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Hillside News

April 5, 2019



IMPORTANT DATES

4/09 -- PreK-8 Delayed Opening, School Begins at 10:20
4/15 -- Schools Close for Spring Recess
4/22 -- Schools Reopen
4/24 -- PTC Meeting, 8:45 a.m.



News from Mr. K...

April has arrived which means Spring is on its way and parent conferences are starting. I am happy to let you know that construction of our new school is still on time! There will be an updated slide show of the latest progress at Sunita Williams available to you all before we break for our April vacation next Friday. I hope this will be the last time I need to stress the following important reminder about parking!

Please be sure to park outside of the lot if you are here between 7:45 am and 3 pm. We do not have room for any visitor parking in our lot and though reminder and warning signs are posted on the door, next to the sign in log and in the lot itself, a number of parents have been trapped in our lot after conferences held during those times. Because the number of staff far exceeds the number of spaces, we need to park in tandem, blocking each other in. We cannot pull a staff member from class to move a car during class time and if you are in the lot, you will need to wait quite a while before moving a car out of our crowded lot.

A second reminder about drop-off time is still needed and will not change next year. Please remember that school begins at 8:20 and students need to be here by then. However, students cannot be dropped off before 8:05 because there is no supervision available before that time. This is a critical safety issue and must be observed. I realize this is a tight window but please plan accordingly and if at all possible, please try to walk, bike or car pool. The less cars coming into the lot will mean wait time in car line will be significantly shorter. Feel free to call me if you have any questions. Thank you.

April is also the time to share our classroom placement protocol. Class lists at Hillside are planned carefully, sensitively, and with great deliberation. Our goal is to put children in balanced classes based on academic strengths and supports, as well as social emotional needs. As a staff, we have the collective advantage of looking at the group of students as a whole. And while each teacher has her/his unique and special qualities, all Hillside teachers share a common concern for our students, and a sincere dedication to excellent instruction.

The process outlined below, consistent with past years, demonstrates the thoughtful and deliberate effort that goes into placement decisions. Please remember that we do not accept requests for specific teachers. After reading the information below, if you still feel the need to share extraordinary information for consideration by the team, please put it in writing and send or email it to me by Friday, May 3rd. Your written information will be shared with the placement team of teachers (sending and receiving) and specialists. Information received after that date may not be considered because our process will be in progress. The process for developing class lists is outlined below. Final teacher assignments are made by the principal. All teacher and class assignments at Hillside are final and will be published after school ends for summer recess.

The process of creating class lists:

1. Hillside Special Education Liaisons provide each grade level team with recommendations for student groupings according to IEP needs and information regarding support available from Instructional Specialists who work directly with students in classrooms.
2. Learning Specialists, Support Staff and our School Adjustment Counselors provide grade level teams with recommended groupings as well.
3. Grade Level Teachers develop balanced class groupings based on academic progress, behavior, and the information described in numbers 1 and 2 above.
4. Lists are typed as drafts and submitted to principal.
5. Principal finalizes lists and then assigns teachers.

We appreciate your support and trust as we undertake the process of creating balanced classes based on individual strengths and needs of each child as well as the needs of the whole group.

Have a great weekend!

Mr. K

PTC Hillside Hornet Buzz

PTC Highlights:

- **Talent Show Tonight! Tickets available at the door**
- **Claim items from Lost & Found. Unclaimed items will be donated on 4/12**
- **Save the Date for Hillside's Last Spring Carnival - Sat, 6/8**
- **Save the Date for the Fifth Grade Party - Fri, 6/14**
- **Only one Week Left to Purchase Yearbooks! [Purchase Online](#) by 4/12**
- **Seeking Festival of Cultures Participants - share your culture with our community!**
- **Soliciting donations for the Calendar Raffle**
- **Seeking new Chair for Hillside Cares Committee**

The Latest Buzz:

We hope to see many of you at the **2019 Hillside Talent Show** tonight (April 5th at 7pm 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!

Limited Time Left to Purchase Your Yearbook! There are two easy ways to order a copy of this year's special book: [Order online](#) by April 12th (see attached flyer for instructions); or complete the form sent home with your child and return to Hillside by April 12th. Please contact Samantha Shapiro at samshap333@hotmail.com with any questions.

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 12th** 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.

