



Hillside Happenings

April 10, 2026

[Hebrew translation](#)

[Korean translation](#)

[Spanish translation](#)

To Note

Creating class lists is a thoughtful and time-intensive process. Our staff works carefully to place each student. Many factors guide these decisions, including special education services, Plus, and ESL support, related services, class size and academic balance, and students' social-emotional needs.

If you have **input** you'd like to share regarding your child's placement, please email me (dmsmith@nvnet.org) no later than **May 15th, 2026**. Please note that while we value your input, we are unable to guarantee that all requests will be accommodated. We kindly ask that requests focus on your child's needs rather than a specific teacher.

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. Klink, Library/Media Specialist

All grade levels read about and explore ideas will study Earth Day.

In April our Kindergarten students will be reading books about springtime, spending family time gardening, building tree houses, playing and other outdoor activities. We will be accessing and practicing using our web based technology "Bookflix". For Earth Day we will learn about conservation with a selection titled, "Hello Mr. Dodo!"

Our first grade learners will be practicing The Five Finger Rule to ensure they are making library selections that are just right for them.

In Second Grade learners will continue to explore mixed genres including biographies about Beverly Cleary, famous mathematicians and people of interest as well as picture books and chapter books.

Third graders will continue to practice using research and reference materials including: Atlas Almanac, Dictionary, Thesaurus and Encyclopedia.

Fourth Grade students will continue internet safety and digital citizenship see [commonsense.org](https://www.common Sense.org) Students will be introduced to a high interest chapter book about time travel!

Counselor's Corner

Our monthly ICARE focus is Social Awareness.

To introduce this important topic, students explored [The Ripple Effect of Kindness](#) to help students learn how even small acts of kindness can spread and make a big impact. This connects to our Student Council's Cereal Drive, reminding students that simple ways of helping others can create meaningful change in our community.

Happy Spring Break!

We hope you enjoy this special time to relax, recharge, and make meaningful memories with your family. Spring break is a wonderful opportunity to slow down, spend quality time together, and appreciate the little moments.

Toward the end of the break, we encourage you to begin talking with your children about transitioning back to school and finishing the year strong. Helping them ease back into routines can make the return smoother and set them up for continued success.

A helpful tip as we move toward the end of the school year is to keep routines consistent, especially with bedtime, homework, and morning schedules. Consistency helps children stay focused, feel secure, and ready to do their best each day.

Parent Tips: Supporting Social Awareness at Home

- Encourage your child to notice others' feelings by asking questions like, "How do you think they felt?" or "What could you do to help?"
- Model empathy in everyday situations. Children learn a great deal from how adults respond to others.
- Provide opportunities for unstructured play and downtime. Allowing children to experience boredom helps build creativity, independence, and important social skills like problem-solving and cooperation. (Check out the video on [boredom](#) and why it is important for kids!)

We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed, reconnected, and ready for a strong finish to the school year!

Wishing your family a joyful and refreshing beginning to the spring season!

Click below to watch a video with information on the Cereal Drive.



Cereal Drive - 1080WebShareName.mov

drive.google.com

HILLSIDE SCHOOL'S
CEREAL DRIVE

Join us for our Cereal and Shelf-Stable Boxed Milks Drive.

Collection Dates
MARCH 23 - APRIL 29

Grade Level Contributions

Pre-K & K - Cheerios + Boxed Milk
1st - Honey Nut Cheerios + Boxed Milk
2nd - Frosted Flakes + Boxed Milk
3rd - Froot Loops + Boxed Milk
4th - Cinnamon Toast Crunch + Boxed Milk

One donation can start a chain reaction of good. On 5/1, we will create a giant domino chain of cereal boxes throughout the school to show how one small act of giving can create a powerful impact.

All donations should be dropped off in the main lobby.

Upcoming Dates

4/13-17- School closed, Spring Recess

4/23- Take Your Child To Work Day, Spirit Day "Wear What Makes You, YOU!" Dress to express what makes you uniquely YOU! Students are all invited to wear apparel that tells their story. (a rec league tee · a team jersey · a positive message shirt, your favorite color · anything that says "this is me!")

5/4-8- Teacher Appreciation Week

5/6-7- Grades 3-4 NJSLA testing

5/11-13- Grades 3-4 NJSLA testing

ESL BiPAC Meeting

The Closter Public Schools
ESL Department cordially invites you to our

**Bilingual
Parent
Advisory
Committee
Spring Meeting**



Please join our BiPAC meeting for parents/guardians
of students enrolled in the **English as a Second
Language (ESL)** program.

Wednesday, April 29th, 2026

from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM
via Google Meet link:

<https://meet.google.com/zui-oggw-bcv>

Agenda:

- *ESL Program Overview*
- *ACCESS TEST for MLs*
- *ESL Program Exit Criteria*
- *New Jersey Student Learning Assessment NJSLA*
- *Resources for Parents*
- *Feedback Survey*
- *Q and A*



Google Meet link is available here.

<https://meet.google.com/zui-oggw-bcv>

LINK to Hillside Summer Programs

Cluster

Summer

2026!

Reminders

- Parking spaces numbered 96 and above in the upper loop are open to visitors. Please ensure you are parked in a designated spot and are not blocking other vehicles, as doing so creates an unsafe situation.
- 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.



Ms. Dianne M. Smith
Principal