



Hillside Happenings

October 24, 2025

[Hebrew translation](#)

[Korean translation](#)

[Spanish translation](#)

Take Note

- Students in Grades K-3 enjoyed the PTO sponsored assembly "Bubble Mania."
- There will be one November edition of Hillside Happenings. This edition will be shared on November 14.



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.

Test Talk

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

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). Please remind your student(s) to bring in headphones and arrive on time.

♥ From The Counselors

In October, our school counselors taught *Week of Respect* lessons focused on our ICARE program and School Violence Awareness. Students also enjoyed a nature walk scavenger hunt, celebrating the beauty of fall and practicing mindfulness in nature.

To close out the month, we will share a Fall Mindfulness Meditation video and Halloween Safety Tips to help students stay calm, focused, and safe while having fun.

As we move into November — a month of gratitude and giving — this month's Parent Tip highlights *positive things to say to your child at bedtime* to build connection and confidence.

Here are a few examples (and be sure to click [the link for more!](#)):

- "I'm so glad I got to spend today with you."
 - "You are so special to me."
 - "I love hearing about your day."
 - "Your thoughts and feelings are important to me."
 - "You make me smile every day."
 - "I'm so proud of how hard you try."
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Upcoming Dates

11/6-7- NJ Teacher's Convention, school closed

11/13- School photo re-takes

11/26- Early dismissal, 12:40 p.m.

11/27-28- Thanksgiving, schools closed

Reminders

- 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.
- When using the drop-off/pick-up lanes, you must remain IN your vehicle.



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



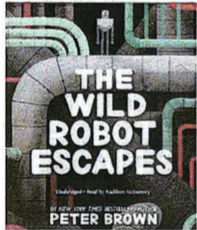
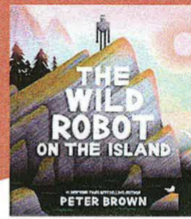
PTO Information



Author Visit

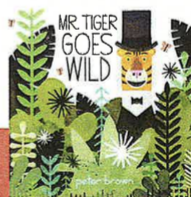
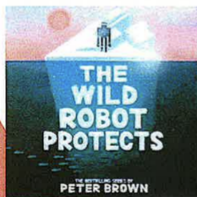
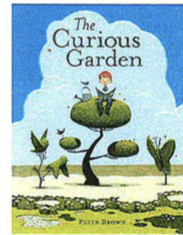
Students in grades two through four will attend an Author's Visit on November 5. See information below to purchase a book!

Peter Brown is coming to Hillside!



Wednesday, Nov 5

Beloved author Peter Brown (creator of The Wild Robot series) is coming to visit our 2nd – 4th graders! Order your books through the Closter PTO website to get them signed during his visit!



Book Orders Due Monday Oct 27

<https://closterpto.membershiptoolkit.com>

From The Closter Nature Center



NOVEMBER PROGRAMS AT CLOSTER NATURE CENTER



CLOSTER COMMUNITY HIKE

Saturday, November 1st, 10 am - 1 pm

It's time to celebrate our Hike-a-Thon Fundraiser in style! Lace up your boots and hit the autumn trails with your community. Enjoy:

- Fun activities on the trails
- Complimentary snacks
- Exclusive Roots Café discounts

Stay for the closing ceremony, featuring prizes for top fundraisers, a free raffle full of giveaways, and a big celebration of everyone who made this event a success!

All are welcome to attend! Free entry. Come anytime after 10 am and hike with us!



AFTER-SCHOOL NATURE PROGRAM

Fall Session II: November 4th till December 18th

Sign up now for 6-weeks of hands-on, outdoor, learning with Nature Marc. This awesome program features animal encounters, adventurous hikes, and play in our living forest classroom! Stay active and engaged as Fall turns to Winter. Ages 4-14.

Member price: \$180, Non-member price: \$216

Learn more at: register.communitypass.net/closter



MUSIC BY THE POND

Sunday, November 16th, 2-4 pm

Join us for an afternoon of live music by both professionals and amateurs, filling the peaceful Ruckman Pond with beautiful sounds. Unwind with family and friends, slow down, and soak in the relaxing vibes. **Admission is Free, Donations Welcome!**



154 Ruckman Rd.
P.O. Box 80
Closter, NJ 07624
www.closternaturecenter.org



Ms. Dianne M. Smith
Principal