



Hillside Happenings

October 10, 2025

[Hebrew translation](#)

[Korean translation](#)

[Spanish translation](#)

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. Menchise- Art Teacher

This year, students will dive into the theme of The Ocean as they create art using a variety of media.

They will practice safe and responsible behavior in the art room while developing their artistic skills. Throughout the year, all grade levels will explore drawing, painting, sculpture, collage, and mixed media projects inspired by ocean life and conservation.

To celebrate their creativity, every student's work will be showcased in our annual **Art Show on June 1st**, with displays throughout the building.

Take Note

Picking Up Your Child Early

We'd like to ask families to avoid scheduling appointments during the school day. We understand, however, that certain appointments may be unavoidable.

If an early pick-up is necessary, please avoid arriving during lunch and recess periods—11:40–12:30 (PreK–Grade 2) and 12:40–1:30 (Grades 3–4)—as students are transitioning during these times.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in helping us maintain a smooth and safe school day.

School Violence Awareness Week

In recognition of School Violence Awareness Week, we will have one dress-up day: **Wednesday, October 22nd – Unity Day (wear orange).**



Halloween

Hillside School will celebrate Halloween on Friday, October 31. Students are welcome to wear **simple** costumes to school.

To ensure a safe and productive learning environment, please follow these guidelines:


- Costumes should allow students to wear them comfortably throughout the day and be easy to manage independently (e.g., using the bathroom).
- We encourage simple costumes. Avoid anything hanging below the wrist or ankle to prevent tripping or getting caught.
- No costume masks or weapons are permitted.
- Costumes should be appropriate and not frighten younger students.
- If your child has Physical Education on October 31 (D Day), ensure the costume is safe and easy to move in.
- **Weather permitting, students will have recess outdoors.**
- Class parents will provide information about food for classroom activities, which will follow the school nurse-approved list. **Do not send in goody bags, they will be returned home.**
- Pre-K students will receive additional details from their classroom teachers.

We hope these guidelines help ensure a safe and enjoyable Halloween celebration for all students.

 **The Curriculum CUBby**

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

We're excited to announce that the **Hillside Enrichment Program (HEP)** for students in **grades 3 and 4** will be starting soon! HEP is designed to challenge and engage our gifted learners through



weekly sessions. During this time, students participate in project-based learning, STEM exploration, and other creative, hands-on activities that encourage curiosity and critical thinking. As self-directed learners, HEP students are expected to take initiative and complete much of their work independently.

Participation in HEP is by invitation and based on eligibility, which is determined using the **Northern Valley Matrix**. This includes data from the previous year's **LinkIt (Form C) assessments** in both math and language arts, **CogAT scores** (from the spring), and **Renzulli surveys** completed by last year's classroom teacher.

Eligibility letters will be sent home in the coming weeks.

If you have any questions about the program, please feel free to contact **Ms. Kristen Zanin** at zanink@nvnet.org.

Test Talk

Benchmark testing continues. Families will receive information about **Aimsweb** and **DIBELS** screening results next month.

The NJSLA-Adaptive Field Test is scheduled for **October 28th** and **29th** at Hillside, only for our grade 4 students (TMS will test October 29th and 30th). A letter will be going home soon with more information.

♥ From The Counselors

As we settle into the school year, we're so proud of how our students are adjusting to routines, making friends, and showing kindness each day! Your support at home truly helps set the tone for a positive and successful year.

To continue building good habits, please take a few minutes to talk with your child about:

- Respectful bathroom use: Remind students that the bathroom is a place for taking care of personal needs only—no playing, running, or socializing. Using the bathroom responsibly helps everyone stay safe and keeps our school clean.
- Positive lunchtime habits: Encourage your child to eat their lunch, use polite manners, and include others at the table. Lunchtime is a great opportunity to practice kindness, clean up after themselves, and follow adult directions so everyone enjoys a calm, friendly environment.
- Being ready to learn: A good night's sleep, a healthy breakfast, and a refillable water bottle help students stay focused and feel their best throughout the day.
- Kindness and respect: A quick daily check-in about being a good friend and making positive choices goes a long way toward building strong classroom communities.

We appreciate your partnership in helping our students make responsible decisions and feel successful every day. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Upcoming Dates

10/13- Early dismissal for students (12:40 p.m.)

10/21-23- PTO Book Fair

Reminders

- As a reminder, numbered parking spots are reserved for Hillside School staff. **Do not park in these spots even if they are open.** Many staff members travel between schools or attend meetings outside Hillside School. Families are encouraged to park on local streets.
- Do not park your car in any of the active drop off/pick up lanes.
- When using the designated lane on Homans Avenue, do not block driveways.



Fire Prevention Week

The Closter Fire Department visited Hillside this week to teach students about fire safety and prevention. Students also learned how volunteer firefighters help keep our community safe.



From The Closter Police

Click on the pdf to read a letter from Chief Buccola.



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drive.google.com

The Borough of Closter, Closter Police Department, and EZ Ride Present: **E-Bike Safety Discussion**



Scan the QR Code
or click the link to
register



bit.ly/4mQ5Rp8

Tuesday, October 28 at 7 pm
Closter Senior Center
4 Lewis St.



For more information, contact:

Patrol Officer Jorge Vela:
(201) 768-5000 ext. 401
jvela@closterpolice.org



PTO Information

Parents and families are welcome to browse and shop **during the evening event only**. For the safety and focus of our students, visitors will not be able to attend the Book Fair during the school day.

Closter Improvement Commission



Ms. Dianne M. Smith
Principal