



From the Principal

Dear Ola Edwards Families,

With spring right around the corner, it can be hard to keep children focused on learning, especially when we are learning virtual. I thought this might be a good time to share some tips from the National Association of Elementary School Principals on grades. Keep these simple ideas in mind - they're useful at any time of the year.

Keep in Touch

Knowing and keeping in touch with your child's teacher is one of the best ways to ensure academic progress. Frequent discussions with the teacher will alert you to problems and ways to correct them. Remember grades are regularly posted in Genesis for your review. Monitor your child's grades and assignments frequently.

Establish a Routine

Good study habits can make a huge difference in a child's performance. Have a place and time set aside for studying.

Celebrate Improvements

When children improve in a challenging subject, praise them for their hard work and dedication. Remind them that

hard work does pay off and that you are very, very proud.

Homework

School work is children's number one responsibility. Let your child make some decisions about homework, such as which assignment to do first. Regularly monitor Genesis for missing assignments. Missing assignments will have a negative impact on your child's overall grade.

Watch for Downward Slides

Pay attention to missing assignments and low test/quiz grades in Genesis. Talk with your child about trouble they may be having and get the teacher's input immediately.

Remind your child daily about the importance of focusing and engaging in the learning process during the virtual school day so he/she will get the most out of the quality instruction provided by our teachers.

I hope you are staying safe and healthy during this unprecedented time. Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes for a great month,
Dr. Sharon Ann 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

District's Anti-Bullying Coordinator:

Patricia Patterson-Zuber
PZuber@hillsidek12.org
908 352-7664 ext. 6405

Ola Edwards Community School's Anti-Bullying Specialist:

Lisa Moscoso:
Lmoscoso@hillsidek12.org
Kelly Kurdyla:
Kkurdyla@hillsidek12.org
Kimberly Simuro
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, 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. 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:

March 2021
Board of Education Meeting
3/25/2021@ 6:30 pm

**Early Dismissal:
Staff Development
3/10/21**

**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 absent and has been to the doctor, please bring or email : 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 11th 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 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 and select the 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.



March Spotlight

Mrs. Lourenco's Class

There are many things to look forward to in March! We will kick off the month by having a visit from the Cat in the Hat to help celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday. We are all excited to be reading about the Ancient Roman civilization in language arts class. In math, we will be beginning a unit on how to use strategies and properties to add and subtract. We are in the midst of growing our writing

skills and building on how to write an opinion paragraph on their favorite text read in class. In Social studies this month, we will explore the cause and effects of the American Revolution. Finally, in science we will continue to investigate motion and matter. *Get ready because March is going to be a great month!*

Mr. Kitchell's Class

It's been a busy and challenging year of adjusting to virtual learning for the students of Mr. Kitchell's 4th and 5th grade classes! Students in the 4th grade have been recently learning about different forms of poetry as well as writing and sharing their own.

They have also been busy mastering the steps for long division. In 5th grade, we have been working on writing persuasive paragraphs as well as learning about some famous artists and inventors in the Renaissance and perfecting our skills with decimals and division problems.

It has certainly been a challenging year, but we are determined to make it work! We are

excited and hopeful for the future!

Mrs. Simuro's Class

Our 6th graders have been hard at work and continue to show how truly resilient and tenacious they are as we enter into month 12 of the pandemic; our students have persevered with positive attitudes towards learning and a hopeful outlook as we await the arrival of spring! Despite the uphill battles over internet connectivity issues and the difficulties that come along with remote learning, our students continue to put their best foot forward cheering one another on and staying positive!

This year, students have been busy in math. After mastering multiplying and dividing fractions, the last two topics have introduced students to algebra; identifying variables, coefficients, powers, and deciphering between algebraic expressions and equations, we began to evaluate equations by and solving for the variable and inequalities. All while simultaneously completing the second LinkIt Assessment! Students are working hard and putting forth their best effort participating, asking great questions, and helping one another better understand the content. Their teachers are impressed and extremely proud of all the hard work they continue to exhibit.

As we "dive in" into the next science topic, waves, students are showing genuine interest and excitement learning about the different types of waves, other than the most common waves we see in the ocean! While this unit will continue to introduce students to energy, light, and sound waves, we began the unit investigating pulse rate; students learned how to find and calculate their resting heart rate, then began experimenting with various levels of activity to find distinctions in their heart rates with increasing activity. Watching one another find creative ways to 'exercise' on camera gave us a laugh, and simply added to the fun!

Our social studies curriculum has taken us on back into time, thousands and thousands of years ago and has sent us on a journey all over the world 'meeting' the ancient civilizations whose impacts and contributions are still relevant today. Learning about ancient people's survival, resourcefulness, as well as the origination of religions, our modern-day alphabet, and even language. We have traveled through origins of civilization in Mesopotamia, explored the beginnings of Persia, navigated into the origins of Palestine and Israel in middle east, discovered the Egyptian pyramids and other remarkable contributions of the most notable pharaohs and leaders of the past. With more exciting 'travels' coming our way,

we have begun to travel even further to the continent of Asia discovering the roots of Hinduism and Buddhism and other Indian achievements and contributions, slowly making our way around the world one topic at a time!

In ELA, we have begun our new Unit, The Greeks, which has impacted participation noticeably; students are enjoying the reading passages and sharing insightful ideas and thoughts, while also sparking their inquisitive little minds with great questions and class conversations. We continue to work on strengthening our writing by interpreting the Greek Gods' intentions and offering individual opinions while still using the R.A.C.E. format.

Ms. Williams's Class

Ms. Williams' students are so excited about all the things they've been learning this year. Although virtual learning has its challenges, they have really stepped up to that challenge and are even becoming very tech savvy!

In reading we have been learning about Ancient Greek Civilizations and Greek Mythology. The students really enjoyed the many stories we read and even took a few virtual field trips to some Ancient Greek Civilizations, like Mount Olympus!

In Math the students have been learning many different strategies for adding and subtracting. Each student has a strategy that works for them and helps them to succeed. In science, they have been learning all about rocks and sand. The students even went on a scavenger hunt to find different types of rocks!

I am so proud of my students and the progress they have made this year in 2nd grade. We are all a team, parents included, and we will continue to learn new things and navigate the adventure of virtual learning together. Myself and the students are looking forward to Read Across America week, Dr. Seuss Day, and everything spring has ahead for us!"



Students of the Month



Ms. Alborn: Victoria DaSilva

Mr. Branagh: Isael Santos
Rodriguez

Mrs. Czerwienski: Meirah Milord

Mr. Greco: Skyye Sneed

Ms. Gieger: Giselle Simbaina-
Lliguicota

Ms. Hoffman: Anna Rita Lopes

Ms. Kurdyla: Chloe Lewis

Ms. Laveratt: Liara Rainho

Mrs. Loizou: Makenzie
Similhomme

Ms. Luis: Alessandro Alvarez
Chimborazo

Ms. Martone: Thomas Prieto

Mrs. Miranda: James Odeyemi

Mr. Pereira: Christopher Sequra
Ferreira

Ms. Peters: Hajar Araba

Ms. Rokosz: Roodjell Michel

Ms. Ronca: Kemo Keita

Mrs. Russo: Madison Newton

Mrs. Silva: Wilna Jeune

Ms. Silva: Valery Torres

Ms. Szewczyk: Zamoura Jorday

Mr. Todaro: Faithlyn Pierre

Mrs. Zinstein: Janiya Womack