Soliciting Donations for the Calendar Raffle!! It's feeling like spring and it's time for the Hillside Spring Raffle! This year, the raffle will run from June 3rd – June 7th, with prizes awarded every school day. Raffle tickets will be sold ahead of and during the week, so that everyone in the community will have an opportunity to try and win the donated prizes! 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 have a connection with any local businesses, please consider donating a gift certificate or prize to our raffle. 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. This annual fundraiser helps the Hillside PTC raise much needed funds to support the PTC-sponsored enrichment programs. It also offers participants the opportunity to win some great prizes. Please be in touch with Jen Schaffstein at leonardschaffstein@yahoo.com with ideas, connections or items.

Upcoming Events

FESTIVAL OF CULTURES - Hillside is celebrating our 4th Annual Festival of Cultures on Friday, May 17th 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 flyer 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.

Mark your Calendars! The next **PTC Meeting** is **April 24th** 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. We hope to see you there!

Please **SAVE THE DATE** of **June 8, 2019** for our last **Spring Carnival!** We hope you'll join us as we say goodbye to Hillside in grand style with our "fun for the whole family" event. We'll have inflatables, dunk tank, baby zoo animals and more! The event will be held from 4pm-7pm so plan on grabbing dinner at the Captain Marden's food truck and be ready for a great evening! More details to follow.

Fifth Grade Families - SAVE THE DATE of **June 14, 2019** for the PTC-sponsored and much loved **Fifth Grade Party!** This party will be held after school at the Boston Sports Club indoor complex in Wellesley. Our fifth graders will have fun swimming in the indoor pool, playing basketball and laser tag, and celebrating the end of their Hillside careers with their classmates. Stay tuned for more details.

Hillside Cares

Thank you to all Hillside families who donated children's clothing and toys to the **Cradles 2 Crayons** collection. We gathered up some great stuff for kids who will benefit a great deal from our generosity. If you would like to participate in sorting donations from all over Needham, bring your whole family to **Needham Gives Back** this **Saturday April 6**. See the attached flyer for all the details.

PTC Fundraisers

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

Seeking Volunteers - Open Positions

The PTC depends very heavily on parent volunteerism and cannot operate without volunteers. 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:

Hillside Cares Coordinator - Hillside Cares is responsible for community outreach and volunteerism. This valuable component of our student's education shows children the importance of giving back to your community. The Coordinator organizes Hillside's participation in Cradles to Crayons clothing drives, Needham Community Council events, Candy for Troops, etc. If interested or want to learn more, please contact Sarah Burns (sarahmag18@yahoo.com) or Vanessa Jones (vanessajones694@icloud.com).

More 1st Grade Cafeteria Volunteers Needed: We have many gaps in cafeteria volunteer coverage for First Grade lunch. If you do have any daytime availability (even if it is just once this whole spring), please consider signing up for a shift. It makes a huge difference for the cafeteria workers and first graders, and provides a great opportunity to interact with your student and all their classmates during the day. If you are able to sign up, please do so for the soonest dates you are available, so we can ensure the rest of March has proper coverage.

Thank you to all of you that have volunteered so far! To sign up, either contact Ilana Kaufman at kaufman.ilana@gmail.com or go to the Sign up Genius [link](#).

The **Calendar Raffle** committee is looking for help. If you would like to be involved please contact April Crawford (aacrawford44@gmail.com).

More Hillside News...

3rd and 5th Grade Gymnastic Sentence Sharing

Newt week, our 3rd and 5th grade students will be sharing their gymnastic sentences which utilize skills learned in class. Gymnastic sentences are routines that students create on their own which combine their creative thoughts and ideas along with their physical ability to move through space. Each grade level is different and unique.

