



**From the Principal**

Dear Ola Edwards Families,

Since February is a month when we take the time and show our loved ones how much we care, I feel this poem is appropriate to remind us not just to wait for a special day.

*If Tomorrow Never Comes* - Author Unknown  
If I knew it would be the last time that I would see you fall asleep, I would tuck you in more tightly and ask time to slowly creep. If I knew it would be the last time that I see you walk out the door, I would give you a hug and kiss and call you back for one more. If I knew it would be the last time, I would hear your voice lifted in praise, I would videotape each action and word, so I could play them back day after day. If I knew it would be the last time, I could spare an extra minute or two to stop and say, "I love you," instead of assuming you would know I do. If I knew it would be the last time, I would be there to share your day, well I am sure you will have so many more, so I can let just this one slip away. For surely there is always tomorrow to make up for an oversight, and we always get a second chance to make everything right. There will always be another day to say

our "I love you's," and certainly there's another chance to say our "Anything I can do's?" But just in case I might be wrong, and today is all I get, I would like to say how much I love you and I hope we never forget, tomorrow is not promised to anyone, young or old alike, and today may be the last chance you get to hold your loved one tight. So, if you are waiting for tomorrow, why not do it today? For if tomorrow never comes, you will surely regret the day, that you did not take the extra time for a smile, a hug, or a kiss and you were too busy to grant someone, what turned out to be their one last wish. So, hold your loved ones close today, whisper in their ear, tell them how much you love them and that you will always hold them dear. Take the time to say, "I'm sorry," "please forgive me," "thank you" or "it's okay," and if tomorrow never comes, you will have no regrets about today.

Happy Valentine's Day!



Dr. Sharon Festante  
Principal

**Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying**

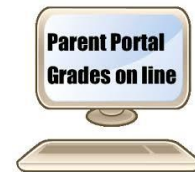
The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights is the new anti-bullying law passed in New Jersey. Each school district has an Anti-Bullying Coordinator and each school has an Anti-Bullying Specialist and School Safety Team. Hillside's Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Policy 5512 is available on the district website at [www.hillsidek12.org](http://www.hillsidek12.org)

**District's Anti-Bullying Coordinator:**

**Patricia Patterson-Zuber**  
[PZuber@hillsidek12.org](mailto:PZuber@hillsidek12.org)  
908 352-7664 ext. 6405

**Ola Edwards Community School's Anti-Bullying Specialist:**

**Lisa Moscoso:**  
[Lmoscoso@hillsidek12.org](mailto:Lmoscoso@hillsidek12.org)  
**Kelly Kurdyla:**  
[Kkurdyla@hillsidek12.org](mailto:Kkurdyla@hillsidek12.org)  
**Kimberly Simuro**  
[KSimuro@hillsidek12.org](mailto:KSimuro@hillsidek12.org)  
908 352-7664 ext. 7400  
1530 Leslie Street  
Hillside, NJ 07205



**Welcome to the Hillside Public School's Genesis Parent Portal**

The Gradebook module in the parent portal is now available. Gradebook gives parents real-time access to view

their child's class assignment grades. The web site, [parents.hillsidek12.org](http://parents.hillsidek12.org), will provide you with the information you need to [access](#) your child's attendance and academic records. Information will continually be updated. In order to create user accounts and passwords, you must email:

- [your first and last name](#)
- [your child/ren's names](#)
- [your email address](#)

Please email this information to [ppereira@hillsidek12.org](mailto:ppereira@hillsidek12.org). Upon receipt of your information, you will electronically receive instructions to set up an account.

Report Cards will no longer be routinely mailed. If you do not have internet access, contact your child's school. Arrangements will be made for you to receive a hard copy of the report card. Please direct any questions or concerns to your child's school.

## Friendly Reminders

### REMINDER DATES:

**February 2021  
Board of Education Meeting  
1/18/2021@ 6:30 PM**

**Early Dismissal:  
2/1/2021  
Staff Development**

**2/17/21  
Parent/Teacher  
Conferences  
Prek-8 grades**

**School Closed:  
2/15/2021  
Presidents Day**

**Make a note of these  
dates to remember!**

### School Hours:

8:30 AM -  
Homeroom  
8:35 AM - Classes Begin  
Students considered  
tardy after 8:35 AM  
2:35 PM - Students  
Dismissed



### Absences and Attendance

On mornings when your child is ill or unable to attend school, **please call the office by 8:30 am.** Our procedures require a contact with parents if a child is absent and we do not know the reason. If your child is absence and has been to the doctor, please bring or email : [ppereira@hillsidek12.org](mailto:ppereira@hillsidek12.org) a doctor's note to the office when he/his returns to school. We appreciate your cooperation with this, as it ensures your child's safety and helps us

Keep accurate records.  
**Regular school attendance is crucial** for a child's school success.



### A Note from Our Nurse



The Health Department of NJ requires all sixth graders to have 2 immunizations. The immunizations are Tdap and the Meningococcal vaccine after the student's 11<sup>th</sup> birthday. These immunizations must be completed, or your child will not be allowed to enter the school when it re-opens for in class learning. Any questions, please contact the Ola Edwards Community School nurse at 908-352-7664, extension 7441. Please e-mail proof of your child receiving these vaccines to [ppereira@hillsidek12.org](mailto:ppereira@hillsidek12.org) as soon as possible. Thank you

### Healthy Habits:

'Tis the change of seasons and colder weather is upon us; so it is time to re-enforce healthy habits with your child to prevent illness and the flu.

