

# Hillside News

## November 3, 2017

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### IMPORTANT DATES



- 02** Autumn Amble -- Walk/Bike to School
- 07-09** Scholastic Book Fair
- 10** Schools Closed for Veterans' Day
- 22** Schools Closed for Professional Development
- 23-24** Schools Closed for Thanksgiving Recess



#### News from Dr. Maloney

In spring 2017, students in grades 3-8 across Massachusetts participated in the new MCAS test in English language arts and mathematics for the first time. This "next generation" MCAS test is completely different and a more rigorous assessment than the MCAS assessment that had been administered in our schools for nearly the last 20 years. During the week of November 6th, you will be receiving the results of your child's performance on this new assessment.

As you review the report, here are a few things to keep in mind:

- The next-generation MCAS is a new test with a different approach to assessing student performance in grades 3-8. Spring 2017 scores are not comparable to previous years' scores.
- The score levels for the next-generation MCAS are different from those of the legacy MCAS. The four new categories are: Exceeding Expectations (E), Meeting Expectations (M), Partially Meeting

Expectations (PM) and Not Meeting Expectations (NM). They replace the categories of Advanced (A), Proficient (P), Needs Improvement (NI), and Warning (W) used for the legacy MCAS.

- The new standards for "Meeting Expectations" are more rigorous than the standards for reaching the "Proficient" level on the legacy MCAS. Therefore, some students who scored Proficient on the legacy MCAS in 2016 may score only "Partially Meeting Expectations" on the new 2017 MCAS.
- The Spring 2017 is a baseline year for the new test in grades 3-8 and will set the achievement level for coming years.
- High school students are still taking the legacy MCAS tests. The next-generation tests will be introduced at the high school level in spring 2019.

We ask that you keep in mind that MCAS results are only one measure of your child's performance. Students in Needham are learning and growing both academically and socially. Teachers are supporting the diverse needs of all

our students. We remain on par with our comparable communities and continue to outperform the state on many measures. Most importantly, it is the ongoing partnership with our parents that enriches the work of our entire school community and enables all our students to grow and achieve. Please let us know if you have any questions.

### PTC Hillside Hornet Buzz

We hope you had a safe and fun **Halloween!** Thank you for generously donating your excess candy to Tyler Donovan's troop - we collected a ton! Please help us package and label the boxes in preparation for sending. We are meeting in the lobby on Monday Nov 6 right after school. We're also looking for donations of packing tape and money to cover shipping costs. If you'd like to send in tape or money with your child, please put it in a bag or envelope and bring it to Mrs. Donovan's desk on Monday morning. Cards and pictures for the troops are also appreciated! Finally, we'll need help bringing the boxes to the post office when we're done. Any and all efforts would be a big help! Please email Sarah Burns at [sarahmag18@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahmag18@yahoo.com) with any questions. Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Halloween Trick or Trot 5K Run/Walk & Monster Fun Run. A very BIG thank you to Seema Meloni for organizing, running and making the race a TREMENDOUS SUCCESS!!! The PTC would also like to thank the many volunteers that worked so hard throughout the planning process and the large number of volunteers that helped out on race day. This event would not have come together without all of the support and help we received and for that we are truly grateful! Thank you also to our generous sponsors: Needham Bank, Needham Chiropractic, Volante, Cafe Fresh Bagels and Sudbury Farms. ***There were a number of jackets and sweatshirts left behind after the race. Please check Lost and Found near the cafeteria to claim any of your belongings.***

The success of the Trick or Trot also helped us accrue a ton of miles for our Buzz Across America initiative! Our Monster Fun Run participants helped us earn 192.5 miles, and the students that ran the 5K race contributed a whopping 792.5 miles for a grand total of 985 miles in one morning!!! Way to go, team.

And speaking of **Buzz Across America**, this initiative will continue until we make it across the country to California.

As a reminder, each student can contribute miles to the journey by earning popsicle sticks one of two ways: (i) run laps around the Hillside field on Friday mornings at Morning Mingle and earn 1 popsicle stick for each lap; and/or (ii) walk/bike to school any day and earn 2 popsicle sticks. **In addition, we are in need of parent volunteers to help on Fridays at Morning Mingle. To volunteer, please sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0c4cacad22a5fa7-hornets>.** Any questions, please contact Seema Meloni @ [seema.meloni@gmail.com](mailto:seema.meloni@gmail.com).

