
HILLSIDE HAPPENINGS

January 12, 2024

IMPORTANT DATES

January 15- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, schools closed for students

January 23- PTO sponsored Harlem Wizards assembly

February 8- 100th Day of School

[Hebrew translation](#) [Korean translation](#) [Spanish translation](#)

Yearbook information

Orders are due February 12, 2024. Previous communication can be viewed PK-3 ([LINK](#)) Grade Four ([LINK 1](#) and [LINK 2](#))

Smartwatch Use

While we understand that many parents would like their children to wear a smartwatch, we are seeking your cooperation in supporting [Closter Board of Education Policy 5516](#), which indicates appropriate use of an electronic device during the school day.

The use of smartwatches and other electronic devices is very distracting to the learning environment, and it is the district's policy that all devices with the capability to audio or video record must be turned off during the school day. **If the smartwatch is capable of making and/or receiving phone calls and/or text messaging, these features should not be utilized at all during the school day. Parents must not call or text students at any time while school is in session. If you need to communicate with your child, you must call the school office at (201) 768-3860, extension 41127.**

Please understand that if this policy is violated, your child(ren)'s smartwatch will be confiscated, and a parent will be required to pick it up from the office.

We would appreciate your having a conversation with your child(ren) regarding the appropriate use of such devices. With

your help, we will succeed in making the students' time in Closter Schools a rewarding learning experience for all.

What's Happening in Hillside?

Pre Kindergarten registration for the 2024-25 school year is now live on the website.

Kindergarten scientists are learning about the winter season.

First grade readers writers are learning about "How to".

Second graders are learning about the contributions of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Third grade readers are identifying story elements.

Fourth grade mathematicians are problem solving with factors and multiples.

Our Academic Assistance Program will begin on January 30 and run through May 2. Recommended students will receive an invitation the week of January 15.

From The Health Office

In the event that lunch is held in the classroom, and your child's classroom is a nut-free room, please know that your child will be placed in a nearby classroom if he/she brings in a lunch containing nuts or nut products. This will help to ensure the health and safety of students with food allergies.

The school nurse will begin screening students in Grades 1-4 without a current physical for height, weight, blood pressure, etc., per the NJ state requirement. If your child has had a physical examination within the last 365 days, please forward the paperwork/results to the nurse at HaeneltK@nvnet.org.

Here are healthy tips from Mrs. Haenelt! [\(LINK\)](#)

A Message From School Counselors Mrs. Lang and Ms. Weiss

We are so happy to have our students back in school after the holiday break! There have been a lot of great things going on as we kick off 2024!

During our first weeks back, our students had an [ICARE Review](#) about important rules and expectations to show and spread ICARE in our school.

Sidekicks: 4th Grade

Our 4th graders had their first visit with the Sidekicks! The Sidekicks is a newer program that began last year as a subset of an 18 year old Valley-Wide program called Heroes and Cool Kids. The Heroes and Cool Kids consists of high school Juniors and Seniors who speak to and teach 6th graders in The Valley about character education topics, anti-bullying, respect, and more.

The Sidekicks were brought proudly to Hillside for the first time last year and are thankfully able to continue this year. This group consists of high school Sophomores who are teaching our 4th graders about important topics. The first lesson took place on January 5th, 2024 and the Sidekicks taught students about goal-setting! A great way to kick off 2024!

[4th Grade Parents: View a letter from the Sidekicks here.](#)

CAP: 4th, 2nd, and Kindergarten

The state run Child Assault Program (CAP) is delivered each year to students in grades K, 2, and 4. The CAP presenters came to our school this week! This program helps prevent abuse and bullying, teaches how to be assertive without being aggressive, and teaches self-protection strategies to keep them safe from sexual abuse, abduction, and other potentially dangerous situations. Erin's Law (A-769/S-1130), signed in 2019, requires all New Jersey school districts to incorporate age-appropriate sexual abuse prevention and awareness education into the New Jersey Student Learning Standards from Pre-K to grade 12. www.njcap.org

Reminders

-With winter upon us, please review the procedures for a delayed opening and early dismissal schedule on our site. ([LINK](#))

Whenever your child is going to be absent it is **very important** that you call the absence line **first** at 201-768-3860 X41133 with student's name, teacher and reason for absence. Notifying the teacher is also appreciated, however, if the teacher is absent that email will not reach the main office as substitutes do not have access to staff email.

-Help your child(ren) to arrive on time to school each day.

-Visit our school and district website for up-to-date information and upcoming events. You can find Superintendent reports [here](#).