Please note that there has been a schedule change on Tuesday due to the late arrival students will have that day. This table shows when some of my classes will be sharing their gymnastic sentences:

Monday April 8th	Tuesday April 9th	Wednesday April 10th	Thursday April 11th	Friday April 12th
	Mrs. Miller 10:35 - 11:05	Mrs. Fuller 8:45 - 9:25		Mrs. Shea 9:30 - 10:10
	Ms. Roberts 11:10 - 11:40			Mrs. Santaniello 10:15 - 10:55
	Ms. Mahoney 1:20 - 1:55			Mrs. Everts 11:00 - 11:40
	Mr. Franks 2:00 - 2:35			



The Student Council is working with Cradles to Crayons to collect items for families in need. We are collecting from Monday, March 18th to Friday, April 12th. There will be a box in the lobby for the items. The following items are what we are collecting **(All Items must be new or gently used)**:

PJs- size 2T and up
Boys jeans and khakis- size 10
Shoes-Boys and girls- size 0-12
Boys coats- size 10-12
Boys clothing- size 1
Hygiene Items
Games-board games
Books



Helpful Advice From Mrs. Greiff

Spring Has Sprung... Here are a few helpful reminders:

Many of our students are starting to feel some effects of seasonal allergies. There are a broad range of symptoms which may include:

- Sneezing
- Runny nose (Clear)
- Nasal congestion
- Itchy, watery, red eyes
- An itchy throat
- Dry cough
- Disturbed sleeping patterns
- Loss of taste and sense of smell

If your child has experienced any of these symptoms in past years, this may be a good time to check in with your pediatrician to discuss a treatment plan for seasonal allergies.



Tick Removal

Examine your children frequently for ticks, especially after they have been out in wooded or grassy areas. If you find a tick attached, there's no need to panic. There are several tick removal devices on the market, but a plain set of fine-tipped tweezers will remove a tick quite effectively.

How to remove a tick

1. Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
2. Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick; this can cause the mouth-parts to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouth-parts with tweezers. If you are unable to remove the mouth easily with clean tweezers, leave it alone and let the skin heal.
3. After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol, an iodine scrub, or soap and water.

Signs and Symptoms of Lyme Disease

If you had a tick bite, live in an area known for Lyme disease or have recently traveled to an area [where it occurs](#), and observe any of these symptoms, you should seek medical attention!

- Red, expanding rash called erythema migrans (EM)
- Fatigue, chills, fever, headache, muscle and joint aches, and swollen lymph nodes

Some people may get these general symptoms in addition to an EM rash, but in others, these general symptoms may be the only evidence of infection. Some people get a small bump or redness at the site of a tick bite that goes away in 1-2 days, like a mosquito bite. This is not a sign that you have Lyme disease.



Erythema migrans (EM) or "bull's-eye" rash

- Rash occurs in approximately 70-80% of infected persons and begins at the site of a tick bite after a delay of 3-30 days (average is about 7 days).
- Rash gradually expands over a period of several days, and can reach up to 12 inches (30 cm) across. Parts of the rash may clear as it enlarges, resulting in a "bull's-eye" appearance.
- Rash usually feels warm to the touch but is rarely itchy or painful.
- EM lesions may appear on any area of the body.



Bike Safety Tips

We can make bicycling safer for all by observing the following safety tips:

- Always wear a helmet
 - Obey all traffic controls
 - Ride your bicycle near the right-hand edge of the road
 - **Never carry another person on your bicycle**
 - Always use hand signals when turning or stopping
 - Look out for cars at cross street, driveways, and parking places
 - Be careful when checking traffic and don't swerve when looking over your shoulder
 - Give pedestrians the right-of-way
 - Keep your bicycle in good condition
 - Always ride carefully
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ANNOUNCING THE 2019 NEEDHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT CONFERENCE:

"Strong Community, Nurturing Parents, Healthy Kids"

Sunday May 5, 2019 at Pollard Middle School, 8:30AM-1:00PM

Featuring nationally-recognized author Lynn Lyons, LICSW, who will be giving a 2-hour keynote presentation titled "Preventing Anxiety and Depression: Skills We Can (and SHOULD!) Be Teaching Our Children". Afterwards, parents can participate in 1 of 8 interactive workshops lead by subject-matter experts from the local area.

Pre-register at: <https://tinyurl.com/NMSConference2019>



Needham Junior Football

Bring your friends and experience what it's like to "Play for a Day" as a Needham Junior Football player on **April 7** from **3:00 to 4:30** p.m. (see attached flyer for more information).

Pack 4 Cub Scouts is recruiting new members! Pack 4 is an inclusive, family Pack, welcoming **all children** in grades K-5. The Pack welcomes interested families to attend an Open House & Pack Meeting on **Sunday, April 7th, 3:30** pm, at Christ Episcopal Church, Needham. For more information, visit: <https://sites.google.com/view/pack4needham/home>

Growing up Other in Suburbia -- A different kind of forum. Young adults return to Needham to share their personal stories on how they navigated living and attending school while being other.

