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Hillside News March 23, 2018



IMPORTANT DATES



29 Early Release -- 12:15 PM Dismissal/No P.M. Kindergarten
 30 No School -- Good Friday



03 The Spring Saunter -- Walk/Bike to School
 04 + 05 MCAS - 3rd Grade ELA
 09 + 11 MCAS - 4th Grade ELA
 16 - 21 April Recess
 24 5th Grade to Wheelock
 26 + 27 MCAS - 5th Grade ELA

**NOTE: NO AM & PM Kindergarten on 5/31 due to tours and screening for new Kindergarteners.
 AM & PM KASE will be held.**

News from Mr. K

Despite, or in spite, of the weather, Spring arrived this week! Therefore, it is 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 gender, academic strengths and supports, and social emotional needs. As a staff, we have that 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 following process for developing class lists, consistent with past years, demonstrates the thoughtful and deliberate effort that goes into placement decisions. We do not accept requests for specific teachers. After reading this information, 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, April 27th.

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. Final teacher assignments are made by the principal. All teacher and class

assignments at Hillside are final and will 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. Speech and Language Specialists and School Adjustment Counselors provide grade level teams with recommended groupings as well.
3. Grade Level Teachers develop balanced class groupings based on gender, 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. Parent conferences begin in early April and with that come **two important reminders**. The first is to be

sure you park outside of the lot if you are here between 7:45 am and 3:15 pm. We do not have room for any visitor parking in our lot and though reminder and warning notices 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 this week. 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. Feel free to call me if you have any questions. Thank you.

PTC Hillside Hornet Buzz

Congratulations to our 5th Grade Hillside Hornet spellers who were named Co-Champs of the NEF Spelling Bee! Natalia Coutu, Pranay Gunda and Simon Shoemaker we are so proud of you! And nice job to our parent and teacher teams...thank you for representing Hillside!

We hope to see many of you this **Sunday, March 25th from 3-5 pm** at the home of Sarah Burns participating in Hillside Care's latest initiative. Stop by to either donate food and/or make brown bag dinners to be delivered to Generic Ministries for the homeless. There is still time to Sign up for contributing food/materials AND volunteering at the event -- www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0845A4AF22A31-making

We hope everyone had a great time cheering on our team at the Hillside/Elliot "Hoops in the Heights" basketball game this past Friday. There was so much school spirit in the gym!! A special thanks goes to the teachers and parents who were out on the court and to all our parents who volunteered their time at the event. A BIG THANK YOU to **Betsy Alperstein** for organizing the event and **Erin Ellis** for coordinating all of the concessions.

We are pleased to announce that **John Cho, Joanie Daly and Idriz Limaj** will join the Hillside School Council this fall. Thank you to all who expressed interest in the role and congratulations to our new participants!

Hillside Cares is NOW collecting gently used children's clothing, books, toys and baby equipment for Needham Gives Back benefiting Cradles to Crayons. We will collect items in a bin in the Hillside lobby March 6 - April 6. Please give generously! Then sign up to volunteer at the event, sorting, organizing and packing the donated items. See the attached flyer for all the details.

Purchase Your Yearbook Now! Yearbook ordering is underway! There are two easy ways to order a copy of this year's special book: Order online (by April 17th) at www.online-pay.memorybook.com/parent, enter pay code 87787 and click next; or complete the form sent home with your child and return to Hillside by April 13th. Please contact Samantha Shap at samshap333@hotmail.com with any questions.

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. Please be in touch with Jen Schaffstein at leonardschaffstein@yahoo.com or April Crawford (aacrawford44@gmail.com) with ideas, connections or items.

Upcoming Events

2018 Hillside Talent Show! This year's show is guaranteed to be lots of fun! The big event will be held on Friday, April 6th at 6:45pm at the Newman Elementary School. If you have any questions please contact the committee via our email box: hillsidpttalentshow@gmail.com. We also NEED VOLUNTEERS to make the show happen!! Please visit our sign-up genius at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f044aacab2fabf85-hillside> to sign up.