It's time to order your **Fall Hillside spirit wear!** For the first time you can order and pay for all your spirit wear online, making it easier than ever to show your Hillside spirit and support the PTC!! We have some great new items as well as a few fan favorites, including a hoodie, cozy sweatpants, and the always popular pom pom hat. Orders are being accepted now through November 17th. Contact [sarah.y.nunes@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.y.nunes@gmail.com) or

[caroline.rubin1@gmail.com](mailto:caroline.rubin1@gmail.com) with questions. These items will be collectibles soon - don't miss out on the memories!

**School Directories are here** and are in the process of being distributed! If you contributed to our Annual Dues Drive at the start of school then your family will receive a hard copy directory (and if you want one but haven't donated to the drive we will still accept contributions). A huge thank you to **Seema Meloni** for putting it all together!!!

Thank you to all the **Room Parents** who helped organize classroom celebrations this week. If you took pictures of the parade or any classroom activities, just a reminder to get them to the **Yearbook Committee!** Please see below message from the Yearbook Committee on how to submit pictures.

If you've got great photos of school and community events or you and your friends just having fun, we'd like to see them. Our photographers can't be everywhere. Help us get as many photos as possible to create a terrific book everyone will want to have.

Here is how you can submit photos online:

- Go to: <https://images.memoryebooks.com/login>
- If it does not automatically log you into the site, enter username: 409683606
- 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".

It's that easy! Submit your photos today!

### Upcoming Events

**Scholastic Book Fair: Tuesday, November 7 through Thursday, November 9, 2018** during school hours. Check your child(ren)'s backpack for a packet of information about the Scholastic Book Fair- coming soon! We are happy to welcome the Scholastic Book Fair to Hillside School again this year. Scholastic is known for their outstanding, award winning selection covering every interest and reading level. On Tuesday, November 7th, each class 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 8th and Thursday, November 9th, and have the opportunity to make purchases. **\*\*In addition: Parents and students can also shop on November 8th 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 and how you can volunteer to help out. Questions? Please contact Joanna Herrera [joannaherrera@gmail.com](mailto:joannaherrera@gmail.com).

**Literacy Night** with Jerry Pallotta will be held on **November 8th at 6:30pm** in the **Hillside Gym**. Please join us for an exciting evening with award-winning author Jerry Pallotta! A prolific author of both nonfiction and imaginative fiction, Jerry has captured the imagination of many Hillside students with his wildly popular *Who Would Win?* series, among other titles. Mr. Pallotta will present to the Hillside community at 6:30pm and will be available for book signing after the presentation. This event is FREE! 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 link: <http://evite.me/pdDE7KxbRj>. Please see flyer at the end of this newsletter to pre-order Jerry Pallotta’s books. His books will also be available for purchase at the event.

The **Hillside PTC's FIRST Poker Tournament** sponsored by Jordan’s Furniture, Modell’s Sporting Goods, Party City and the **Dads of Birch Street** will be held on **Friday, November 17th at 8 p.m. at the Village Club** (83 Morton Street, Needham). The event is open to ALL Players of all skill levels. There is a \$50 entry fee to play and all proceeds benefit the Hillside PTC and **DON'T PLAY POKER?** We will have music and a cash bar so come and hang out (\$20 admission fee for non-poker players). Everyone who signs up will receive a \$10 Gift Card to Modell’s Sporting Goods. This is a great event for an evening out, so lock in your babysitters and prepare to win big!!!

The tournament winner will receive \$300 in Amazon gift cards as well as a \$100 Jordan’s Gift card. Second place finisher will win \$150 in Amazon gift cards and third place will win a \$100 Amazon Gift card. We will also have a special raffle to give one person a CHANCE to win \$2,500!!!

