students to design, build, test, and compete robots they build from legos, as well as solve and present real-world problems. Find out about First Lego League Competition at an information night on May 15, from 6:30 to 8pm at Needham High School. Register using the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/NeedhamFLLNight2018>



Calling all Cheerleaders!

Registration is now open for Needham Jr. Cheer! We offer squads from 2nd grade through 8th grade. Learn how to work together as a team to cheer on the Needham Jr. Rockets at the weekly football games and compete at the Baystate Conference Locals Cheer Competition. Visit Needhamfootball.net or contact Co-Coordinator Lesley Sugarman and Rhiannon Andrews for more information.

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.

Needham Public Library



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.



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:

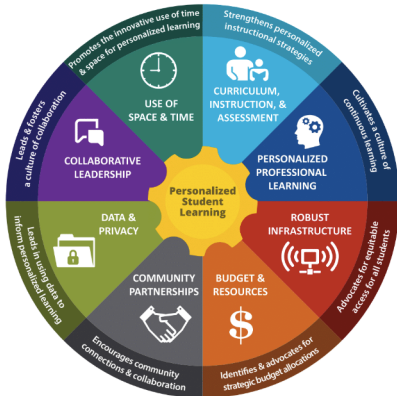


My family would like to host a table display of our native country.
Country:

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.

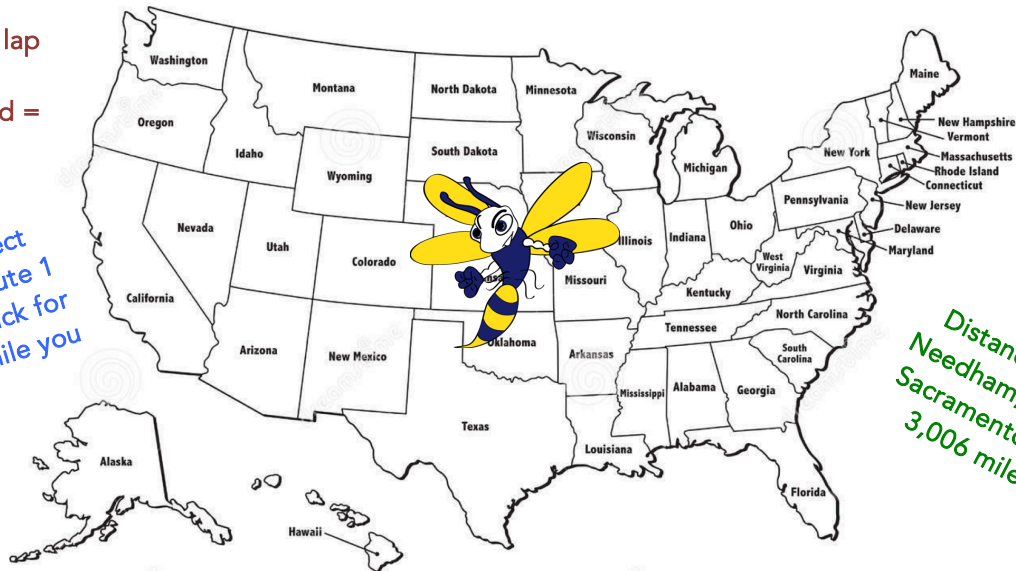
Ideally, we would like to have 10-12 volunteers. However, we will welcome all who indicate an interest. Please let us know by **Friday, April 27th** if you would like to participate in this activity. RSVP by clicking on the following link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdDd4gfKRmAV06Wx_1GLud6e2wPGM_E8ix0-tgOICP06Yew/viewform?usp=sf_link

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.