We cannot stress the importance of frequent hand washing for at least 20 seconds and to avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands. Encourage your child to cough

and sneeze into a tissue or elbow and properly dispose tissues. Avoid kissing, hugging and sharing cups or eating utensils with people who are sick. **Please, please** keep your child home when feeling sick and consult your health care provider and remember to get your flu vaccine!

Stay healthy!!  
Nurse Stansfield



### **Urgent Request - Change in Student Information**

A reminder to parents/guardians to immediately notify the school office at (908) 352-7664 Ex. 7400 whenever any of the following changes occur during the course of the school year:

- \***Change in** home address or home telephone number.
- \***Change of** Parent/guardian business telephone or cell numbers.
- \***Change in** marital or custody arrangements
- \***Change of** emergency contact.



**Lunch:**

***Calling all PARENTS - OECS needs your HELP***

We are asking all parents to apply for the free/reduced meal benefits online. Our school is striving to reach 100% participation. You can visit the Hillside School District's website at [www.hillsidek12.org](http://www.hillsidek12.org) and select the [www.lunchapplication.com](http://www.lunchapplication.com) link or come into Ola Edwards Community School and we will assist you with the application. This is an easy, secure and convenient new way to apply for free and reduced meal benefits. Your help is greatly appreciated!

### **Intervention & Referral Services (I&RS)**

The I & RS Committee is a committee in each school designed to provide a coordinated system for the planning and delivery of intervention and referral services that are designed to assist students who are experiencing learning behavior or health difficulties and to assist staff to address students who are experiencing learning behavior or health difficulties and to assist staff to address students' needs. If you believe your child can benefit from the

services of the I & RS Committee. Please contact the principal.

### **Special Education Child Find**

If your child is between the ages of three and twenty-one, and exhibits physical, sensory, emotional, communication, cognitive or social problems, the child may be eligible for interventions in the general education program, or an evaluation to determine eligibility for special education program, or an evaluation to determine eligibility for special education and related services. A referral is a written request for an evaluation that is given to the school district when a child is suspected of having a disability and might need special education services. Parents, school personnel, and agencies concerned with the welfare of a student can make a referral. If you believe that your child may have a disability, you may refer to your child or an evaluation by submitting a written request to the Principal or to **Dr. Sandy Mercedes, Director of Special Services.**

### **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973**

The Hillside Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, ancestry, national origin, or social or economic status. The Hillside Board of Education also does not discriminate on the basis of disability with regard to

admission, access to services, treatment or employment in its programs or activities. Any questions with the scope of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 can be directed to: **Dr. Sandy Mercedes, Director of Special Services Hillside High School 1085 Liberty Avenue Hillside, NJ 07205 (909) 352-7664 Ex. 8448**

All Hillside Public School Students are eligible to participate in any extracurricular Activities scheduled by the schools or Hillside Board of Education either during or after school. Please consult the monthly newsletter and your child's teacher for activities.



### **February Spotlight**

#### **Mr. Branagh's class:**

This year our class, the Branagh Bears, have been busy using our reading curriculum, Unique Learning Systems to learn about Science, Social Studies and Health! This month, our topic is "Keeping My Body Healthy." We are learning about how to keep our body healthy through making the right choices when it

comes to food, exercise, drinking water, and getting enough rest. Each morning we do jumping jacks to get our bodies moving and blood flowing! Our favorite fruits that we choose to eat as healthy snacks are apples and we enjoy exercising by running races and riding bikes with our families. In addition, we have also been working on improving our writing, money skills, and math fact skills. We will be completing seasonal projects as we prepare for Valentines Day!

#### **Mr. Greco's class:**

Mr. Greco's students are continuing to put their best foot forward. Regardless of the struggles with remote learning, students are learning at their own pace. Each assignment created by the teacher is made with consideration to online learning and the student's needs. All subjects may look a little different but are being covered with the best intentions of the student.

In math students are learning different methods of multiplying like the traditional and partial product

method. Although the problems are a challenge, the students are working to gain a better understanding of the content. In Literacy the students are working on various skills such as problem and solution, making inferences, and main idea just to name a few. Students are using jamboards to answer group questions and typing in the chat box to give their responses.

There may be many uphill battles during these hard times, however Greco's students remain a tight group. Mr. Greco does his best to keep the student's spirits high by welcoming them with a great song each day. He lets them know that they are all part of the team and we need to work together to be successful. He thanks the parents and guardians for their support and help with the students on the computer and the daily adversity.



### **Students of the Month**



Ms. Alborn: Gabriela Marques Rodrigues  
Mr. Branagh: David Jesus  
Mrs. Czerwienski: Jakub Wrona  
Mr. Greco: Sasha Acosta

Ms. Gieger: Rensh Dascelin  
Ms. Hoffman: Luciana Gomez  
Ms. Kurdyla: Meccah Milstrey  
Ms. Laveratt: Aimere Thomas  
Mrs. Loizou: Dylan Musa  
Ms. Luis: Kennedy Paul  
Ms. Martone: Santa Casseus  
Mrs. Miranda: Indiria  
Bhoorasingh  
Mr. Pereira: Kayla Rainho  
Ms. Peters: Isaiah Jarmon  
Ms. Rokosz: Jeremiah Freeman  
Ms. Ronca: Kre'Jir Goddard-  
Lampley  
Mrs. Russo: Josue Hernandez  
Mrs. Silva: Juliana Pilcik  
Ms. Silva: Aden Vertreese  
Ms. Szewczyk: Christopher  
Munoz  
Mr. Todaro: Alana Aponte  
Mrs. Zinstein: Matthew Duchi