



Hillside Happenings

May 29, 2026

[Hebrew translation](#)

[Korean translation](#)

[Spanish translation](#)

To Note

Thank you to the PTO for a wonderful Field Day!

If your child will not be returning to Hillside School for the 2026-27 school year, please email Ms. Callahan (callahanr@nvnet.org) as soon as possible.

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. Iyo, STEM Teacher

STEM

Kindergarten - Coding BlueBots

Last month, Kindergarteners focused on the concepts of sequencing commands and debugging. Students worked in small groups to program BlueBots to travel on gridded mats.

They used forward, backward, left, right, and pause commands. They also worked on debugging their programs.

Grade 2 - Engineering

Second graders are using the engineering design process to create a bird feeder. The first step is to investigate which kinds of birds are likely to visit a feeder based on what they eat. Each student will design a feeder to attract a specific type of bird. They will draw a plan and build a prototype of their bird feeder with available materials.

Second graders are also using the Tynker app to practice block programming and learn more about computer science. Tynker can be accessed from the ClassLink launchpad.

From Ms. Wilson, Spanish Teacher

Hola familias! Here is a taste of what we have been up to in Spanish!

Kindergarten: Our K students are working on the Spanish version of Goldilocks and the 3 bears. Whether it be by role playing, speaking or writing, the students have been hard at work mastering the associated vocabulary and having fun in the process.

1st graders: Our 1st grade has been busy studying family vocabulary and family relationships. They have also been able to identify what they are not. (No soy abuela/abuelo seems to be a class favorite)

2nd graders: Our 2nd grade has been learning about fruits and vegetables. We've discussed the importance of farmer's markets in certain cultures and students will be presenting original skits with a partner selling various fruits and vegetables.

3rd: In 3rd grade, students have spent time learning about school supplies and what is in their backpack "mochila". Students constructed a paper mochila and filled it with their new vocabulary words. They also learned a catchy song "Qué hay en tu mochila" that they have hopefully shared at home. Make sure to ask them about it if they haven't mentioned it yet.

4th: In 4th grade, students have learned about rooms in the house. We are working on making connections between what the rooms are called in Spanish and what we do in those rooms (cocino en la cocina). Students will also design their ideal house and describe it in Spanish to their classmates.

As the school year is coming to a close, please encourage your students to look for opportunities over the summer to use their Spanish. Whether it be by reading through materials brought home from school, listening to music or speaking with a friend! I wish you all a wonderful summer and can't wait to see everyone in the fall.

Counselor's Corner

As the school year comes to a close, many children experience mixed emotions. While there is excitement for summer, students may also feel sadness about saying goodbye to teachers, classmates, routines, and the structure of the school day. These feelings are a normal part of transition and change.

Parents can help by acknowledging their child's emotions, maintaining some predictable routines at home, and encouraging opportunities to stay connected with friends over the summer. Taking time to reflect on the growth and accomplishments of the school year can also help children end the year feeling proud and supported.

ICARE:

The month of May has been dedicated to Mental Health Awareness. We have sent a weekly lesson to our students during ICARE to focus on sharing about mental health, why it's important, and how

mental health connects to social/emotional, academic, and wellness for all. Each lesson was sent out weekly and can be viewed below.

- [Mental Health Awareness](#)
- [Mental Health and Friendship](#)
- [Mental Health and Learning](#)
- [Mental Health and Mindfulness](#)

Upcoming Spirit Days:

Monday, June 22nd: Wear your brightest colors to celebrate that summer is here!

Upcoming Dates

6/1- Art Show, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

6/11- Hillside celebrates The World Cup! Wear a jersey to school.

