



Hillside Happenings

October 9, 2026

[Hebrew translation](#)

[Korean translation](#)

[Spanish translation](#)

To Note

As a reminder, Monday, October 12, is an early dismissal for Closter Schools. K-4 will dismiss at 12:40 pm and PK at 12:20 pm. **There is no lunch period on this day.** Do not forget to pack a snack!

Hillside School will celebrate Halloween on Friday, October 30. 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 30 (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.

In The Halls of Hillside

Students are participating in Hispanic Heritage Month lessons with Sra. Wilson and in classrooms. The Closter Fire Department will visit Hillside School next week for a Fire Prevention assembly.

Counselor's Corner

♥ ICARE in Action

October Theme: Respect

This month, our ICARE focus is Respect! Throughout October, students will explore what respect looks, sounds, and feels like and how our words, choices, and actions can show respect to ourselves, others, and our school community.

Each Tuesday, we share a short ICARE video connected to our monthly theme. We will also be visiting classrooms throughout the month for in-person ICARE lessons with students.

👤 [Watch our first October ICARE video here](#)

👤 [Watch all four September Back To School Readiness videos here](#)

♥ Week of Respect

This week, we have been celebrating Week of Respect! Students are participating in fun activities and themed dress-up days while learning how we can show respect in our classrooms, friendships, and throughout our school.

♥ ICARE at Home: Conversation Starters

Use these questions to continue our learning at home and talk with your child about how they can Show ICARE Everywhere!

👤 Respect:

"What is one way you can show respect to someone who may have a different opinion than you?"

♥ Caring & Empathy:

"How can you tell when someone might need a friend or some extra kindness?"

🧘 Mindful Reset:

"What can you do when you are feeling frustrated or upset?"

✨ Positive Choices:

"What is one choice you can make that helps you and the people around you?"

♥ ICARE in Action:

"What is one way you showed ICARE this week?"

✨ Wellness at Home: The Power of Kind Words

Words have a powerful impact on how we feel and how others feel. This week, try a simple "Kind Words Challenge" at home!

At dinner, in the car, or before bed, have each family member share one kind thing they noticed, appreciated, or could say to someone else that day.

🧠 Family Tip: Challenge your child to notice one opportunity each day to use kind, respectful words.

As part of the District Goal, select staff will host parent presentations and roundtable discussions addressing common academic, social-emotional, behavioral, and developmental needs. Sessions will provide practical strategies, resources, and opportunities for families to ask questions and connect with the Student Support Team.

[We are seeking your feedback as we develop topics](#)

Some considerations include:

- Building & Fostering Independence
- Self-Esteem & Confidence
- Resilience & Growth
- Co-Regulation & Emotional Regulation
- Understanding & Supporting Behavior

♥ Coming Up: School Violence Awareness Week (Oct. 19th - 23rd)

As part of School Violence Awareness Week, students will participate in age-appropriate lessons focused on creating a safe, caring, and respectful school community.

We will talk with students about: Treating others with kindness and respect, including others and being a good friend, and being part of a safe and caring school community.

We will also have two special dress-up days, to begin and end the week, to help recognize and promote our commitment to kindness, respect, and safety.



PTO Book Fair



Hillside Elementary

 **Book Fair**
October 20-22

Family Shopping Event
Wednesday, October 21
3:30-5:00 PM

Set up your Book Fair eWallet Account! 

 <https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/hillsideelementaryschool22>

 
SCAN ME!



Upcoming Dates

10/12- Early dismissal for students (K-4 at 12:40, PK at 12:20), no lunch in school

11/17- Picture Day make-ups

District calendar for the 2026-27 school year [linked here](#).

A-F letter day rotation [linked here](#).

Reminders

Supporting The Traits of a Closter Learner

To limit disruptions to learning time, items dropped off during the school day, such as lunches, water bottles, and other materials, will be delivered to students during non-instructional times, mainly lunch. Frequent classroom deliveries interrupt instruction for everyone.

We encourage you to help your child check that they have everything they need before leaving home. This small daily habit



supports the Profile of a Closter Learner, helping our students grow as critical thinkers, self-directed learners, responsible citizens, and well-balanced individuals.

IMPORTANT POLICY INFORMATION

- As per Closter Board of Education Policy 7490 ([LINKED](#)) pets are not permitted on school grounds. Please keep your pets at home!
- Review Closter Board of Education Policy 5516 ([LINKED](#)). In summary, our school follows New Jersey's bell-to-bell rule for phones and other devices. From the first bell until dismissal, students may not use phones, smartwatches, tablets, or any other device that connects to the internet. If your child brings a device, it must be turned off, password protected, and kept in their backpack in the classroom closet. If you need to reach your child, please call the main office.

If a student uses a device during the school day, the device is held in the office until the end of the day, and consequences build step by step.

Other Information



JOIN THE CLOSTER GREEN CHALLENGE!

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER
WALK/BIKE CHALLENGE

This month challenge yourself to swap short car trips for walking or biking.

Explore Closter's neighborhoods, downtown, and the Nature Center.



Enter to win:

Share your actions & tag
[@ClosterEnvironmentalCommission](#) or email to
gc@sustainablecloster.org by Nov 30.

Bi-monthly winners receive gift cards to Closter businesses.
Overall winner earns Mayor's Award at year-end celebration!

If you have any questions or would like to contribute to the work of the Closter Environmental Commission, please contact us at
hello@sustainablecloster.org



Ms. Dianne M. Smith
Principal

