

[Michael Kascak](#), Principal

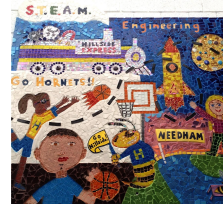
[Erin Vacaro](#), Assistant Principal

[Lori Donovan](#), Lead Secretary

Main Number: 781-455-0461

Hillside News

April 26, 2019



IMPORTANT DATES

- 4/30 -- MCAS Grade 5 ELA
- 5/01 -- Massachusetts Walk-to-School Day
- 5/01 -- MCAS Grade 4 ELA
- 5/02 -- MCAS Grade 5 ELA
- 5/03 -- MCAS Grade 4 ELA



PTC Hillside Hornet Buzz

PTC Highlights:

- Soliciting donations for the Calendar Raffle
- Seeking Volunteers for Open Chair Positions for next school year
- Fifth Grade Families: 5th Grade Field Day will be on Tuesday, June 18
- Festival of Cultures Participants Wanted - share your culture with our community!
- May 1 - Massachusetts Walk to School Day
- May 8 - National Bike to School Day

The Latest Buzz:

We are happy to announce that **April Crawford** has been elected **PTC Co-President** for the next two years. April is the mom of two children - her son is in 3rd grade and her daughter is in Kindergarten. April has been a very active member of the PTC; she currently chairs the Talent Show and Calendar Raffle, and is also the Head Room Parent. We are so excited to have April join Vanessa as Co-President next year - congrats and welcome, April!

Thanks to everyone who joined us at our [PTC Meeting](#) on Wednesday morning. If you weren't able to make the meeting you can read the meeting minutes which will be posted to the website shortly.

The [2018-2019 yearbooks](#) have been ordered! A very big thank you to **Sam Shapiro, Tess Murch, and Robin Gamrath-Schauman** for putting together this keepsake book that highlights the wonderful year we've had at Hillside. This is a huge undertaking and we are so grateful for Sam and her team's hard work and dedication. We cannot wait to see the final result!

STILL Soliciting Donations for 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 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 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! 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. We currently have the following countries represented: **Mexico, Peru, Bulgaria, Poland, Armenia, Israel, China, Greece, England and India.** Please return the attached flyer if you would like to join in and share your country and culture with the Hillside community. If there are any questions please contact hillsidefestivalofcultures@gmail.com.

Mark your Calendars! The next **PTC Meeting** is **May 21st** 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 most recent construction developments at the Sunita L. Williams School and the transition that will take place in moving Hillside over to the new building. There will be many important details shared so you won't want to miss it. Please be sure to join us!

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.

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:

More 1st Grade Cafeteria Volunteers Needed: 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! 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. 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](#).

OPEN POSITIONS: We are looking to fill the following positions for the **2019-2020 School Year**. If you would like more information on any of these volunteer roles please contact Vanessa Jones (vanessajones694@icloud.com).

- Treasurer (this person would train for the first year under our existing Treasurer)
- Back To School Picnic Chair
- Green Team Coordinator
- Calendar Raffle Coordinator
- Candy Bar Bingo Coordinator
- Festival of Cultures Coordinator
- Walk/Bike to School Coordinator



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



2019 SEPAC AWARDS -- Now Accepting Nominations!

Each year, SEPAC recognizes Needham Public School employees who are truly exceptional, and have gone above and beyond in their work with students with special needs. 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 26th using the link to the form below. Nominations may be submitted by current students or their family members, but we can accept only one nomination per household. The identities of all nominators will be kept confidential, and are not shared with the nominees at any time. The 2019 SEPAC Awards Ceremony will be held May 16th, 7:00-8:30 pm, in the Eliot Performance Center. We hope you can join us. Please contact Hilary Bruel or Alisa Skatrud at awards@needhamsepac.org if you have questions about the nomination process.

VOCAL SUPPORT '19

Don't miss **VOCAL SUPPORT '19, NHS a cappella concert** benefiting The American Cancer Society, Saturday, April 27 at 7:30 pm at Newman auditorium. Featuring NHS a cappella groups and special guests from Wellesley HS and Weston HS. Purchase tickets online at www.nhsfriendsofmusic.org/tickets (\$10 for students/seniors, \$15 for adults).

Announcing the 2019 Needham Middle School Parent Conference:

"Strong Community, Nurturing Parents, Healthy Kids"

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

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 Pitch Hit and Run

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 to advance to the Sectional Level of Competition, as well as have the chance to compete at Fenway Park in June at the MLB™ All-Star Game® in July.