April 7, 4-6 p.m. First Parish UU, 23 Dedham Avenue, Needham

SEPAC Educational Presentation:

"Don't Rush to Soothe! Practical Strategies for Stress and Anxiety Management"

Tuesday, April 9

7:00 pm – Networking & Refreshments

7:30 pm – Program Begins

Broadmeadow School Media Center

When we see our children experiencing distress, our impulse is to "swoop" in and soothe them. While this might be a short-term solution, it's critical that we also build skills to help children manage their own stress and anxiety more independently over time. In this workshop, we'll review the core concepts behind stress and anxiety, and learn practical strategies to support children of all ages.

Presenter Elise Wulff, MEd, has more than a decade of experience working with the neurodiverse population and their families. With MGH Aspire since 2008, Elise oversees MGH Aspire programming for individuals ages 5-16 and related services, and also provides personalized parent coaching, school-based consultation, and professional development for providers.

SEPAC Coffee with Superintendent Dan Gutekanst

Wednesday, April 10th, 9:00 am

Emery Grover Building, 1330 Highland Avenue

Dr. Gutekanst will join us to exchange ideas and answer questions. Don't miss this great annual event!

Pansy Day Festival at the the Needham History Center

Saturday, April 13th, 10am - 3pm www.needhamhistory.org

Ponies, Bounce House, Scavenger Hunt, The Hot Dog Man and of Course Pansies!

The Plugged In Band Program is offering an April Vacation Camp for kids ages 11-18 of all skill levels. The camp will take place April 15-19 from 9:00-3:00 (with optional extended day). For more information, please call 781-444-1879 or visit www.pluggedinband.org.

Sunday, April 28, the 14th 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 <http://bit.ly/PHRNeedham2019> 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.

Parent Talk Spring Used Clothing, Toy & Equipment Sale

Saturday, May 5 8:30 am-12:45 pm at the Eliot Elementary School, 135 Wellesley Avenue, Needham

For more info email clothingsale@parenttalk.org or go to <http://www.parenttalk.info/community/used-clothing-toy-sale.php>



STEAM Center Hours

Mon-Wed 3:30-8:30

Thursday - 3:30-5:30

Friday - 3:30-5:00

Saturday - 9:00-4:30

Sunday - 1:00-6:30

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

Chinese Storytime

Saturday, April 6th, 10:00 AM

Children in Kindergarten are invited to drop in to enjoy stories in Chinese followed by a craft project. A great storytime for native speakers and children interested in learning about Chinese language and culture.

Family Book Club

Saturday, April 6th, 2:30 PM

Children in Grades K-2 and their adult share nonfiction picture books, a video and a related craft. This month's books are *A Boy and a Jaguar*, *The Watcher* and *Mrs. Harkness and the Panda*. Reading ahead is not required, but copies of the books are available at the Children's Desk. Registration is required. To register, please call 781-455-7559 x 204 or visit the Children's Desk.

Read to Tucker the Dog and Read to Panda the Dog

Monday, April 8th, 4:00 PM - Tucker

Saturday, April 27th, 2:30 PM - Panda

The Needham Free Public Library now has TWO trained therapy dogs children can practice reading to. Children in grades 1-5 can sign up for a 15 min time slot to read to one of the therapy dogs. They are great listeners. To sign up, visit the Children's Desk or call 781-455-7559 x 204.

Plumb Landing

Saturday, April 13th 10:00 AM

You have seen it on TV on WGBH Channel 2. Now you can come do it at the Needham Free Public Library! Plumb is a friendly alien who has landed on Earth. She is trying to find out how nature works on Earth so she can report it back to her planet - Blorb. Children ages 6 and up are invited to come for hands-on activities, games and more that help us learn about nature. Participants will receive a free Amazon gift card from WGBH. Registration is required. To register visit the Children's Desk or call 781-455-7559 x 204.

