



# Hillside Happenings

December 12, 2025

[Hebrew translation](#)

[Korean translation](#)

[Spanish translation](#)

## Parking

We kindly ask for your cooperation in parking only in designated parking spaces. In the upper loop, double parking has resulted in staff vehicles being blocked, creating an unsafe situation. The only approved parking spaces in this lot are those numbered **95 and above**. Your cooperation is essential to keeping our school community safe.

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## In The Halls of Hillside

During the year, you will find information about what our students are learning in Music, Physical Education, Art, Spanish, Science, STEM and Library.

### From Sra. Wilson, Spanish Teacher

We have been very busy en la clase de español! Students are working hard to speak as much as they can in the target language during class.

This month, we are learning all about traditions in Spanish speaking countries. While we might not all speak the same language, we understand the importance of traditions and what makes a tradition special. Our younger students have been practicing colors and counting through traditional symbols, stories and Spanish songs of the holiday season. Our upper grades will be learning how different Spanish speaking countries will celebrate the arrival of 2026, in addition to working on vocabulary to support their New Year's resolutions. Whether your children are asking to eat 12 grapes at midnight as they do in España, or running around the house with their suitcase in hopes of more travel in the upcoming year, the students have been having fun learning about all the

different ways the Spanish speaking world celebrates the beginning of the new year. As 2025 draws to a close, students will be clearing out their Spanish folder and bringing completed classwork home. Please encourage your students to share with you what they are learning each week and practice the new vocabulary. Have a wonderful break and Feliz Año Nuevo!

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## From The Health Office

An important letter from the Health Office is [linked here](#).

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## The Curriculum CUBby

by Ms. Zanin, Assistant Principal ([zanink@nvnet.org](mailto:zanink@nvnet.org))

### Learning Through Everyday Experiences

Learning doesn't just happen in the classroom—it happens all around us! Every moment can spark curiosity, build vocabulary, and create a foundation for future learning. Over the break, here are some simple and fun ways to keep the learning going, whether you're at home or out exploring:

- **Cooking together:** Practice measuring, following recipes, and discovering new flavors.
- **Exploring local spots:** Parks, museums, zoos, or libraries are full of opportunities to notice, ask questions, and learn.
- **Reading together:** Dive into books, stories, or even interesting articles—it's a great way to spark conversation and imagination.
- **Playing games:** Board games and card games build strategy, math skills, and social interaction—all while having fun.

Every experience is a chance to learn something new—enjoy discovering it together!

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## From The Counselors

This month, our school counselors focused on self-awareness as an important foundation for students' social-emotional growth. Exploring self-awareness helps students understand their feelings, recognize their strengths, and build confidence as they navigate everyday challenges. To continue spreading positivity throughout this busy season, we launched our 12 Days of Kindness initiative. Each day highlighted a simple act of kindness to help students practice empathy, gratitude, and caring for others — both in school and at home.

As we move deeper into winter, we also want to share a helpful **Parent Tip** about supporting children through the winter blues. Shorter days, colder weather, and changes in routine can affect mood and energy. Families can help by keeping consistent schedules, making time for movement,

encouraging open conversations about feelings, and planning small, enjoyable activities together to create cozy memories during this season.

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## Upcoming Dates

### Hillside Celebrates The Holidays



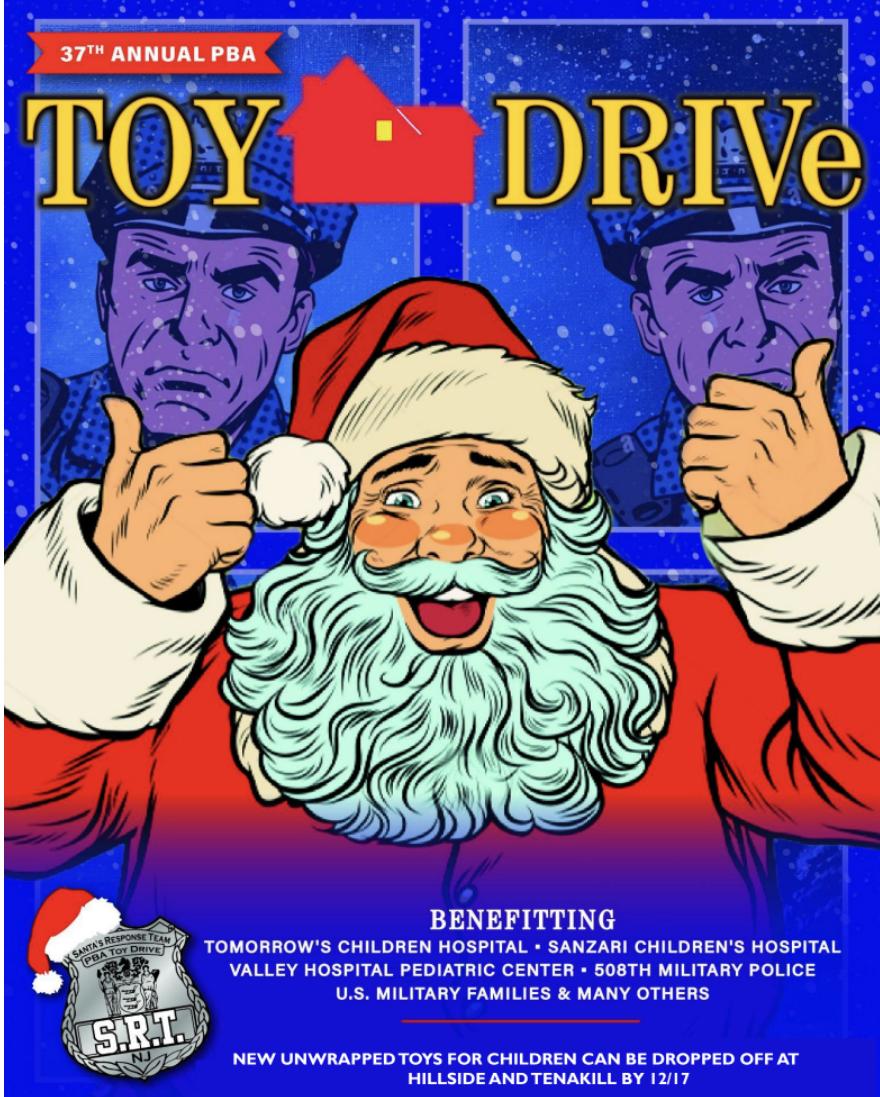
#### Hillside Celebrates The Holidays!

 [app.smore.com](http://app.smore.com)

- 12/18- Last day of AAP
- 12/23- Early dismissal, K-4 at 12:40, PK at 12:20
- 12/24-1/4- Holiday Recess, school closed

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## PBA Toy Drive



## Reminders

- If you are utilizing the active drop-off/pick-up lane, **you must remain in your vehicle**.
- With the cooler weather months approaching, please ensure your child comes to school with appropriate warm clothing for outdoor recess. Students will continue to go outside for recess whenever weather conditions permit.



**Ms. Dianne M. Smith**  
Principal