Needham Open Studios

May 4-5, 11:00-4:00 Needham Open Studios is a great opportunity to see local artists at work and talk to them about their art and how they work. There will be special activities for children (and adults) at several locations. Visit needhamopenstudios.com to see the complete list of participating artists, the map of all 13 locations, and the schedule of special activities.

Parent Talk Spring Used Clothing, Toy & Equipment Sale

Sunday, 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>

The Spring Sale of the Friends of the Needham Public Library will be held on Friday, May 31 from 12:30-4:30, Saturday, June 1 from 9:00-4:00, and Sunday, June 2 from 1:00-4:00. Sunday is bargain day with all books half-price and a brown bag of books \$8.00. For further information, visit the Friends' website <http://friendsneedhamlibrary.org> or call 781-455-7559.

The Needham Community Farm announces new Family Gardening Classes for Spring, Summer, and Fall. The hands-on classes are designed for families with young children, require no previous experience, and materials and tools are provided. For more information and to register, visit the website at www.NeedhamFarm.org, or call Susan Shaver at 781-343-1106.



Annual Pan Mass Kids Ride

Please join us for the 3rd Annual Pan Mass Kids Ride in Needham Sunday June 9th! This is a wonderful family event where kids ride their bikes and raise money to fight cancer. The ride will once again will take place at Pollard Middle School, 8:15am-12pm, and includes a post ride party. Register @www.kids.pmc.org/needham. For more info, please contact: Liz Mingle Elizabeth.mingle@gmail.com

Citizens for Needham Schools — Apply to be a Board Member

CNS is seeking board members who are politically and civically engaged with an interest in issues related to education and the Needham school system. The Board engages in robust conversation and welcomes diverse viewpoints. CNS Board members serve a three-year term and responsibilities include attending 5-6 CNS Board meetings, watching and writing summaries of 2-3 School Committee meetings, and engaging with and providing school-related information to the community on an ongoing basis via social media, school meetings, and your personal network.



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.

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.

Register for Summer Reading!

A Universe of Stories

May 1-July 29th

Sign up for Summer Reading at the Children's Desk of Needham Free Public Library or call 781-455-7559 x 204. Registration begins May 1. Sign up through June 29th. Read and log the time spent reading in a paper or online reading log starting June 24th -August 9th. Earn prizes. This year's theme is outer space. Paper rockets on the Children's Room bulletin board representing each school, will be racing towards a distant planet. Which rocket will arrive first and win the Race in Outer Space? The more you read, the faster and further your school's rocket will go! Get a brag tag and neck chain when you sign up. Receive 4 pony beads to put on your neck chain for every 2 hours of reading you do. The more you read, the more specialized beads you can collect. Watch out for strange UFO sightings around Needham! Enjoy performers, workshops, STEAM activities, movies and more June 24th-August 12th!

Summer Learning at Needham Free Public Library
Grades K-5

Summer is about reading - and math and science and having fun! We have long known about the "summer slide" in reading. When children don't read over the summer, they lose skills and vocabulary and have a harder time in the fall. However, the same is true for forgetting math skills, or what they learned in science class. Explore the web links for Summer Learning on the Needham Free Public Library's web page

www.needhamma.gov/library

where children can hone their skills and retain what they have learned in school over the summer months through fun and engaging online activities.

Bookventurers Book Club

For children in Grades 3-5

Saturday, May 4, 3:00-4:00 PM

Read the book. Discuss it with friends. Enjoy an activity related to the story. This month's book is *The Doughnut Fix* by Jessie Janowitz. Copies are available at the Children's Desk. When his family moves to tiny Petersville, 11-year-old Tristan stops focusing on his boredom by using his baking skills to revive a town tradition of chocolate cream doughnuts. When he starts a business to sell the doughnuts, he finds he has bitten off more than he can chew. Registration is required. To register visit the Children's Desk or call 781-455-7559 x 204.

Read to Tucker the Dog

Grades 1-5

May 6, 4:00 PM-5:30

Read to Panda the Dog

May 18, 2:30-4:00

Children in Grades 1-5 may sign up for a 15 minute time slot to read aloud to Tucker or Panda, trained therapy dogs. They are great listeners and children can practice their reading skills. To sign up, visit the Children's Desk or call 781-455-7559 x 204.



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