

Hillside News

November 2, 2018

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Main Office -- 781-455-0461



IMPORTANT DATES



- 06 PreK-8 Delayed Opening/Election Day**
- 12 Schools Closed for Veterans' Day**
- 15 Photo Make-Up/Retake Day**
- 21 No School -- Professional Development**
- 22 Thanksgiving Recess**
- 28 Morning Kindergarten Conferences - No A.M. Kindergarten;
P.M. is in session**

News from Mr. K

Attached are some guidelines for talking about tragic events with children. These come from community resources that I've come to rely on when terrible things happen. Our nurse, Debbie Greiff, and counselors, Margaret Petrovich and Meg Flatley, have really helped me, our staff, some of you, and most importantly, our students when tragedy happens. Please feel free to reach out to any of us if you are struggling with how to talk to your children when unsettling and disturbing events are reported.

Hope you have the chance to relax and recover from a week filled with Halloween celebrations for some and the upcoming time change for all.

Mr. K

PTC Hillside Hornet Buzz

PTC Highlights:

- **Unwanted Halloween Candy Collection now on!**
- **Scholastic Book Fair, November 6th - 8th, [volunteers needed!](#)**
- **Literacy Night with Josh Funk, November 7th -- don't forget to [reserve](#) your family's spot**
- **Modell's fundraiser on until November 8th - save 15% on your purchase.**
- **Put your old iPod touch to good use -- donate it to the Technology Department.**
- **Don't forget to upload your Halloween photos for the yearbook.**
- **Yearbook Co-chairs needed** to ensure the continuation of the yearbook
- **Next PTC meeting -- December 4th, 7:15 PM**

Here's What's Going On Now...

Thank you to everyone who submitted boxtops for the **Fall Box Tops Contest**. We collected over 6,500 boxtops which equals almost \$650 raised for the school!! **CONGRATULATIONS** to the winning classroom - **Mr. Watts**. See how your class stacked up against this annual powerhouse by viewing the chart at the end of the newsletter. **Mr. Watts' class does an AMAZING job of starting early and enlisting help from friends and neighbors to collect box tops to benefit Hillside....see flyer at the end of this newsletter for a form to distribute to your friends in advance of our Spring contest so you can do the same! And keep collecting those boxtops so you are ready to give Mr. Watts' class a run for their money in the Spring.** A special thanks to our Box Tops Coordinator, Joyce McCafferty for sorting and counting all those box tops!

Thank you to all who donated unwanted books to the **Used Book Sale**! Our next used book sale collection is in the new year. Please contact Joanie Daly at jdayadaly@gmail.com with any questions.

It was fantastic to see all the walkers/riders this week on our **Autumn Amble** yesterday! Our next walk/ride to school - **the Winter Walk** - is on **Friday, December 7th**. We hope to see the sidewalks filled with walkers and bikers!

We hope everyone had a spooktacular Halloween! Don't forget Hillside Cares will be collecting your **unwanted** candy to give to American soldiers in our **"Candy for the Troops"** drive. Drop off your excess candy (individual pieces or unopened bags/packages) in the main office **until November 6th**. We are looking for **volunteers** to help **transport the candy to Chestnut Dental**. If you can help or have any questions, please contact **Sarah Burns** at sarahmag18@yahoo.com.

Yearbook Photos Needed! Don't forget upload all the photos taken this week at the Halloween class parties to the yearbook! Uploading your photos is easy if you follow these steps:

- Go to: <https://images.memoryebooks.com/login>
- If it does not automatically log you into the site, enter username: 410593679
- 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".

You can also submit by downloading the Replayit App on your smartphone and upload your photos directly. It's that easy! Submit your photos today!

Put your **old iPod Touch** (generation 4 or higher) to good use by **donating** it to **The Hillside School Technology Dept!** It will be repurposed as a learning tool to, among other things, document field trips with photos and videos. It may also serve as a voice recorder for language learners, used to record reading assessments, directions from teachers, communication between students and as a way to document evidence for digital portfolios. The best and most important feature of the iPod Touch is the portability factor. They are easy to carry, store and use on the go. Thank you in advance for donations of an iPod Touch and accompanying accessories that you are able to give to the Hillside School.