We are in need of players to make this work!!! To register, go to: [www.cfapromo.com/hillside](http://www.cfapromo.com/hillside). Please see flyer at end of this newsletter for additional details. Any questions, please contact Eric Friedberg @ [eric@cfapromo.com](mailto:eric@cfapromo.com).

**PLEASE JOIN US on Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>** from 6.00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. for a holiday shopping event at the Needham Holiday Boutique at 1110 Great Plain Avenue, Needham. There will be a number of local businesses offering unique products at great deals, including Rock Paper Scissors, Stitched Needham, rebeccah j, Perennial Designs, and others. Get some of your holiday shopping checked off your list while keeping your dollars local and catching up with other Hillside parents. The Hillside PTC will receive 10% of the proceeds from the evening’s sales. See flyer at the end of this newsletter for additional details. We hope you will join us!

### Other PTC Fundraisers

**The Modell’s Fundraiser** is currently underway and runs **through November 16th!** Check out the Modell’s coupon at the end of this newsletter and be sure to use it when you stock up on all of your fall and winter sports gear - you get 15% off. After \$500 in sales, 5% goes back to the Hillside PTC.

**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:

**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. To sign up, either contact **Erin Ellis** at [erinellis03@gmail.com](mailto:erinellis03@gmail.com) or go to the Sign up Genius 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 and register your information through our website [www.HillsidePTC.org](http://www.HillsidePTC.org)** so that you will receive our email blast.

PTC Co-Presidents

Erin Apstein, [eringapstein@gmail.com](mailto:eringapstein@gmail.com)

Meg Rosenbaum, [megrosenbaum11@gmail.com](mailto:megrosenbaum11@gmail.com)

[www.HillsidePTC.org](http://www.HillsidePTC.org)



## Notes From the Nurse:

### HSAC UPDATE: Recess Digging Concerns Addressed

Over the years, some parents have had concerns about the safety of the soil on the playgrounds. We addressed this issue at our last Hillside Health and Safety Committee Advisory meeting. Todd Pomerantz agreed to contact Ralph Tella of Lord Associates, Inc., the environmental consulting company. Mr. Tella states:

“To my knowledge there have never been any detections of accessible soil exceeding any MCP risk-based standard. The depth to groundwater on Hillside School property ranges from just a few feet below the surface on the east side to about 5-7 feet on the west side, and of course varies seasonally. Any water observed on the surface after a storm or in the spring is likely runoff from the hill. As you also point out, any trace VOCs in soil gas would be rapidly dispersed in ambient air.”

I hope this alleviates any worries that parents may have about students digging in the dirt here at Hillside. If you need any further information please contact me.

Debbie Greiff R.N. MED  
Health Office  
781-455-0461 x228

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## NEWS FROM NEEDHAM HIGH SCHOOL

Needham High School's Take Back the Night Club and the Needham Domestic Violence Action Committee are pleased to announce the 11th annual Take Back the Night event, on November 16th from 6 to 9 pm in the Needham High Cafeteria. Take Back the Night is dedicated to raising awareness about domestic violence and sexual assault and its prevention, as well as working to give a voice to those who do not have one. Planned and put on by Needham High School students, the event will feature live music, guest speakers, free food, give aways, and much more, everyone is invited and encouraged to attend this free event.

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Shop local this holiday season at Needham's Winter Marketplace, sponsored by Parent Talk. The Marketplace brings together more than 40 purveyors of unique, quality gift items together in one convenient location in Needham's charming Powers Hall. Sunday, November 19 from 1-4pm; Tickets at the door for \$6 (\$1 of each ticket donated to Needham Community Farm).

Contact [marketplace@parenttalk.info](mailto:marketplace@parenttalk.info) for more information.

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**The Scholastic Book Fair is  
Coming to Hillside!!**  
Tuesday November 7<sup>th</sup> through Thursday  
November 9<sup>th</sup>  
during School Hours  
Plus shop in the evening during  
Literacy Night: Wednesday November  
8<sup>th</sup>  
6:30-8:00p.m.