6/17- Bike To School event

6/18, 22, 23, 24-12:40 dismissal

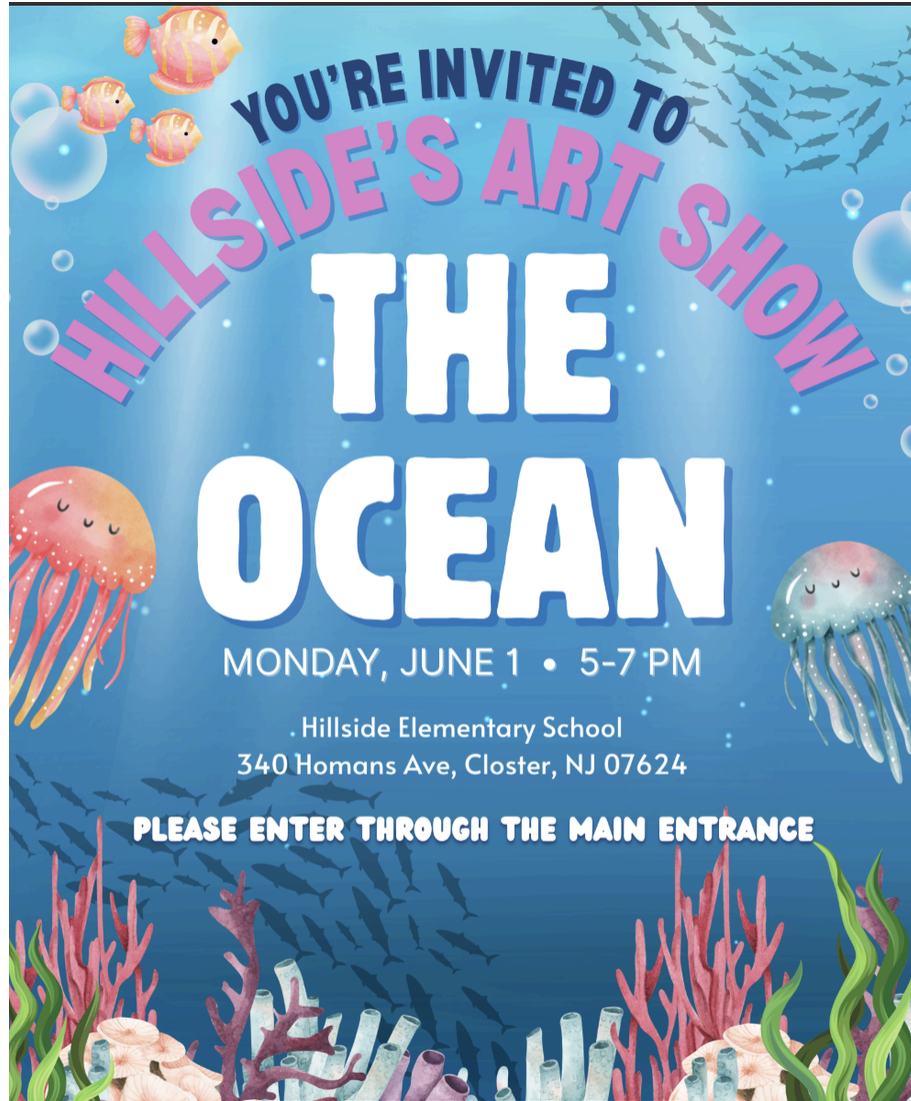
6/22- Wear bright colors to welcome summer!

6/24- Last day of school

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER FOR KINDERGARTEN!

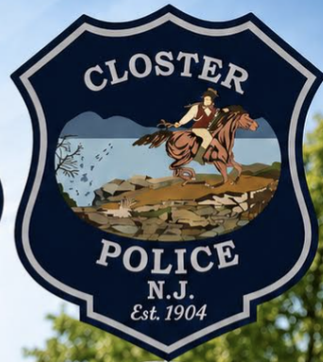
Students must be five years old on or before October 1, 2026 to be eligible for kindergarten.

Register today! www.closterschools.org



Bike To School With The Closter Police

ANNUAL BIKE to SCHOOL



WITH THE CLOSTER POLICE!



WEDNESDAY,
JUNE 17



MEET AT
CLOSTER POLICE
HEADQUARTERS



CHILD MUST BE
ACCOMPANIED
BY AN ADULT



HELMETS
REQUIRED



SAFE RIDES. STRONGER COMMUNITY.



Closter Celebrates America's 250th Anniversary



Closter's Townwide Celebration

On Saturday, June 13, 2026, our town will celebrate America's 250th anniversary. The day will start with a Parade at 11:30am, an all-day family fun event with "FREE" kids rides including pony rides and a petting zoo, live performances, reading of the Declaration of Independence, reading of winning student essays, historical talks about Closter, food from the revolutionary era, live music and more. We will conclude the festivities with fireworks at approximately 9pm. The rain date is 6/14/26, with the same time schedule. Please save the date and plan on coming!



FREE CHINESE CULTURAL DANCE PROGRAM

CLOSTER CHINESE ASSOCIATION

DANCE • CULTURE • COMMUNITY

Join us for a fun and engaging program that celebrates Chinese culture through dance, music and friendship!

WHEN: SATURDAYS 10:00 AM

WHERE: CLOSTER PUBLIC LIBRARY
280 High Street, Closter, NJ 07624

SCAN FOR DETAILS

LEARN
Traditional Chinese Dance

ENJOY
Music, Rhythm & Movement

BUILD
Confidence & New Friendships

CELEBRATE
Our Culture Together

AGES: 7-12
Open to students of all backgrounds

WHAT TO WEAR:
Comfortable clothes and sneakers

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!
All are welcome!

4-WEEK PROGRAM
ENDING WITH A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE!

Come dance with us and be part of something amazing!

CLOSTER CHINESE ASSOCIATION
A nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting Chinese culture and education in our community.

info.closterchinese@gmail.com

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