Upcoming Events

This year's **Scholastic Book Fair** will take place next week - Tuesday, **November 6** through **Thursday, November 8, 2018** during school hours. Scholastic is known for their outstanding, award winning selection covering every interest and reading level and we are thrilled to welcome them back to Hillside this year. On Tuesday, November 6th, classes will be invited to preview the fair and create a WISH LIST to be sent home. The students will return to the fair on Wednesday, November 7th and Thursday, November 8th, and have the opportunity to make purchases. **In addition: Parents and students can also shop on November 7th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. during the Literacy Night. Please note: Each teacher will be making his/her own Wish List of books; families are encouraged to donate books directly to teachers from their Wish Lists. Our annual book fair has proven to be a favorite for students and family members, along with our faculty. This fundraiser serves as a fun, interactive and educational way to encourage our children to read. This is also a great way to support Hillside and to get a head start on holiday shopping!! Please look for an email from room parents with information on the date and time your child will attend the fair. **We are looking for volunteers to help staff the Scholastic Book Fair on 11/6-11/8. Here is the link to the [sign up genius](#).** Questions? Please contact Jennifer Tufts at jennifertufts@yahoo.com.

Literacy Night with **Josh Funk** will be held on **November 7th** at 6:30pm in the Hillside Gym. Josh is the award-winning author of the "Lady Pancake and Sir French Toast" series as well as many other silly stories that will capture your child's imagination. He will present to the Hillside community at 6:30 PM and will be available for book signing after the presentation. This event is FREE - you won't want to miss it! We encourage families to RSVP to this event to reserve a spot as last year we "sold out". To **RSVP**, please click on the following [evite link](#). Books are available for advance purchase and

signing before the event (look for order forms sent home with your child) and Wellesley Books will also be selling Josh Funk titles at the event itself. The books will be a great memento of a fun evening!

Picture Day Re-takes are scheduled for November 15th. Be on the look-out for more details.

Mark your calendars - the next **PTC meeting** is on **December 4th at 7.15pm**. **Superintendent Dan Gutekanst will join us to update us on district initiatives, the construction of the Sunita Williams School, and answer any questions or concerns you may have. You won't want to miss this opportunity!!**

FAMILY FUN NIGHT is **December 7th** from 6 p.m.- 8 p.m.!!! This is a night you do not want to miss. Come to Hillside in your pajamas for an evening of DJ dancing, games, crafts, prizes and FUN!! The cost of this event is \$5 per family (pay at the door that night). More details to follow!

Other PTC Fundraisers

Modells fundraiser: Shop at **Modells** and raise money for Hillside! Use the flyer at the end of the newsletter to save **15% off** your total purchase of regular and sale price merchandise from **October 12th to November 8th**. Once total sales reach \$500 Hillside will receive 5% back on each purchase.

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): We are looking for a Co-Chair to join Samantha Shapiro as she works with students to put together the Hillside Yearbook for 2018-19. This is creative and very rewarding work!! *Samantha is leaving this position at the end of the school year as her son graduates Hillside.* We would like to find a volunteer(s) to learn the existing process from Samantha this year and take over as Chair/Co-Chairs at the new Sunita Williams school **to ensure the continuation of the yearbook tradition**. Please email Samantha (samshap333@hotmail.com) or Meg (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. There are *only a few slots left* - to sign up, either contact **Ilana Kaufman** at kaufman.ilana@gmail.com or go to the Sign up Genius [link](#).

Community

Needham Community Council is continuing to collect donations for the Food Pantry. See the flyer for the wish list of items they need the most. The Food Pantry accepts fresh and frozen foods at the NCC as well as dry goods. It's a great thing to do with your kids, and you can do it on your own schedule! For more information please contact Sarah Burns at sarahmag18@yahoo.com.



SCHOOL COMMITTEE OPEN HOUSE

The Needham School Committee will hold an Open House on Saturday, November 17, 2018 from 9:00 to 10:30 am at Needham High School. The School Committee looks forward to welcoming the community to see recently renovated Needham High School classrooms.



It's Not Too Late to Join Girl Scouts!

New Daisy (kindergarten/1st grade) troops are currently forming in Needham. Please join us at the Needham History Center on 11/15 (6-7pm) to find out more information about Needham Daisy Girl Scouts -- adults only for this information session. Interested in Girl Scouts but can't make it? Email [Molly Kazin](mailto:Molly.Kazin@gsema.org), Senior Membership Recruitment Specialist for Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts at MKazin@gsema.org.

