

[Michael Kascak](#), Principal

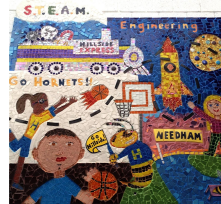
[Erin Vacaro](#), Assistant Principal

[Lori Donovan](#), Lead Secretary

Main Number: 781-455-0461

# Hillside News

May 3, 2019



## IMPORTANT DATES

- 5/03 -- MCAS Grade 4 ELA
- 5/07 -- MCAS Grade 3 Math
- 5/08 -- MCAS Grade 4 Math
- 5/09 -- MCAS Grade 3 Math
- 5/10 -- MCAS Grade 4 Math
- 5/14 -- MCAS Grade 5 Math
- 5/16 -- MCAS Grade 5 Math
- 5/21 -- MCAS Grade 5 Science & Technology
- 5/22 -- MCAS Grade 5 Science & Technology
- 5/23 -- PreK-12 Early Release 12:15 PM
- 5/27 -- No School -- Memorial Day
- 5/28 -- Spring Concert - Grades 3 and 4, School Audience Only
- 5/29 -- Spring Concert - Grade 5, School Audience Only
- 5/31 -- Spring Concert at 8:45 AM, Parent Audience



6/06 -- No AM or PM Kindergarten due to incoming K screenings and tours. AM/PM KASE will be in session.

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## News from Mr. K...



An [updated slide show](#) of the latest pictures of the new Sunita Williams campus is available on our website.

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## PTC Hillside Hornet Buzz

### *PTC Highlights:*

- **The PTC needs you! Check out the open Committee Chair Positions for 2019/20**
- **Soliciting donations for the Calendar Raffle**
- **May 8 - National Bike to School Day**
- **Festival of Cultures Participants Wanted - share your culture with our community!**
- **Spring Carnival - Cake Walk Bakers needed**
- **Next PTC meeting May 21st at 7.15pm - Tech Forum, "Managing Technology in Your Home"**

### *The Latest Buzz:*

It was wonderful to see so many walkers and bikers on Wednesday morning. Our next walk/bike to school day is on **May 8th - The National Bike to School Day.**

The PTC operates thanks to those who generously donate their time to organize our events and programs. We have a wonderful school community and would like to thank all those who have given their valuable time to chair events for us - many of whom are moving on from Hillside to High Rock at the end of this school year. This, however, means that for the 2019/20 year we have **A LOT of open Committee Chair positions.** We cannot run all the events and programs for our community - that help build and strengthen our community - if we don't have people in these positions willing to take on these roles. There are positions to suit all levels of time commitments for both working parents and stay-at-home parents. **All of these roles can be shared between 2 (or more!) people so consider grabbing a friend or two and helping run one of the events/programs looking for new Committee Chairs:**

#### **2019/20 Chair positions:**

- Back To School Picnic Chair
- Candy Bar Bingo Chair
- Calendar Raffle Chair
- Creative Arts Co-Chair
- Festival of Cultures Chair
- First Grade Cafeteria Chair
- School Directory Chair
- Sunita Williams Green Team Chair

#### **2019/20 Shadow/Apprentice Roles which will transition into 2020/21 Chair Role:**

- Treasurer
- Communications Email Blasts
- Enrichment Grants
- Walk/Bike to School

If you want more information as to what is involved in each of the positions please contact Vanessa Jones [vanessajones694@icloud.com](mailto:vanessajones694@icloud.com). We would love to have you join the team!

**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.

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, cake walk, face painting 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 to celebrate our last ever event at Hillside! The Spring Carnival will need a lot of volunteers the day of the event - please be on the look-out for the SUG. ***We are also looking for bakers for the cake walk.*** This is a beloved game that needs lots of cake - the more cakes the merrier our children! Please return the form at the end of the newsletter if you would like to buy or bake some cakes.

## Upcoming Events

**FESTIVAL OF CULTURES** - Hillside is celebrating its 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 and sample the food offered! We currently have the following countries represented: **Mexico, Peru, Bulgaria, Poland, Armenia, Israel, China, Greece, England, Brazil, South Africa, Siberia/Russia, Italy, Thailand and India.** *We would love some more countries, especially a USA table which has yet to be showcased at the event!* If you would like to showcase your country and culture please return the attached flyer. If there are any questions please contact [hillsidefestivalofcultures@gmail.com](mailto:hillsidefestivalofcultures@gmail.com).

**CALENDAR 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! 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](mailto:leonardschaffstein@yahoo.com) with ideas, connections or items.

**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, we have **guest speaker Kerry Hurwitch, a.k.a Tech Mom**, who will be sharing her knowledge on how we can best "**Manage Technology In Our Homes.**" In addition, 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!

## 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 - Current School Year

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](mailto:kaufman.ilana@gmail.com) or go to the Sign up Genius [link](#).

**OPEN POSITIONS:** As you have read above, we are looking to fill the Chair/Co-Chair 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](mailto:vanessajones694@icloud.com)).



