



Hillside Happenings

January 23, 2026

[Hebrew translation](#)

[Korean translation](#)

[Spanish translation](#)

To Note

- For your reference, [here is the link](#) to the school calendar (CLICK A-F Day Calendar). If school is closed due to inclement weather, we will follow the letter day listed on the calendar.
- We are excited to share that Ms. Klink, Library/Media Specialist, will return from her leave of absence on Monday, January 26.

Use the links below to purchase a yearbook.

[STUDENTS IN GRADES PK-3](#)

[STUDENTS IN GRADE FOUR](#)

ALL orders are due by February 6, 2026.

Valentine's Day

With Valentine's Day approaching, students are invited to safely participate in this enjoyable childhood tradition. Students may send their classmates **cards**. **Please do not send any kind of food or candy**. Some safe alternatives include cards with tattoos, pencils, stickers, erasers, etc. **If you send in food or candy with the cards, this will be sent back home with your child**. Your cooperation in keeping our students and staff safe is appreciated!



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 Ms. Iyo, STEM Teacher

Grade 4 – “I Challenge Thee to a Joust!” & Tynker

Fourth graders used the engineering design process to design and build jousting vehicles. Teams tackled two challenges: creating a lance to pop an opponent’s balloon and protecting their own balloon from being popped. After planning, building, and testing, each class will hold a tournament to determine the winning design. Students are also strengthening their programming skills with *Tynker*, which they can access through their individual ClassLink accounts.

Grade 1 – Blue-Bots & ScratchJr

First graders are designing mazes and programming Blue-Bots to navigate from start to finish without hitting walls. Next month, students will transition to *ScratchJr* on iPads, where they will create and program their own interactive stories. [ScratchJr](#) is a free app that can be downloaded on home devices.

From The Health Office

The nurse’s office is in need of gently used children’s clothing. All sizes are welcome. Clothing is kept on hand in case a student needs a change of clothes while at school.

The Curriculum CUBby

by Ms. Zanin, Assistant Principal (zanink@nvnet.org)

Families of students eligible for our Academic Assistance Program received invitations last week. If you received an invitation and have not yet completed the form, please do so as soon as possible.

For planning purposes, please note that the program will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays from February 2 through April 30, from 3:20–4:20 p.m. If you have questions regarding your child’s recommendation, please contact your student’s teacher directly. For general questions about the program, feel free to reach out to me at zanink@nvnet.org.

From The Counselors

During the week of January 19th, our students learned about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in their classrooms. In ICARE, students participated in a school-wide service activity in Dr. King’s honor called “[Acts That Shine](#)”. Students learned about kindness and service through an ICARE presentation and were invited to participate in small acts of kindness and service at school and at home. To celebrate their efforts, each student shared one meaningful act by writing or drawing it

on a classroom star. These stars are currently being displayed in our hallways as a visual reminder that when each student does something kind and helpful, our whole community shines brighter.

Parent Tip: Eyes Up, Phones Down

Children notice when they have our full attention and those moments help them feel valued, safe, and understood. Research shows that when parents frequently use their phones during conversations or playtime, children may feel more frustrated or disconnected. Putting phones away during everyday moments like meals, homework, or play sends a powerful message: you matter to me. These small, device-free moments help strengthen connection, build empathy, and support positive behavior at home.

Source: [Effects of Parents' Smartphone Use on Children's Emotions, Behavior, and Subjective Well-Being](#)

Upcoming Dates

1/30- Lunar New Year assembly

2/3- AAP begins (through April 30)

2/16-20- Winter Recess, school closed

Kindergarten Registration and Preschool Application



2026-2027 Kindergarten Registration



Hillside Elementary School's Kindergarten Registration is now open!

Visit www.closterschools.org to register your child.

Parent Orientation will be held on March 31, 2026 at 7:00 PM

*Children must be registered in order for parents to attend this event.



If your child will be five years old on or before October 1, 2026, please register now. If you have questions, please call Hillside School at 201-768-3860 ext.41118





Preschool Info



Discover Closter Public School's Integrated Pre-K Program!

Closter Public Schools proudly offer an Integrated Pre-K program for Closter children ages 3 or 4, (must be 3 by October 1, 2026) designed to nurture young learners in a warm, engaging environment.

Give your child a strong start at Closter Public Schools!

Applications are available on the district website - clusterschools.org beginning January 9, 2026. Closing date is February 11, 2026. Limited openings will be filled via lottery on February 27, 2026. All applicants will be notified of lottery results via email.

*If your child is turning three years of age before October 1, 2026, and is currently receiving or has received Early Intervention services, or if you have concerns impacting the development or learning of your preschool-age child (ages 3-5), please contact the Child Study Team at 201-768-3860 (x41119) for further information regarding the identification and evaluation process.



From The Closter Police



NEW JERSEY E-BIKE LAW

Effective Date: January 19, 2026

New Jersey has enacted updated statewide regulations governing electric bicycles (e-bikes). The law establishes licensing, registration, and insurance requirements and clarifies rules for both riders and motorists. The goal is to create consistent standards, reduce crashes, and promote safer shared road use.

WHAT IS COVERED

- ✓ Class 1 & Class 2 – Maximum speed: 20 mph
- ✓ Class 3 – Maximum speed: 28 mph; treated similarly to motorized bicycles

All e-bikes in New Jersey now require a licensed rider, state registration, and insurance coverage.

These measures are intended to enhance safety, accountability, and responsible e-bike use on New Jersey roadways.

NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR RIDERS

- ✓ **Licensing Requirements:**
 - Possess a valid NJ driver's license, **OR**
 - **Be at least 15 years old** and obtain a motorized bicycle license
- ✓ **Registration:**
 - All e-bikes must **be registered** with the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC).
- ✓ **Insurance:**
 - E-bike owners must carry **liability insurance**, similar to motor vehicles.
- ✓ **Minimum Age:**
 - Riders **under 15 years old are not permitted to operate** e-bikes with motor assistance.





CLOSTER POLICE N.J. Est. 1904

Reminders

- If you are utilizing the active drop-off/pick-up lane, **you must remain in your vehicle.**
- 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.
- For safety and security reasons, if/when you need to pick up your child early, you must **first report to the main office** so the child can be called down. Parents should not go directly to the classroom to retrieve their child (for example, during a classroom celebration that ends before 3:15)



Ms. Dianne M. Smith

Principal