Helping Children to Process Tragic News Events

First:

Take a deep breath. Before we can help our children we must check in with ourselves. Right now, unless you are in the inner circle of tragedy, you are OK.

Limit Access to Media:

When tragic and violent news is all over the media, children may not be able to avoid exposure to them, but it's healthier for kids to speak with a trusted adult who can listen and provide age-appropriate responses. Adults should be prepared to answer their questions and provide reassurance.

Listen to Questions and Concerns

Allow children to tell you what they have heard, ask questions, and express their feelings. It's OK to correct misinformation they may have heard, but don't share more information than needed, and avoid gory details.

Understand that Children of Different Ages Have Different Needs

All kids have individual ways of processing information and managing distress, so there is no cookie-cutter approach, but these basic guidelines help differentiate responses amongst age groups.

Young children may simply need to have the tragedy acknowledged.

- Protect them from hearing what they will not understand, and reassure them that adults are working to keep them safe.
- Provide toys and art materials to allow for non-verbal expression.
- Maintain a sense of security by continuing regular routines such as meals, baths, bedtime stories, etc.
- Be alert to increased separation anxiety, tearfulness, defiance, or problems with sleeping or toileting.

School-aged children may grasp more facts, but they still need to be made to feel secure. A good way to start is to ask what have they heard about the event.

- Be honest, but remain optimistic, explaining the low likelihood of violence at home.
- Try to alleviate blame in kids who feel that bad things could have been prevented, as well as disappointment in adults for not being able to avert tragedy. Don't be alarmed if they talk about using superpowers or violence to prevent such events; fantasies may help them feel less helpless.
- Help them minimize adult concerns by returning their focus to the day-to-day life of school, family, hobbies, and activities.

Provide Avenues for Action

Some children want concrete ways to help such as raising money for victims, writing letters of support to those affected, and lighting a candle in memory of the dead.

Teens are likely to have the most details and the most difficulty seeking help. They want to seem independent, yet such events may stir strong feelings of helplessness and fear. Desperately wishing for the world to make sense, teens are also old enough to recognize when it seems unstable.

- Don't press teens to speak about the situation more than they choose, and respect each teen's way of coping.
- Be patient with teens' reactions, which may change sharply and often. Teens may seem very mature one moment and childish at the next. This is normal and age-appropriate.
- Don't shelter teens from the opportunity to understand the situation, but resist the temptation to turn them into confidantes or seek more support from them than is fair.
- Offer avenues for helping, such as raising money for victims, working to increase tolerance, or taking classes on how to provide emergency medical care.
- Help teens see the good in the world and remind them that even in a world in which there is war and terrorism, we continue to work toward peace. It's important to encourage teens, who may be prone to black and white thinking, to recognize the compassion and concern shown by police, clergy, congregations, and communal organizations that provide assistance.

Know When and Where to Seek Professional Help

Seek help from a mental health professional if a child:

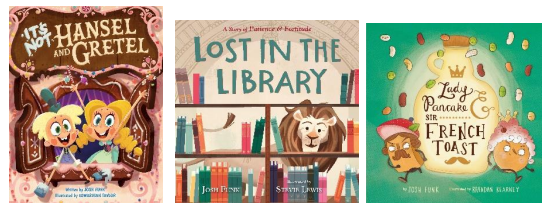
- continues to show inconsolable fear and anxiety;
- is more withdrawn or more defiant;
- becomes increasingly interested in play based on violent themes;
- cannot be consoled; or
- exhibits or threatens violence toward himself or others.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Meg Flatley, Margaret Petrovich, or Debbie Greiff

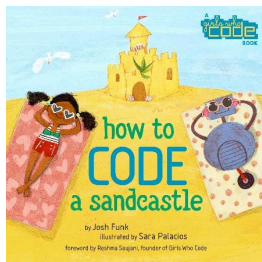
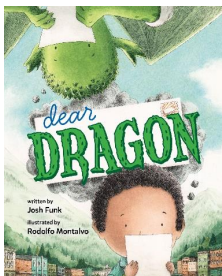
* This article is a modified version of the original that was sent out by reformjudaism.org

Join author Josh Funk for Literacy Night!

