



Hillside Happenings

July 2026

[Hebrew translation](#)

[Korean translation](#)

[Spanish translation](#)

Happy Summer!

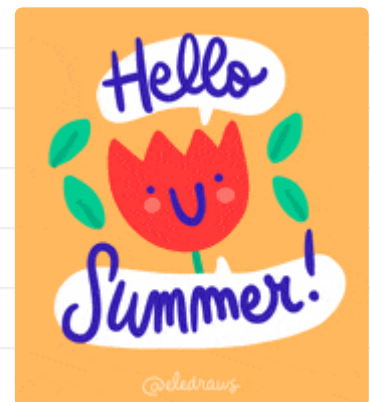
I hope you are enjoying summer! As we prepare for the 2026–2027 school year, keep up daily reading and routines with your children, and be sure to check the Hillside website for information.



Parent Portal

The Parent Portal is currently closed for updates and maintenance. Contact the main office if you have questions.

The Portal will open in late August for parents to complete surveys, documents and view teacher assignments for the upcoming school year. A text will notify families when it is accessible.



Grade Level Supply Lists

[View the supplies for your child's class here.](#)

Visit Our Website For Important Information

[View parent information here.](#)



Supporting Students in the Summer

Visit our website for suggested math and reading recommendations.

<https://hillside.closterschools.org/academics>

Tips From Our Plus Team

Summer is a time for children to relax, play, and enjoy a break from school routines. While rest is important, children can lose some of the reading and math skills they gained during the school year if they go several months without practicing them. Educators often refer to this as the "summer slide."

The good news is that preventing summer learning loss does not require worksheets, tutoring, or hours of academic work. A little reading and learning woven into everyday activities can make a big difference.

Why Reading Matters

Research shows that regular reading helps children maintain and strengthen important skills such as:

- Vocabulary
- Reading fluency
- Comprehension
- Background knowledge
- Communication skills

Even a small amount of reading each day can help children stay connected to learning and feel more confident when school begins again in the fall.

Easy Ways to Encourage Reading

Visit the Library

Give your child opportunities to choose books that interest them. Many public libraries offer free summer reading programs, special events, and incentives for readers.

Let Children Choose Their Books

Children are more likely to read when they are interested in the topic. Graphic novels, joke books, nonfiction books, magazines, and chapter books all count as reading.

Read Together

Reading aloud is beneficial for children of all ages. Take turns reading, listen to your child read, or enjoy a family read-aloud before bed.

Use Audiobooks

Listening to books is a great way to build vocabulary, comprehension, and a love of stories. Audiobooks are especially helpful during long car rides or for children who find reading difficult.

Keep Reading Fun

Summer reading should not feel like homework. Encourage reading for enjoyment rather than focusing on how many books your child completes.

Turn Everyday Activities Into Learning Opportunities

Learning doesn't have to happen at a desk. Many everyday activities provide opportunities to practice important skills.

Try:

- Reading recipes while cooking
- Following directions for a craft or game
- Writing shopping lists

- Calculating prices while grocery shopping
- Reading signs and maps during trips
- Visiting museums, zoos, parks, or historical sites
- Exploring nature and discussing what you observe

These activities build reading, vocabulary, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills while keeping learning enjoyable.

Keep a Simple Routine

Children benefit from some structure during the summer. A routine does not need to be strict, but setting aside a regular time for reading can help establish a positive habit.

Examples:

- Read for 15–20 minutes after breakfast.
- Enjoy family reading time before bed.
- Listen to an audiobook during car rides.
- Visit the library once a week.

Small, consistent routines are often more effective than occasional long study sessions.

Balance Learning and Play

Children need time to relax, play outdoors, be creative, and spend time with family and friends.

Summer should not feel like an extension of the school year.

The goal is not to recreate school at home. Instead, focus on keeping children's minds active through reading, exploration, conversation, games, and real-life experiences.

A Few Summer Goals to Consider

- Read or listen to books most days.
- Visit the library regularly.
- Try new books and topics.
- Spend time outdoors exploring and learning.
- Talk about books, experiences, and discoveries together.
- Keep learning fun and stress-free.

A little reading and curiosity each day can help your child return to school in the fall ready to learn, confident, and excited for a new year.

Summarized from: <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/gradeschool/school/Pages/prevent-the-summer-slide-fun-ways-to-keep-kids-reading-and-learning-over-school-break.aspx>



Upcoming Dates

***Additional information will be shared next month.**

July 20-August 25- Upper loop and playground area closed

August 27: Hillside Hello (new incoming families of students in Grades 1-4)*

September 2: Kindergarten Kickstart (kindergarten students)*

September 3: First day of school for students





**“One benefit of
summer was that
each day we had
more light to read by.”**

—JEANETTE WALLS



Dianne M. Smith
Principal