

Hillside News December 8, 2017

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IMPORTANT DATES



- 08 Family Fun Night, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
- 13 Picture Make-Up/Retake Day
- 25 Winter Break

News from Dr. Maloney

Last week I wrote that teachers were observing some student behavior that was not always reflecting Hillside values (“Work hard, Be nice.”) or the Needham Public Schools core value of community (“A culture that encourages communication, understanding, and is actively anti-racist.”). On Wednesday morning before the late arrival of our students, teachers and staff began to work on two important initiatives: 1) Supporting Anti-racist, Anti-bias practices and 2) Encouraging respectful, kind and polite behavior in and out of the classrooms. We are in the very early planning stages, but you will be hearing more about how we can partner to reinforce these values in our students/your children. The importance of this work was underscored by the disquieting news from Needham High School that racist and homophobic graffiti had been written on school walls. It is imperative that all students feel safe in our schools.

Thank you for your help and understanding

PTC Hillside Hornet Buzz

We loved seeing the sidewalks full of Hillside students walking/riding to school this morning for the Winter Walk - Walk to School Day! Each student who walked/rode to school today earned 2 popsicle sticks contributing to the Buzz Across America initiative. The students will continue to buzz their way across America to California for the remainder of the year. Make sure to stop by the lobby to see how far our students have traveled.

Thank you to everyone who attended our second PTC meeting on Tuesday evening. We heard a brief update from Dr. Maloney about what’s been happening at school as well as

Andrea Longo Carter who is the Hillside Liaison to the School Committee. We also approved two teacher enrichment grants. Meeting minutes will be posted to the website shortly for anyone who was unable to attend the meeting. Our next meeting will be held on January 24th at 8:45 a.m.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT is TONIGHT from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. and we still desperately need a few more volunteers towards the second half of the event. If you are planning to bring your kids to this evening of DJ dancing, games, crafts, prizes, and ice cream sundaes then please consider signing up for a short volunteer slot. Please sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0c4cacad22a5fa7-family1>. Hope to see you there!

Hillside Cares is teaming up with **Hillside Student Council** for the annual **Coats for Kids Drive** and we need some help! We'll be delivering all of the coats collected to Anton's Cleaners to be cleaned before they get distributed to local families in need. Please contact Sarah Burns at sarahmag18@yahoo.com if you can help with the delivery after school on Wednesday, December 20th.

Looking for holiday gift ideas, please consider the **Hillside PTC Gift Book Program**. When you donate \$15 to the Hillside PTC Gift Book Program, the name of the person to whom you are dedicating the book will have their name printed and posted into a book at the Hillside Media Center. All proceeds from this program directly benefit the Hillside Media Center. It's not only a great way to honor a special person in your life, but you're also contributing to the school community. To participate, please follow the instructions on the Gift Book Program form that is included at the end of this newsletter.

Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE for our third annual **PARENT SOCIAL** which will be held on **Saturday January 20 at the Village Club!!** This year we will be hosting a Hillside Hoedown so grab a hat and some boots and come on down to the Village Club for dancing, games, and an opportunity to bid on amazing Teacher Experiences donated by our fantastic staff. Mark your calendars and look for the invitation to come!! Please note this is a parent-only event.

Bulletins:

Message from the Yearbook: 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.memorybooks.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! Any questions, please contact Sam Shapiro @ samshap333@hotmail.com.

Community

'Tis the Season to Honor Educators with NEF Teacher Appreciation Cards

Honor a special teacher or VIP in your child's life by making a donation in his or her name to the Needham Education Foundation (NEF). NEF Teacher Appreciation Cards make it simple to show your gratitude, while supporting innovation and excellence in Needham Public Schools. NEF will send a card to your designated honoree(s) or you can purchase cards to personalize and hand deliver. Cards are \$15 each, \$60 for 5 cards, or \$100 for 10 cards. Please see attached flyer, look for a flyer coming home in backpack mail, or visit nefneedham.org to order cards online through December 15. You may also purchase cards in person at Taylor's Stationery (cash/check only), Volante Farms, Roche Bros., and Sudbury Farms through December 27th. If you have questions, please contact Maureen Callahan at mcallahan@nefneedham.org.