November 7, 2018 at 6:30pm



Josh Funk writes silly stories and somehow tricks people into publishing them as books. Since the fall of 2015, Josh has visited (or virtually visited) over 300 schools, classrooms, and libraries. Josh is a board member of The Writers' Loft in Sherborn, MA and was the co-coordinator of the 2016 and 2017 New England Regional SCBWI Conferences.



Hillside gymnasium 6:30pm
Books available for purchase and signing at the event

Hillside Elementary PTC

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SPORTING GOODS®

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15% OFF

**Print & Bring in this Coupon to Receive:
YOUR TOTAL PURCHASE
OF REGULAR & SALE
PRICED MERCHANDISE**

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RECEIVES 5%**

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Offer Valid on In-Store Purchase at any Modell's Sporting Goods® only.

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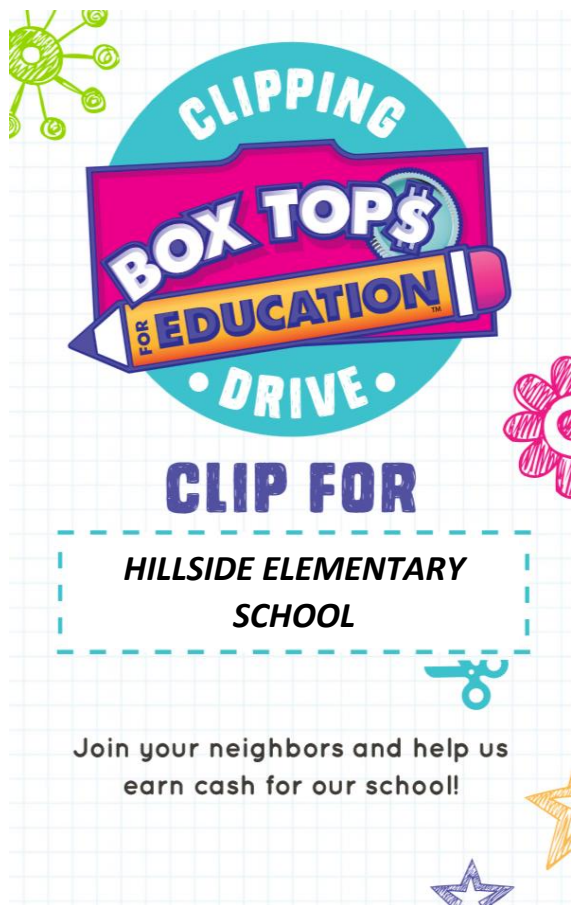
new england

new england

Coupon valid for multiple purchases during your Team Weeks® shopping period. Offer cannot be combined with any other offer and is not valid on previously purchased merchandise or merchandise purchased for resale purposes. Offer applies to store stock only and excludes clearance items, tennis balls, gift certificates, gift cards, Under Armour products, Nike Hero products (Hyperize, Air Force, Shox, Air Jordans & LE), Timberland Men's 6" Premium Boots, Skechers Shape-Ups, Reebok Easy Tone and New Era On-Field Fitted headwear. Additional exclusions may apply. Void if copied or transferred. Organization must spend a minimum of \$500 to receive a 5% donation.

Valid From: 10/12/2018 11/8/2018





Join your neighbors and help us
earn cash for our school!

Dear _____,

Will you consider clipping Box Tops for Hillside Elementary School? Every single Box Top is worth 10 cents!

How to participate:

1. Purchase or check your home for products with Box Tops on them.
2. Clip Box Tops and put them in an envelope or plastic bag.
3. Drop off Box Tops to the address below.

Thank you for your help!