All Elementary Schools

School Vacation Week Program

Free Movie Showing

Mary Poppins Returns (Rated PG, 131 Minutes)

Jane and Michael Banks grew up into loving and responsible adults. When Michael becomes a single father of three children after the death of his wife, Mary Poppins revisits the Cherry Tree Lane home to try to help Michael and his family cope and move beyond their grief. Mary Poppins' message to Michael, Annabel, John, George and Ellen, the family's housekeeper, about enjoying life and loved ones is still the same as it was when Jane and Michael were children.

School Vacation Week Program

Magician Robert Clarke

Wednesday, April 17th, 2:30 PM

Robert Clarke will perform amazing magic tricks and astounding juggling feats in a high energy, fast paced, fun-filled family show appropriate for children ages 4 and up. Be ready to clap, cheer and enjoy this interactive performance.

Yoga for Children

Saturday, April 27th, 10:30 AM

Children ages 5-9 years old are invited to come stretch out and relax with a professional children's yoga instructor.

Needham Free Library at Science on State Street

Saturday, April 27th 11:00 - 3:00

At the Christie McAuliffe Center at Framingham State University
100 State Street, Framingham, MA

Science on State Street is a science festival for families with 50 exhibits, hands on activities for children and free shows in the planetarium. Visit the Needham Free Public Library table at this event to make a pinhole telescope to take home; learn how lenses and telescopes work and use a digital microscope.

ORDER YOUR HILLSIDE ELEMENTARY YEARBOOK ONLINE TODAY

Step 1: Visit <https://www.memorybook.com/online-pay/parent-pay/>

Step 2: Enter the Hillside code: 026532 and go to your “school store login/registration”

Step 3: Click on the hyperlink below the school name

Step 4: Where it says “new user?” Click Register. Create a user ID and password.

Step 5: On the Product page click “Standard Yearbook” and follow the ordering process, including the “add child” prompt.

Each yearbook is \$15.



ORDER
ONLINE
THROUGH
FRIDAY,
APRIL 12TH.

Contact the Hillside Yearbook
Committee with any questions at:
hillsideyearbook2019@gmail.com

Cradles toCrayons

Providing the essentials for childhood.

NEEDHAM GIVES BACK!

OUR 11TH ANNUAL DAY OF SERVICE AND GIVING!

Saturday, April 6

10:00a – 1:00p

WE NEED YOUR STUFF!

Bring your gently used or new items to the Needham High School Cafeteria on Saturday April 6th, drop off hours are from 9am – 12pm*

**you can also drop off on Friday eve April 5, from 5-6p*

DONATE!

We need your gently used clothes, shoes, coats, small toys, and books for kids, ages 0-14

Clean out your closets for a good cause!

VOLUNTEER!

Come with your family!

Sort, organize and pack donations.

10a-1p

WE NEED YOU!

It takes an army of volunteers to get the job done! So come, help, and bring your kids....

Everything will be delivered to C2C and distributed to children in need all over Massachusetts!

If you would like to help, families participate together!

To volunteer, please email us at:

Needham@CradlesToCrayons.org



LET'S BUILD: ENGINEERING FUN FOR KIDS

Hillside Families and Friends (with CORI forms) are invited to volunteer with Let's Build, a fun, in-classroom engineering opportunity!

Grade					
K	KD PM 4/1 12:15 - 1:30	KM PM 4/1 1:30 - 2:45	KM AM 4/3 8:30 - 9:45	KD AM 4/3 10 - 11:15	
2	2G 4/8 10:15-11:45	2D 4/8 12:45-2:15	2H 4/10 10:15-11:45	2W 4/10 12:45-2:15	
1	1T 6/3 9:00-10:15	1B 6/3 12:30-1:45	1A 6/4 10:15-11:30	1F 6/5 12:30-1:45	
4	4H 6/12 9:00-10:30	4K 6/12 12:30-2	4B 6/13 9:00-10:30		

Grade K – Bears Across the Atlantic (Sink Float)

Grade 2 – Puff Mobiles (Wind/Air)

Grade 1 – Waterwheels (Properties of Water)

Grade 4 – Circuit Challenge! (Electricity/Circuits)

Calling Hillside Volunteers!



To volunteer
email

Liz Lee at

info@letsbuildengineering.org

LET'S BUILD:
ENGINEERING FUN FOR
KIDS



Needham, MA

www.letsbuildengineering.org
info@letsbuildengineering.org



Hillside Elementary School Festival of Cultures Friday, May 17 @ 6.30pm

Please join us to 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