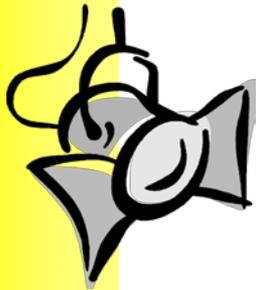




Hillside Elementary  
**PTA**<sup>®</sup>  
everychild.onevoice

**HILLSIDE PTA MISSION** To enhance our students' experiences at Hillside, ready students for a world of wonder, and unite our community.



*Spotlight on*

# Science Day



## Hillside's Science Day is a TOTAL BLAST!

A full-day in-house field trip for every student. Hands-on Science full of grade-level appropriate learning, wonder and inspiration. Experiments are taught by the teachers with support from the PTA in the gathering of materials and organization of the day. This day runs like no other and is a true testament to the way Hillside's teachers, parents, administration, and students work together to create learning environments far beyond the typical classroom experience.



## Tell me more!

### **A sampling of awesome experiments**

Build a tin-foil barge using a set amount of materials that floats and get as many pennies on it before it sinks. Create a bottle rocket that is aerodynamically superior to your classmates. The legendary Barbie™ Bungee and fire truck ladder egg-drop, the mini-catapult... over 30 different experiments are performed in one day at Hillside!

### **Time of Year**

Once per year, in November

### **Academic Focus**

All experiments are aligned with curriculum by grade level. Plus, they are fun, messy, and a way-cool way to learn.

### **Can Parents Attend?**

Parents can attend after-lunch assemblies if they have signed in at the front desk and completed volunteer paperwork. Science Day Committee volunteers are allowed to attend all day.

### **For more information**

Bridget Thompson [bridgetmthompson@hotmail.com](mailto:bridgetmthompson@hotmail.com)  
or Dawn Lockwood [dawnlock11@gmail.com](mailto:dawnlock11@gmail.com)



Spotlight on

# Character Education



## Hillside's Character Education Program

is a joint effort between the administration and PTA, which focuses on teaching the whole child how to make choices to help become a good citizen. Our programs are centered around monthly character focus words.



## A Sampling of Unique Programs Offered

### Husky Hero Lunch Day

This is a day set aside to make a new friend/be a better friend at lunch. Conversation starters are provided to facilitate getting to know the kids sitting around you at the lunch table.

### "Souper" Bowl Drive

We collect canned/dried goods during the week before the Super Bowl and use them as a "vote" for the winner of the game. This is a fun way to collect nonperishable items to help stock NFCC food pantry.

### Mitten & Sock Drive

We collect new socks and mittens to be distributed to our Hillside community and North Fulton Community Charities.

### Rachel's Challenge

In an effort to prevent and understand bullying, each child makes a link to add to our Hillside chain making a promise to be a friend and watch out for bullying. Parents are able to make a link to join this chain of action as well.

### For more information

Krishna Wilson at [krishawilson16@gmail.com](mailto:krishawilson16@gmail.com)  
or Allison Watermeier at [allison\\_watermeier@me.com](mailto:allison_watermeier@me.com)



*Spotlight on*

# International Family Fun Night



International Family Fun Night is a new tradition, founded in 2013. IFFN is a grand celebration of the vibrant culture found here in North Fulton. From a myriad of food tasting from each of the seven continents, to international dance performances, to the Reflections art gallery. It culminates with a rockin' dance party. This is one of the highest-attended events ever hosted by our school!

**“We ate our way all around the world!  
Plus, we met new families for the first time.  
This event was a ton of fun!”**

*-Gary Merrill, parent/attendee*

## Quick Facts

<b>Time of Year</b>	Friday evening in early October
<b>Planning Team</b>	9 volunteers, host of assistance from general Hillside community, teachers, parents
<b>Location</b>	Hillside Cafeteria, Gym, Media Center Hallway, and Atrium
<b>Skills</b>	Organization, love of food, love of music, love of culture!
<b>For more information</b>	Lisa Byas <a href="mailto:byaslisa@gmail.com">byaslisa@gmail.com</a>





Spotlight on

# Dinner, Dessert Activity Nights



Not only do Spirit Nights help Hillside build an even stronger sense of community and pride (see an old friend, meet a new friend!), but they give everyone an opportunity to earn money and support for the school. By attending events and shopping at local businesses that partner with Hillside, families receive special rates, promotions and deals. Our school receives funds, and donation in-kind goods and services.

**Supporting business partners = supporting Hillside!**

Contact Christina Montgomery at [themontgomerys3@yahoo.com](mailto:themontgomerys3@yahoo.com) to add events or ideas to this ever-growing list!