Grab Your Gear! Be on the lookout for some great new items in the **Spring Spirit Wear Sale** which will be held from **April 2nd through April 13th**. More details including a list of items for purchase and ordering instructions will be coming soon!

Mark your Calendars! The next **PTC Meeting** is **April 25th** at 8:45am in the Hillside Cafeteria. More details to follow.

Festival of Cultures! Hillside is celebrating our 3rd Annual **Festival of Cultures** on **Friday, May 18th 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 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.

Committee Messages:

YEARBOOK PHOTO DEADLINE EXTENSION!

Message from the Yearbook: Submit photos online as follows:

- 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! **The last day to submit photos is NOW 04/09/2018** so submit your photos today!

Any questions, please contact Sam Shapiro @ samshap333@hotmail.com.

Community

Needham Public Schools NEEDS YOUR HELP! NPS is now in the process of developing its strategic plan for technology that will guide the district's future programmatic, operational, and financial decisions in this area. A very BIG THANK YOU to those who responded to our recent parent survey. Your feedback has helped tremendously to inform the work of the planning team! To further explore parents' thoughts on the matter of technology, we are looking for 10-12 people who would be willing to participate in a **focus**

group on the evening of May 2nd. The purpose of the focus group is to trigger creative thinking, to envision possibilities for the future, and to consider areas for programmatic growth or change. Details are outlined in the attached flyer. If you are interested in participating please fill out the form at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdDd4gfKRrnAV06Wx_1GLud6e2wPGM_E8IxI0-tgOICPO6Yew/viewform by April 27th.

Other 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

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:

We are looking for our next Co-PTC President to join Meg Rosenbaum next year. If interested, please email Erin Apstein (eringapstein@gmail.com) or Meg Rosenbaum (megrosenbaum11@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



YMCA Indoor Soccer – Ages 5 and 6 March 17th- April 14th
March Madness Basketball! Ages 5 and 6 and Grades 1-4
March 24th- April 14th
Contact Marcus Nelson for more details! mnelson@ymcaboston.org

Join us for Parent Talk's Annual Project Night Night service event!! Help us fill a "Night Night" bag for a child or teen in a local shelter. For more information click [here](http://parenttalk.info) or email Projectnightnight@parenttalk.info.

Join Parent Talk and St. Joseph's School for a lecture on Technology and Your Children on Wednesday, March 28th from 7-9 pm at St. Joseph's School [90 Pickering Street](http://www.needhamhistory.org) in Needham. Our lecturer, Kerry Hurwitch, Needham's own TechMom, will be discussing internet safety, parental controls, apps that help and ground rules. The event is sponsored by Beth Israel-Deaconess Needham, and is free for Parent Talk members and \$10 for non-members. For more information please visit the event on our website <http://www.parenttalk.info/> or RSVP here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/technology-and-your-children-tickets-43012471460>

Needham Flag Football is pleased to announce an Open House on Saturday, March 31st from 1-4 at Memorial Park in Needham. Please join us to learn about the league and have the opportunity for your child to participate in brief clinics. The Open House is for boys and girls in grades K-8, whether or not they have already signed up for the league. For more information on the league, please go to www.needhamflagfootball.com. This event is FREE and light refreshments will be served.

Calling all Needham Girl Scouts and an adult partner! Come join your fellow Girl Scouts for a fun night of square dancing on April 6th, 7-9 pm at the Presbyterian Church in Needham. Pre-register by April 2nd by emailing troop75438@yahoo.com, cost is \$20/pair at the door.

Fun for the whole family at the Needham History Center & Museum's annual Pansy Day Festival! Pony rides, animal presentation, face painting for the kids while adults enjoy the traditional pansy plant sale and shopping in our gift and heirloom shop. Saturday, April 7 from 10am - 3pm.

For more information please contact Gloria Greis at 781-455-8860, greis@needhamhistory.org, or visit www.needhamhistory.org.

Needham Junior Football & Cheer Play for a Day

Play For A Day and find out what it's like to be part of the Needham Junior Football team! Open to all kids currently in grades 1-7 and their WHOLE family! Prizes, Games, FREE food, meet a Patriots player and more!