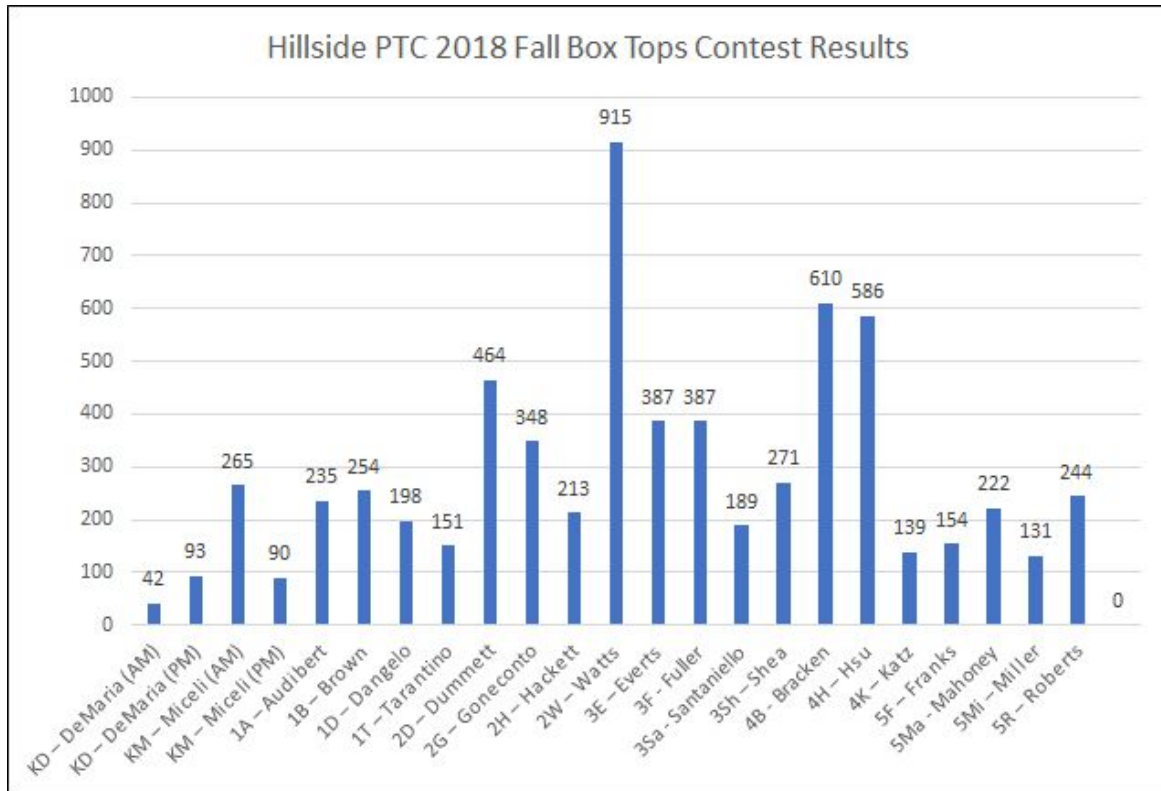
Sincerely,

(NAME) _____

(GRADE) _____

(ADDRESS) _____

CONGRATULATIONS to Mr Watts' class
for winning the Fall 2018 Box Tops contest!



Many thanks to all who contributed Box Tops.
In all, we collected 6,588 Box Tops.
That's \$658.80 for Hillside! WOW!

There'll be another contest in Spring 2019, so keep collecting those Box Tops. Better yet, use the note on the next page and ask your family/ friends/ neighbors to collect them for you.



The Needham Community Council is a private non-profit organization which supports people in Needham who have under-met health, educational or social needs and promotes volunteerism, community and a sense of shared responsibility.

OCTOBER, 2018

FOOD PANTRY WISH LIST

*Donation Site Open: Tues., Thurs. & Fri., 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Mon. & Wed. 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m. • Sat. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.*

You can also order online at our NEW! Amazon.com Food Pantry wishlist

***PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF DONATIONS OUTSIDE OUR DOOR
WHEN THE BUILDING IS CLOSED!***

- Paper Towels, Aluminum Foil
- Olive Oil, Canola Oil, Vegetable Oil
- Natural Cane or Brown Sugar
- Honey
- Brownie Mixes
- Cocoa
- Fresh Fruits & Veggies – all kinds
- Bath Soap

Items we can ALWAYS use include:

toilet paper, aluminum foil, tissues, paper towels, bar soap, dishwashing liquid, dishwasher detergent, liquid laundry soap, shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste, jelly, coffee, cooking oil

Thanks to the fridge and freezers donated by Roche Bros. we can accept frozen foods, fresh produce, cheese, eggs and other perishable items including grocery store prepared meals

Thank you for delivering any perishable items inside to the Food Pantry

- * Please help our food pantry customers with storage and lifting issues by donating individual sizes rather than family sizes
- * Please no opened or out of date items; nothing in glass

*Needham Community Council 570 Hillside Ave., Needham, MA 02494
781-444-2415 www.needhamcommunitycouncil.org*