## Sampling of Fun/Yum Events

**Sky Zone**

**Panda Express**

**Brusters**

**Moe's**

**Papa John's**



*Spotlight on*

# All-Pro Dads (Breakfast With Dads)



This popular program is for kids and their dads (or moms, or uncles, or grandparents!) and focuses on strengthening relationships with our kids. The program is run by Hillside dads and offers a unique chance for parent-child connections that enhance family relationships.



- Who** All students and their dads or grandfathers, or uncles, (and yes, of course even female relatives or guardians are more than welcome!)
- When** Select Friday mornings before school; once per month
- How** Arrive with your child (and volunteer paperwork completed) at school at 7 am and bring a breakfast, or partake in a donut or two
- Bring along** The pride you have in your children – you may be asked to share a story of why they make you happy, proud, or how you keep connected with your family during busy times at work or at home.
- For more information** John Spalding [iamjohnspalding @mac.com](mailto:iamjohnspalding@mac.com)  
or Sammy Rosenberg



Spotlight on

# Spelling Bee



**The Annual Spelling Bee** is for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders to show their skills! Students qualify to participate by taking a grade-wide spelling test. Once selected to participate in the Bee, the child has a few days to study the Scripps Spelling Bee's National list. Our winner gets to go on to qualify at district level!

## S-p-e-l-l-i-n-g D-e-t-a-i-l-s

<b>Academic Focus</b>	Students in grades 4 and 5 are given a pre-test during school prior to the bee, in order to qualify. Approximately 30 top spellers are selected.
<b>Timing</b>	December school day
<b>Location</b>	Gymnasium or Cafeteria
<b>Supplies Needed</b>	Students are given a practice spelling list, as is suggested and provided by Scripps National Spelling Bee Association.
<b>For more information</b>	Jennifer Wagner, <a href="mailto:jpwagner@duanemorris.com">jpwagner@duanemorris.com</a>



Spotlight on

# TUTORING



**Hillside's PTA Volunteer Tutoring Program** is made up of volunteer tutors, each of whom assists two students with math homework and projects. The students remain with the same volunteer for a semester session. Volunteers spend 30-minutes once per week during the students' lunch answering questions, working through homework problems and serving to help with positive study habits and encouragement.



"I wasn't sure I could even remember High School math. But I was given the resource material to help me, and I am glad I went in to try. I actually leave Hillside's media center in a good mood—the kids give more to me than I can to them!"

*Stacy Christie, Volunteer Tutor*

## Quick Facts

<b>Academic Focus</b>	Math for grades 3, 4, and 5. Students are selected based on test scores by teachers and administration.
<b>Time slots</b>	Once a week, lunch time
<b>Location</b>	Hillside Media Center
<b>Sessions</b>	First semester session begins in October; second semester session begins in January
<b>Supplies Needed</b>	None. Workbooks and training provided.
<b>Skills Required</b>	Patience, leadership, reliability.
<b>For more information</b>	Pamela Walsh, <a href="mailto:thewalshclan@att.net">thewalshclan@att.net</a>



Spotlight on

# Artist Day



## Hillside's Artist Day is Absolutely Amazing!

Like Science Day, Artist Day is a daylong in-house field trip where 14+ local artists come perform for students in interactive workshops and assemblies. A Hillside tradition that students reminisce about for years to come!



**Sampling of artists**

Puppeteers, Mimes, Pallet painter, Photographer, Hip-Hop Dancer, Salsa Dancer, Scene Designer, Children's book author, improvisational performers, a clay potter, martial arts performers, ballet, a raku kiln firing potter... and many more!

**Time of Year**

Once per year, April or May

**Format**

Before lunch, students visit up to 5 specialty artists housed in "classroom studios" throughout the building. After lunch, students do a special art project and see an assembly. Fifth grade classes create something to donate back to Hillside

**Academic Focus**

Artists align their presentations with Georgia curriculum and presentations are highly interactive. Students are given a Journal they take notes in that is brought home to share with parents.

**Can Parents Attend?**

Parents can attend assemblies if they have signed in at the front desk and completed volunteer paperwork. Committee volunteers are allowed to attend all day.

**For more information**

Lisa Farrar [lisafarrar@me.com](mailto:lisafarrar@me.com) or Leah Ward at [lhward@bellsouth.net](mailto:lhward@bellsouth.net)



Spotlight on

# Husky Math Night!



**Math is fun + fun x fun!** Especially when teachers design games to challenge the mind *and* competitive spirit. Come one, come all to either or both of the evening math nights offered at Hillside. You're sure to learn something new—parents and kids alike!