Saturday, April 7, 1:30 PM - 3 PM
Needham High School
[609 Webster Street, Needham, MA 02494](http://www.needhamhistory.org)
<http://www.needhamfootball.net/>

Sunday, April 29, the 13th 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 www.Smileboston.com/PHR 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.



**Needham Parents Care Brings You Another:
Parent Tip-of-the-Month: Social Media & Technology
Part 1**

Walk Along Gliders with Phil Rossoni
STEAM

For Children in Grades 3-5
Tuesday, March 27th at 4:00 pm

A walk along glider is a slow flying model aircraft that children will make and keep in the air by walking along with it on a string and paddle to create an updraft. Phil Rossoni is a glider plane pilot who will provide demonstrations, construction assistance, and hands-on flying time for children with their own walkalong glider. Registration is required and space is limited. To register stop by the Children's Desk at the Needham Free Public Library or call [781-455-7559 x 204](tel:781-455-7559).



PJ Storytime

For Children in Kindergarden
Tuesday, March 27th at 7:00 pm

Children and families are invited to come in their PJ's with a blanket and favorite stuffed friend to enjoy a storytime led by women of the Kappa Kappa Gamma Society of Babson College. Registration requested. To sign up, stop by the Children's Desk at the Needham Free Public Library or call [781-455-7559 x 204](tel:781-455-7559).

Free Movie - Aliens Ate My Homework

Rated PG; 90 Minutes

Aliens Ate My Homework is based on the book in the Rod Allbright and the Galactic Patrol series written by internationally renowned author Bruce Coville. When a tiny intergalactic starship crashes into the bedroom of 12-year-old Rod Allbright (Jayden Greig), it's the start of the adventure of a lifetime for him and his cousin Elspeth (Lauren McNamara). Enlisted by the extraterrestrial Galactic Patrol, Rod and Elspeth must race to save the world from Total Planetary Disaster. The film features the voice of William Shatner ("Star Trek") as the intrepid intergalactic explorer known as Phil the Plant.

Yoga for Children

Ages 5-9 years
Saturday, March 31 at 10:30

Join a professional children's yoga instructor for this hour-long free yoga class. Children stretch and relax.

Immigration Justice Film Series

Part 3 - An American Tail

Sunday, April 8, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Needham Public Library Community Room



With immigration/refugee justice currently a central part of our national discussion, Temple Beth Shalom and the

Needham Public Library invite your family to watch "An American Tail" and participate in a discussion about the movie. This movie is a 1986 American animated musical adventure, a family comedy-drama film that tells the story of Fievel Mousekewitz and his family as they emigrate from the Imperial Russian territory of Ukraine to the United States, looking for freedom.

Hillside Families!

Cradles
to Crayons

**The 2018 CLOTHING, TOY
AND BOOK COLLECTION IS ON!**

Please help us for **NEEDHAM GIVES BACK!** A town wide program held annually in Needham to benefit Cradles to Crayons: www.cradlestocrayons.org

We will have a collection bin in the lobby from March 6 – April 6!

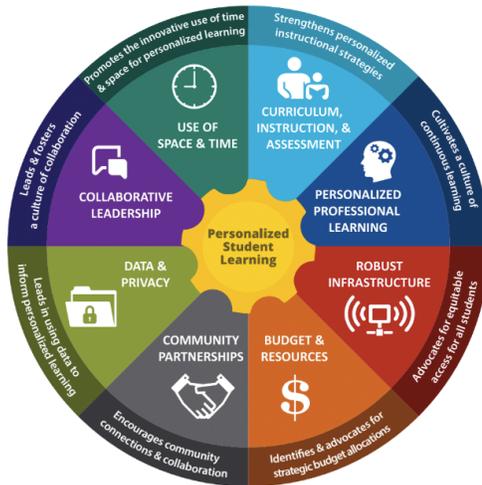
We are collecting GENTLY used clothes (including coats, hats, boots, etc), small toys, books, and baby equipment, (no large plastic toys or electronic toys please!). The need is very GREAT as so many struggle to keep their kids safe and warm! So please dig deep and clean out your closets for a great cause!!! These items are distributed to over 130,000 children in Greater Boston each year!