## 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



### **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/NMSCConference2019>

**The NHS Habitat for Humanity Club** students and supervisors will be hosting our first annual Parent Night Out event on Saturday, May 11th, from 4:30 - 8:30 pm in the B Gym at Needham High School for children ages 4 - 11 years (Pre K - 5). Drop off your child for a night of games, crafts, pizza and a movie (SHREK). Cost is \$25 per child, \$40 for two children and \$50 for three or more children. Complete the form to register now as spaces are filling up fast (Limited to 75 max):

[Parent Night OUT Registration](#)

### **First Lego League Informational Meeting**

May 14, 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM, Needham HS, Room 112

On May 14th, The Needham HS Robotics Club is hosting First Lego League (FLL) Night for kids from 5th to 8th grade who are interested in robotics to learn about the FLL program and to connect with local FLL teams! All who attend will be given a

tour of Needham's innovation lab, the Da Vinci Workshop, and have the opportunity to see current FLL teams present their robots and demonstrate what FLL is all about. Parents and students can learn about the FLL program and start forming teams. FLL is a parent-run program, so some parents are needed to coach the teams (no experience necessary). We'll also offer students the chance to build their own robots with LEGOs and pre-programmed robot controllers as a fun challenge for all, no prior robotics experience required.

### **Liven Up Your Summer -- Care for a Science Center Animal**

Do you have a soft spot for a critter that's furry, feathered, or scaled? The Science Center is looking to adopt out our live animals over summer break. We'll give you training, written instructions, and an initial food supply. Adoption months will be approximately mid-June through mid-September. For more information, contact the Science Center:

[sciencecenter@ka12.ma.us](mailto:sciencecenter@ka12.ma.us). Or, call the Newman School and ask to be transferred to the Science Center: 781-455-0416.



### **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](http://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](mailto:clothingsale@parenttalk.org) or go to <http://www.parenttalk.info/community/used-clothing-toy-sale.php>

### **John Eliot PTC Multi-Family Garage Sale**

Saturday, May 11th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. This event will be held in the teachers parking lot at the school and is open to the entire Needham community.

**The Needham High School Booster Club** is having one of their fundraisers, the celebrity basketball game featuring the New England Patriots, on May 13th at Babson College. The Boosters are a volunteer group of high school parents and community members who promote, support, and provide recognition to the student athletes participating in all sports at Needham High School. Please click on this link to the Boosters website <http://www.needhamhighschoolboosters.org/> for information on the game and how to obtain tickets.

**The Needham Street Fair** will be held on **Saturday, June 1**, from 10:00 am-2:00 pm on the Town Common.

Experience fun for the whole family at Needham's biggest annual community event!

- Enjoy Touch the Trucks, Trolley & Pony Rides, Photo Booth, Bouncy House, Face Painting and much more.
- Soak in performances featuring neighborhood talent.
- Sample fare from Needham restaurants.
- Stop by our local business and organization booths.

For more information about the event, please go to [www.nnchamber.com](http://www.nnchamber.com)

**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 is \$8.00. For further information, visit the Friends' website <http://friendsneedhamlibrary.org> or call 781-455-7559.



## **Annual Pan Mass Kids Ride**

Please join us for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Pan Mass Kids Ride in Needham Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup>! 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](http://www.kids.pmc.org/needham). For more info, please contact: Liz Mingle [Elizabeth.mingle@gmail.com](mailto:Elizabeth.mingle@gmail.com)



## **LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME JOB?**

The **Needham Police Department** is seeking qualified individuals for the position of **Crossing Guards**.

**DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:** Duties will include supervision of school children as they cross the street on their way to/from school at an assigned post. A valid driver's license and dependable motor vehicle is required. It is imperative that Crossing Guards are dependable, since we do not have the ability to cover unnecessary absences. Crossing Guards must possess stamina to stand for long periods of time and the ability to work and drive in all weather conditions with exposure to traffic.

**HOURS OF WORK:** 7am – 8:30am (approximately) and 2pm – 3pm (approximately). This is a part-time position with no benefits; however, there are additional jobs that may be suitable for crossing guards during their off hours and during the summer.

**CURRENT RATE:** \$20.65/hour

**INTERESTED?** Please visit: <http://www.needhamma.gov/jobs.aspx> for an application. If you should have any questions, please contact Officer Karl Harmon at [kharmon@needhamma.gov](mailto:kharmon@needhamma.gov)

**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](http://www.NeedhamFarm.org), or call Susan Shaver at 781-343-1106.

## **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.

[Learn more about CNS](#)

[Apply now](#)



### **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.

### 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](http://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.

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THE PTC PRESENTS THE

# Hillside Spring Fling

# CARNIVAL

SATURDAY, JUNE 8 ♦ 4 P.M. - 7 P.M.

HILLSIDE PLAYGROUND

DUNK TANK ♦ BABY ZOO ANIMALS ♦ INFLATABLES

Dinner from  
Captain Marden's  
Food Truck  
&  
Lots of Carnival  
treats for sale!

CRAFTS  
GAMES  
PRIZES  
& MORE

PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR LAST HILLSIDE EVENT AND HAVE  
AN AFTERNOON OF FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!!



## 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					
5	5R 5/28 8:45-10:15	5F 5/28 10:25-11:55	5Ma 5/30 11-12:30	5Mi 5/30 1:15-2:40	
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 5 – Stomp Rockets (Forces)

Grade 1 – Waterwheels (Properties of Water)

Grade 4 – Circuit Challenge! (Electricity/Circuits)

# Calling Hillside Volunteers!



To volunteer

email

Liz Lee at

[info@letsbuildengineering.org](mailto:info@letsbuildengineering.org)

LET'S BUILD:  
ENGINEERING FUN FOR  
KIDS



Needham, MA

[www.letsbuildengineering.org](http://www.letsbuildengineering.org)  
[info@letsbuildengineering.org](mailto:info@letsbuildengineering.org)



The First Annual

**John Eliot School**

# **Junk in the TRUNK**

Family Garage Sale

**Saturday, May 11 • 10am-2pm**

Eliot School Parking Lot • 135 Wellesley Ave. Needham

sponsored by the Eliot PTC 5th Grade Class