## Math Night Fun Facts

- When** Two evenings in the winter—bring or buy dinner, socialize, then head to the math-stations throughout the gym and media center!
- What** Math Games – dominoes, dice, cards and much more help make math fun!
- What to bring** Parents, siblings (any grade) all welcome to participate in math bonanza...
- For more info** Your teacher will contact you with more information, if you would like to volunteer or for more information, contact Leah Ward at [lhward@bellsouth.net](mailto:lhward@bellsouth.net)





*Spotlight on*

# Hillside's Annual Yearbook



**The Hillside Yearbook** is one of the student's favorite end-of-year mementos. Join in this fun team and be a part of collecting the memories your kids will cherish forever!

## Yearbook Team

<b>Teacher Liaison</b>	A fifth-grade teacher heads up the student leadership team for Yearbook Staff.
<b>Students</b>	A number of fifth-grade students are selected based on leadership qualifications to be on yearbook staff. They help with layout as well as photography and yearbook sales.
<b>Parent Volunteers</b>	Parent Volunteers help with layout, photography, liaison with LifeTouch publishing, and help collect funds for yearbooks.
<b>Skills needed</b>	If you've got a (non-phone) point-and-shoot or better camera that takes nice pictures and have ever put together an online photo book, you're qualified to help! If not, the PTA team will train you!
<b>For more information</b>	Dawn Lockwood <a href="mailto:dawnlock11@gmail.com">dawnlock11@gmail.com</a>



*Spotlight on*



## Kindergarten Family Connection Activities

**Letting go of your Kindergartner** can be a great feeling of independence mingled with a bit of trepidation! Rest assured, your student is well cared for at Hillside!

One way to keep connected is to get to know other Kindergarten parents. Your children will be together at Hillside for the next 6 years, so why not build this Kindergarten Community Class the VERY FIRST year your child attends?

### A whole new team looking for even better ideas...

- |                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Playdates at Newtown Park</b>                          | Casual after-school/ after-work playdates. Bring a snack, bring the family and meet other Hillside parents (fall and spring, based on weather, usually between sports seasons)        |
| <b>Dinner and a Movie Nights</b>                          | Don't sweat dinner – come to hang out with K and first-grade families, bring or buy dinner, and catch a movie in the Cafeteria. Select Friday early evenings in the winter.           |
| <b>K Welcome Breakfast</b>                                | Fifth grade and graduating K parent s host committee welcomes new Kindergarten parents to Hillside in the beginning of the year.                                                      |
| <b>For more information or to join this fun committee</b> | Contact Nicole Trowbridge <a href="mailto:Nicole.Trowbridge@gmail.com">Nicole.Trowbridge@gmail.com</a><br>Or Karen Zitomer <a href="mailto:kzitomer@gmail.com">kzitomer@gmail.com</a> |



*Spotlight on*

# 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Special Activities



The class that is ready to graduate is offered a host of special opportunities and events to celebrate their seniority and to bond with their classmates. Fifth grade is a special time at Hillside—more academic responsibilities as well as more opportunities for leadership. Be a part of your child's last year at Hillside!



## Quick 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Fun Facts

### **Black & White Dance**

Friday evening in early October

### **Luau**

Spring 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration and Dance

### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Shirts**

Specialized shirts designed by rising 5<sup>th</sup> graders to wear on Spirit Days throughout their 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Year

### **K Welcome Breakfast**

Fifth grade parent host committee welcomes new Kindergarten parents to Hillside in the beginning of the year.

### **For more information**

Contact your 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Room Parent

# Stay Connected With your Kids through PTA



- Sign Up for the “Husky Howler” email here: [www.hillsidepta.com](http://www.hillsidepta.com) by adding your email to the top box.
- “Like us on Facebook – Hillside Elementary PTA [www.facebook.com/HillsideHuskiesPTA](http://www.facebook.com/HillsideHuskiesPTA) for sneak-peeks into school events, up-to-the-minute news, and reminders in your news feed.
- Contact the PTA Volunteer Coordinator if you’re interested in volunteering at [cmholbrook@bellsouth.net](mailto:cmholbrook@bellsouth.net) Volunteer opportunities can be at-school, at home, one-time, chairing a committee or serving on the Executive Board. The choice is up to you!
- For general questions, contact PTA President Sandy Craig at [sandycraig02@yahoo.com](mailto:sandycraig02@yahoo.com).