



Hillside Happenings

March 27, 2026

[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

Students across all grade levels have been exploring mixed media and sculptural projects in the art room over the past month. They are continuing to develop their skills while building on the knowledge introduced earlier in the year.

In preparation for this year's ocean-themed art show, student work has focused on fish, ocean vessels, ocean explorers, coral reefs, shells, and deep-sea creatures.

Excitement is building as the art show approaches! Please join us on June 1st to view the incredible artwork students have created throughout the school year.

From Ms. Pidi, Music Teacher

Spring is a busy time in the music department at Hillside School!

Our Kindergartners are busy preparing for their annual songfest which will be presented to parents and families on Wednesday, April 8th at 10:00am in our all-purpose room. They are all very excited to show off their hard work.

First graders have been learning about and exploring the four families of instruments in the orchestra. They have been enjoying listening to the various timbres and seeing some instruments in person. In addition, they have been playing classroom instruments while reading and performing notation using quarter and eighth note rhythm patterns.

Second graders spent the month of March learning about traditional folk instruments of Ireland. As we move into spring they will learn about the life and music of composer Antonio Vivaldi and explore his music of The Four Seasons. In addition, we are expanding our repertoire of patriotic songs as we prepare for our end of the year Flag Day performance. Each second grade class will appear on HNN and we will present our concert to parents and families in June. More information will be sent home as that date approaches.

Third graders are putting the finishing touches on their concert preparation for our recorder concert. They have been busy singing, playing recorder, learning choreography and even singing in other languages. They are very excited to present their concert to their families on May 1 st at 10:00am in our all purpose room. Invitation letters were sent home at the end of March.

Fourth grade students spent the second trimester participating in West African drum circles that included tubanos, djembes, rhythm sticks, the talking drum, the shekere, and the gankgoqi. They have been developing their skills in improvisation while enjoying being part of a large ensemble where everyone makes an important contribution. As we move forward, the students will be learning about the various musical periods in music history while listening to and responding to music of many famous composers. All of this will of course be in addition to our return to choral singing as we prepare for the end of the year and our Moving On Ceremony.

Counselor's Corner

Happy Spring, Families!

With the arrival of spring, we look forward to longer days, warmer weather, and new opportunities for learning and growth. As the season changes, it's a wonderful time to encourage children to spend more time outdoors, enjoy the fresh air, and stay active.

While enjoying the extra daylight, please also continue to keep consistent nighttime routines to ensure your child is getting a good night's sleep. We also encourage you to check out this [helpful article](#) on children's sleep routines for additional tips and support.

On this topic, during the month of March, our focus in ICARE has been on [Responsible Decision Making](#). Part of Responsible Decision Making includes teaching children [The Importance of Sleep](#).

Dress-Up Day 🌈 Thursday, April 2: Celebrate Rainbow Day by wearing your brightest rainbow colors! The month of April brings spring showers. After those showers, the sun comes out and a rainbow appears.

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

Student Council News

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



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

4/3- School closed, Good Friday

4/13-17- School closed, Spring Recess

Kindergarten Registration

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



Closter Arbor Day Contest

Click on the link below for information.



Arbor Day 2026 .pdf

[Download](#)
386.9 KB

[LINK to Hillside Summer Programs](#)

Closter

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