And on April 7, join us to **volunteer** to help sort, organize and pack the donated items. The event takes place at the Needham High School cafeteria on **Saturday, April 8, from 10 – 1**. It's a great way to show your kids how good it is to do something important for those in need!!

To register to volunteer, email Needham@CradlesToCrayons.org



One day, every child will have the basic things they need to be safe, warm, and feel valued. --C2C



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

We need your help!

One of the key activities outlined in the [2017-18 Needham Public Schools Goals](#) is to “*develop a strategic plan for technology.*” The intent of this activity is for the district to have a vision and accompanying actionable recommendations that further technology-enabled teaching, learning, and organizational productivity in the Needham Schools. It is this strategic plan that will guide the district's future programmatic, operational, and financial decisions regarding technology. A broad-based team is currently engaged in the work of developing this plan.

If you responded to our recent parent survey, thank you! You have already helped to inform the work of

the strategic planning team. We'd like to provide you an additional opportunity to further contribute to this team's work by inviting you to participate in a parent focus group on **Wednesday, May 2, 2018** from **7:00-8:00 P.M.** at the School Administration Building (1330 Highland Ave.) in the second floor conference room. The purpose of the focus group is to trigger our creative thinking, to envision possibilities for the future, and to consider areas for programmatic growth or change. Your ideas will help to inform a common vision and goals for the district.

Ideally, we would like to have 10-12 volunteers. However, we will welcome all who indicate an interest. Please let us know by **Friday, April 27th** if you would like to participate in this activity. RSVP by clicking on the following link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdDd4gfKRnAV06Wx_1GLud6e2wPGM_E8ixl0-tgOICPO6Yew/viewform?usp=sf_link

With many thanks and much appreciation.....



Hillside Elementary School Festival of Cultures Friday, May 18 @ 6:30pm

Please join us 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:

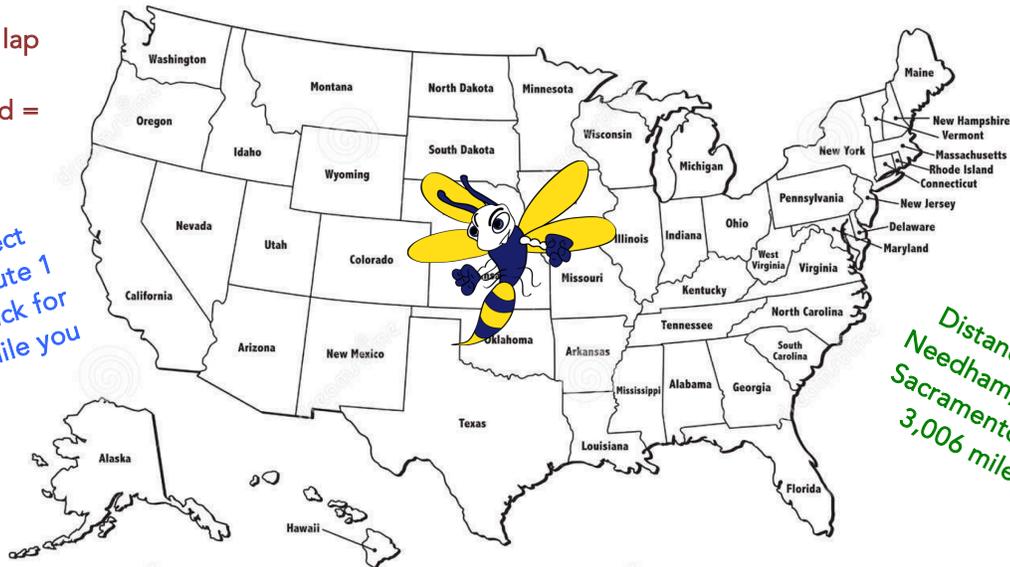
Primary Contact's e-mail address:

Please give this form to your child's teacher or email the contact details to hillsidefestivalofcultures@gmail.com by April 20.

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.