



Hillside Happenings

September 25, 2026

[Hebrew translation](#)

[Korean translation](#)

[Spanish translation](#)

To Note

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.

Silver Level Recognition For The Safe Routes To School Program

We are excited to share that Hillside School recently earned Silver Level recognition from the Safe Routes to School Program! To earn this recognition, we held a bicycle safety assembly, participated in the Walk/Bike to School with the Closter Police, ran a poster contest, added bike racks, and showed appreciation for our crossing guards by making them cards. More information is available at [this link](#).

In The Halls of Hillside

- Mr. Marc from the Closter Nature Center is visiting all classes this month.
 - We are grateful to the PTO for the Author Visit (Victoria Kann) for students in PK-2
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Principal's Advisory Committee

Form closes on September 30, 2026!



Hillside School Principal Advisory Committee Interest Form

Hillside Elementary School's mission is to promote a love of school and lifelong learning for all children. We strive to create an environment where children develop self-discipline, the ability to work cooperatively, as well as decision-making and problem-solving skills.



Counselor's Corner

♥ A Message From Your School Counselors, Ms. Weiss & Mrs. Lang

📖 Get to Know Your School Counselors!

We thought we'd take a moment to introduce ourselves! Click below to learn a few fun facts about Ms. Weiss and Mrs. Lang outside of school.

Ms. Weiss: [About Me](#)

Mrs. Lang: [About Me](#)

♥ ICARE in Action

September Theme: Back to School Readiness

Each Tuesday, we share a short ICARE video connected to our monthly theme. These lessons help students build social, emotional, and academic, and mindfulness skills while learning how to put Integrity, Caring, Attitude, Respect, and Empathy (ICARE) into action.

👤 Watch our September ICARE videos here:

[\[September ICARE Videos\]](#)

♥ ICARE at Home: Conversation Starters

Use these questions to talk with your child about how they can Show ICARE Everywhere!

1. 🔄 Connection:

"What is one kind thing you can say or do to help someone feel welcome at school?"

2. ♥ Caring & Empathy:

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

3. 🧘 Mindful Reset:

"What can you do when you have a big feeling or are having a hard day at school?"

(Can you show me your favorite way to pause and take a breath?)

4. ✨ Positive Attitude:

"What can you say to yourself when something feels hard or doesn't go the way you hoped?"

5. 📖 Ready to Learn:

"What is one thing you can do to help your brain get ready to learn?"

6. ♥ ICARE in Action:

"What is one way you showed ICARE this week? What is one way you can show ICARE next week?"

🏠 Family Focus: Routines

Consistent morning, after-school, and evening routines can help children feel more confident, independent, and prepared for their day.

Try this at home: Create a simple visual routine with your child and let them take ownership of completing it!

📎 [\[Free Routines Resource\]](#)

✨ Wellness at Home: Positive Affirmations

A few positive words can make a big difference! Try adding an affirmation to your child's morning or bedtime routine, such as:

"I am strong."

"I am brave."

"I can try my best."

👤 Family Tip: Take turns choosing an [affirmation](#) for the day!

♥ Coming Up: Week of Respect (Oct. 5th - 9th)

Students will explore what respect looks, sounds, and feels like through activities and fun themed dress-up days throughout the week.

🏠 District Goal

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

School Picture Day



Smile!

Picture Day
is coming soon

PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE TAKEN ON

Wednesday

October 7, 2026

Wear your favorite outfit and bring your best smile!

Hillside Elementary • Go Cubs!

Photos by Irvin Simon Photographers • irvinsimon.com

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

10/2- Spirit Day, students are invited to wear red or Hillside gear

10/7- Picture Day (make-ups 11/17)

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

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

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

Reminders

- For reasons of safety and security, outside delivery services are not permitted (DoorDash, UberEats).
- Students should bring lunch with them during drop-off. Later lunch drop-off is for emergencies only.

Safety during drop-off and pick up:

Drop off/pick up lanes are active. These lanes are used for students who can independently enter and exit vehicles.

- Parents must remain in their vehicles at all times.

- Students should enter and exit vehicles from the passenger side only.
- Do not double park.
- Do not park on or block crosswalks.
- Do not leave cars unattended on the active lanes.
- Families should cross at crosswalks only; please do not attempt to cross in the active driveways.
- When dropping students off, please pull as far forward as possible.
- If you will be walking from your car to the building to drop off or pick up your child (kindergarten/first grade parents), please park in a designated parking spot. Do not park in the active lanes.
- Parents/guardians should use the sidewalks at all times.
- The Hillside parking lot is reserved for staff members. There is a limited number of visitor parking spots, located in the upper loop area, numbered spots 95 through 136 only. Please plan to park on nearby local streets or at Closter Commons.
- Plan accordingly! Drop-off and dismissal are busy times at our school.

Other Information

Become a Girl Scout!

Your fairy garden adventure starts here! Join us to build a FREE fairy garden, make new friends, and explore Girl Scouts.

Sign Up for Girl Scouts.
Make a Fairy Garden.
Take It Home!

Monday, September 28
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Closter Public Library
260 High St., Closter

Scan the QR code to register:






Financial assistance is available for Girl Scout membership fees, uniform supplies, program activities, and summer camp.

Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey

(973) 248-8200

www.gsnnj.org



Ms. Dianne M. Smith
Principal