Other PTC Fundraisers

Box Tops: We are continuing to collect Box Tops for Education. PLEASE be sure to save them! Collection sheets and a collection box for sheets/box tops are located at the PTC bulletin board near Lori's desk. We hope to collect many this year, so please send them in!!!

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 parent volunteers to help on Fridays at Morning Mingle for the **Buzz Across America** initiative. 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. **To volunteer, please sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0c4cacad22a5fa7-hornets>.** Any questions, please contact Seema Meloni @ seema.meloni@gmail.com.

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 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, follow us on Twitter at @hillsideptc and register your information through our website www.HillsidePTC.org** so that you will receive our email blast.

PTC Co-Presidents
Erin Apstein, eringapstein@gmail.com
Meg Rosenbaum, megrosenbaum11@gmail.com
www.HillsidePTC.org

Hillside School News...



Non-Couch Potatoes Go to State Tournament

The Non-Couch Potatoes are a First LEGO League (FLL) team composed of Hillside fifth graders Sam Doff, Josh Lee, Gabe Pressman and Dylan Schaffstein all in their rookie season. FLL teams across the world have been working since August to solve interesting problems based on this year's theme of hydrodynamics. They present their solutions and compete in a LEGO robot game at qualifying tournaments around this time of the year. Inspired by rainwater collecting roofs that have existed on the island of Bermuda for 400 years, the Non-Couch Potatoes developed a new roof system that can collect water during rainy weather, but also captures solar energy when it is sunny. These ideas were shared with the Hillside Green Team and a

representative from Needham Green Collaborative and their feedback was incorporated into their tournament presentation.

The Non-Couch Potatoes set a 100-point goal for robot mission scoring when the season started in September. On Saturday, December 2nd the team competed in the Shrewsbury qualifying tournament with 44 other teams from across the state. They started the day with a great run and then hit some bumps due to some poor robot playing field conditions. A good showing in the project judging reinvigorated the team and they found themselves only 5 points shy of their goal for the final qualifying round. The team tweaked their approach using lessons learned that day and notched a 120 point final round that propelled them past their goal! Their hard work was rewarded by an invitation to the Massachusetts Championship First LEGO League Tournament on December 16th.



'Tis the Season to Honor Educators with NEF Teacher Appreciation Cards

Honor a special teacher or VIP in your child's life by making a donation in his or her name to the Needham Education Foundation (NEF). NEF Teacher Appreciation Cards make it simple to show your gratitude, while supporting innovation and excellence in Needham Public Schools.

NEF will send a card to your designated honoree(s) or you can purchase cards to personalize and hand deliver. Cards are \$15 each, \$60 for 5 cards, or \$100 for 10 cards.

Visit nefneedham.org to order cards online through December 15. You may also purchase cards in person at Taylor's Stationery (cash/check only), Volante Farms, Roche Bros., and Sudbury Farms through December 27th. If you have questions, please contact Maureen Callahan at mcallahan@nefneedham.org.

6th Annual Parent Talk Summer Camp Information Fair

Date: Wednesday, January 24th

Time: 7pm-9pm

Location: Needham High School cafeteria, 609 Webster Street, Needham

Cost: FREE for Parent Talk members; \$10 for non-members

RSVP: No advance registration required.

The Summer Camp Fair will provide parents and caregivers the opportunity to meet with representatives of local summer camps and gather information on programs for their families. Questions, please contact ptcampfair@gmail.com



Friday, December 8, 2017

6:00-8:00 pm

\$5 per Family

(pay at the door)

Come and join the Hillside Community for an evening of DJ dancing, gym games, crafts, prizes and lots of fun! Say hello to some new and old friends.

Pizza & drinks will be available for purchase.

**Back by popular demand:
Make your own
sundaes!**

**Get set to
dance and play
in your
favorite PJs!**

This year's theme is the ever-favorite pajama party!