# Hillside PTC First Annual



**\$20**

Entry Fee  
for those  
NOT playing  
Poker

**\$50**

Entry Fee  
for Poker

**Tons of  
great  
prizes!**

# POKER TOURNAMENT

- Light Snacks
- Cash Bar
- Music/Dancing

Proceeds to benefit the Hillside PTC.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2017**  
**8:00 pm**

*Minimum participation required,*  
**Register Now:**  
[www.cfapromo.com/hillside](http://www.cfapromo.com/hillside)

This event is open to ALL and players of all skill levels and is sure to be a great time for anyone who attends.

**First 100** people get a **\$10 Modells** gift card .  
Poker Tournament Winner will win **\$300.00 in Amazon Gift Cards** and  
2nd place wins a **\$100 Amazon Gift card!** Prizes for the final table.

SPONSORS

**The D.O.B.S.**  
(aka the Dads on Birch Street)

**MODELL'S**  
SPORTING GOODS **Gotta  
Go To  
Mo's**

**PartyCity**

*Jordan's*  
FURNITURE

SPONSORS

**> Village Club | 83 Morton Street • Needham, MA 02494**  
Email [eric@cfapromo.com](mailto:eric@cfapromo.com) with any questions.

School administrators, teachers, principal, etc. are not involved in this event

*please join us*  
NOVEMBER 30TH  
FROM 6 - 9:30PM

## Hillside Holiday Shopping Event

hosted by:  rockpaperscissors

Featuring:

Beauty Counter | Harding Lane | Perennial Designs  
rebeccah j | Rodan & Fields | Stella & Dot  
Stitched Needham | Tina Labadini Designs | ...and more

10% of all sales from the night will go back to the school



Needham Holiday Boutique  
Pop-Up Shop located at  
1110 Great Plain Avenue, Needham

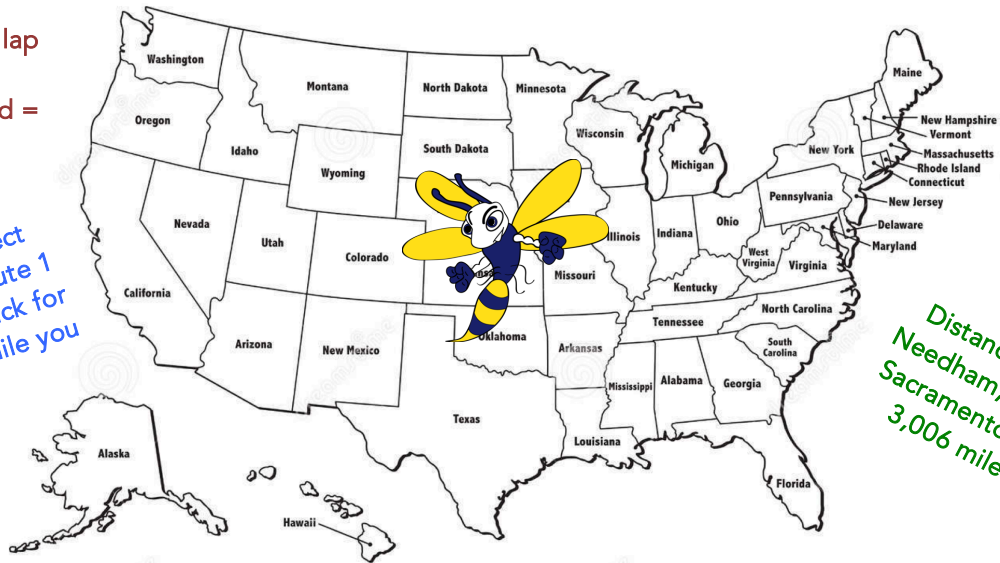
*needham*  
holiday boutique



# 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 29<sup>th</sup>, 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.



Hillside Elementary PTC

**MODELL'S**  
SPORTING GOODS

**COUPON**

**15% OFF**

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

**EARN A CASH DONATION FOR YOUR  
TEAM, SCHOOL OR ORGANIZATION!**



**YOUR TEAM  
RECEIVES 5%**

**Of Purchases  
Made with  
this Coupon**



**EARN MVP AWARDS  
While Supporting  
Your Team!**

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

**COUPON VALID ONLY AT FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:**

new england

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, UnderArmour 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: 10/20/2017 11/16/2017**