Volunteers Needed! Sign up at:

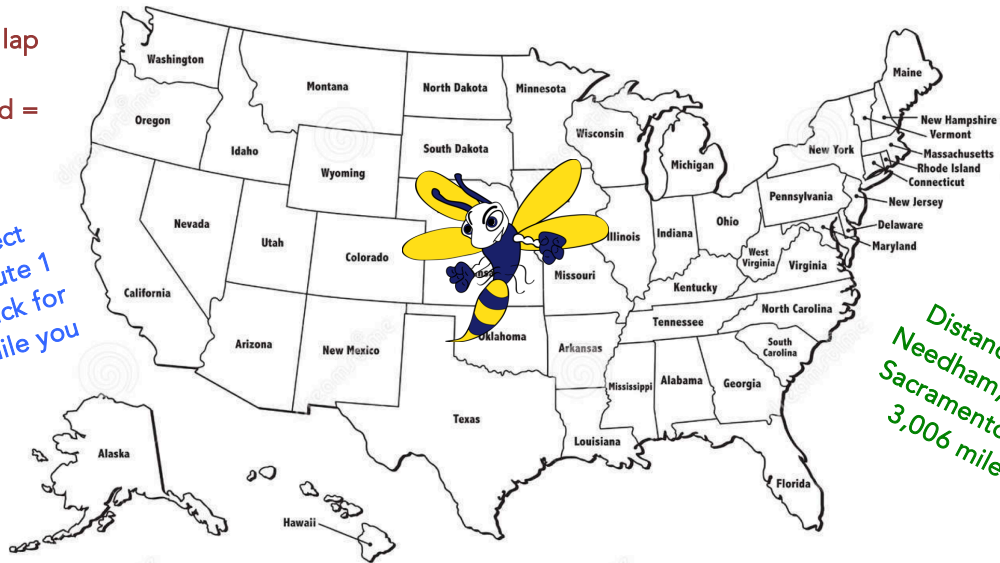
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20foc4cacad22a5fa7-family1>

*Student alumnae are welcome and encouraged to volunteer!
We love seeing you back at Hillside!*

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.



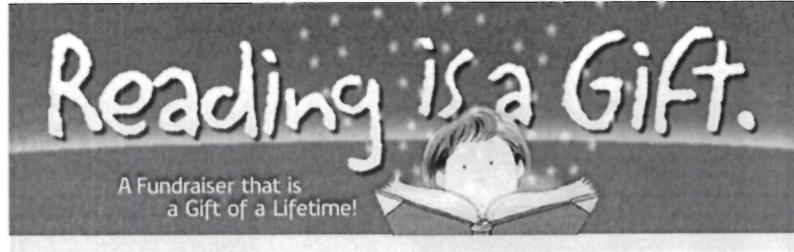
Distance from
Needham, MA to
Sacramento, CA:
3,006 miles!

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 29th, 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 Gift Book Program

Ever wonder about those nameplates in books your child brings home from the media center? Interested in dedicating a book to your child or someone you really cherish? It's so easy to do!

Complete the form below and send in a payment of \$15. When the donation is received, a bookplate will be put inside the cover of a special book to acknowledge the donor and honoree.

All proceeds directly benefit the Hillside Media Center!

In celebration of _____

OR

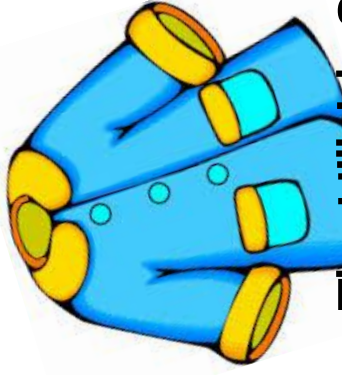
In honor of _____

Child's or Family's Name _____

Please complete 1 form per book and include \$15 cash or check (payable to "Hillside PTC") per book with this form.

Parent's Name (please print)

Date



Coats for Kids Fundraiser 2017-2018

The Hillside School is participating in a fundraiser called, "Coats for Kids". We are collecting new or gently used coats in any size. All donations can be placed in a box located in the lobby. Please make all donations by January 7, 2018. Thank you in advance!

