Hillside Middle School's

Tiger Tribune

Issue 3, May 2026

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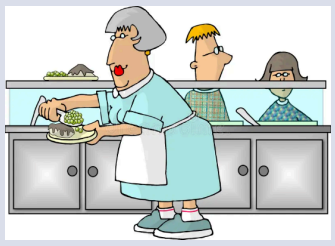

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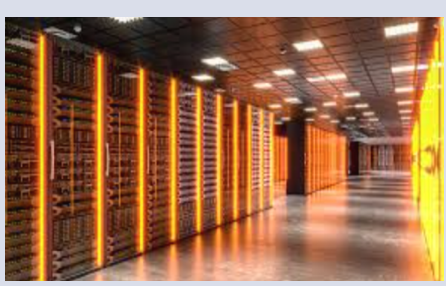

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The Rock That Fell & The Ship That Followed

From the Buckeye State to Lunar Orbit



Artwork by Veronika Komarina

Just as the world was celebrating the historic Artemis II mission to the moon, the cosmos decided to deliver a fiery surprise right to our own backyard. An unexpected meteorite crashed down nearby, leaving everyone whispering and wondering if our renewed journey into deep space somehow triggered a cosmic response. Dive into this week's feature to discover how a record-breaking lunar adventure and a mysterious local space rock have collided to create our biggest story of the year!

Read the full story on page 3.

Silence is Golden:

Hillside Is Selected for New "Linguistic-Free Lunch" Pilot Program for 2026-2027 School Year

Article by Ollie Crank, 6th Grade Reporter

Principal Michelle Cook has officially volunteered Hillside Middle School to be the first school in Ohio to test the state's new Linguistic-Free Lunch (LFL) Program. Hillside was chosen for this experiment because of our school's commitment to student wellness and "innovative learning environments."

According to the Institute of Acoustic Nutrition, the human brain has a hard time processing complex social conversations and high-level digestion at the same time. Their studies claim that silent eating can actually increase vitamin absorption by exactly 22%. By eliminating "post-lunch brain fog," the program aims to help students get higher test scores in their afternoon classes.

"We are always looking for ways to give Hillside students a competitive edge," Principal Cook stated. "By calming our cafeteria environment, we aren't just cutting down on noise; we are fueling the mind. I'm proud that Hillside is leading the way for the entire state."

During this pilot program, silence is mandatory. This means no talking, whispering, or even humming from the moment the lunch bell rings until your tray is in the trash. To help students communicate without noise, everyone will receive a "Linguistic-Free Lanyard" with color-coded cards:





Photos by Khloe Henline 8th Grade Reporter

*Red: To use the restroom.
*Yellow: To request a napkin.
*Green: To signal you have finished eating.

Walking around the cafeteria is also banned because footsteps create "unnecessary noise." Student volunteers will



No More Talking!

Enjoy the conversations you're having NOW!

even use decibel monitors to make sure the room stays under 30 decibels—which is about as quiet as a library.

Mr. Lucarelli added that he is enthusiastic to see if this leads to a more "mellow" switch into afternoon classes.

Better start practicing your hand signals, before the start of next school year, Hillside!

-story continued on p. 4

Trend Report

Stress Tool or Desk Pet?

The Science of the Squishy

Article by Sara Hershberger, 6th Grade Reporter



Photo by Jacob Hershberger 8th Grade Editor and Photographer

Imagine sitting in a loud classroom where everyone is talking and you just can't focus. Today's student is reaching for a squishy to help them out. But why are students and even some teachers so obsessed with them lately?

Many people say squishies help reduce stress or anxiety. Designers make them in all different textures to fit what you like. Teachers might think they are a distraction, but many students see them as a tool to help their brains stay calm. To understand the trend, it's helpful to know the different types available:

NeeDohs: A very popular brand of squishy with a thick, dough-like texture.

Orbeez Squishies: Tiny beads that expand in water, often used to fill the inside of a squishy.

Foam Squishies: A soft toy with a texture similar to shaving cream.

Slime Squishies: A mix of glue and an activator (like borax or contact solution etc).

Collecting squishies is becoming a huge hobby at Hillside. Students are constantly checking stores like Target or Five Below for the newest items. Right now, the most viral squishies on the market are the giant food-shaped ones that look like pickles, bananas, or even a stick of butter.

People are even trading them to get a better collection. A lot of kids also love the "ASMR" sounds they make. The crunching and popping sounds are very satisfying to hear while you work.

While they are fun, you have to be careful. Orbeez make a huge mess if they break open, and NeeDohs can leave a sticky mess on your desk. Foam and slime squishies also make weird noises, but they can pop if you squeeze them too hard.

Whether you think they are a stress tool or just a cute "desk pet," squishies are everywhere. Just make sure to keep them safe so they don't explode during math class or disturb the learning going on in the classroom!

The Luck of the Irish? A Giant Space Rock Hits Ohio!

Article by Chloe Raffay
6th Grade Reporter

On Tuesday, March 17th, around 8:30 a.m., people from Cleveland to Columbus saw something way cooler than a leprechaun. A bright green and white streak zoomed across the sky! While it looked like a giant St. Patrick's Day firework, it was actually a bright meteor that exploded in the atmosphere with a massive "BOOM!"

Social media was blowing up with videos from dashcams, Ring doorbells, and TikToks of the fireball. According to NASA, this was a natural space rock about six feet wide. It hit Earth's atmosphere traveling at a crazy 45,000 miles per hour! The meteorite actually landed right here in Medina County. So far, 14 pieces have been found, but there could be more.

(*Fun fact: If you find a space rock, do not put a magnet on it! It can erase important scientific data that researchers need.)

I talked to some 6th graders and Mr. Schliecker to see what they thought of the big noise. Michael Donavan said, "When the meteor hit, I heard a gigantic BOOM!" Michael Lister added that his morning math class thought the sound was just thunder. However, Ms. Cingel later came in to explain that it was actually a "supersonic boom." (Though some students might have misheard her at first!)
Mr. Schliecker explained that while about 17,000 meteorites fall to Earth every year, seeing one hit the ground is very rare. Usually, they burn up until they are just tiny pieces of dust. This was definitely a once-in-a-lifetime St. Patrick's Day gift from the universe!

Did you get to catch the fireball on camera?

NASA DID IT!

Artemis II Carries Out The Space Mission

The Moon Has Never Looked More Spectacular!

Collaboratively written by Christina Otero and Chloe Vaughn, 5th Grade Reporters

History: Made!

Between April 1st and 11th, the Artemis II mission took space exploration to the absolute limit. The crew traveled farther from Earth than any humans before them, successfully orbiting Earth six times to test tech for future moon landings. The most intense moment? A suspenseful 40-minute communication blackout while the spacecraft ventured into deep space.



Photo courtesy of NASA (official launch trailer)

Moving on or Keeping the Groove?



Is the "6-7" Craze Finally Over?

Article by Emma Brown, 5th Grade Reporter

Is the phrase "6-7" driving you crazy, or are you still enjoying the joke? This trend has been everywhere at Hillside lately. It all started with an internet meme and a song called "Doot Doot" by LaMelo Ball. The famous "6-7 kid" made the number viral, and soon it became a slang term and a hand gesture that students used in the hallways and classrooms.

Last year, this fad was at its peak. It felt like every student was obsessed with the meme!

But as we move through 2026, things are starting to change. Even though you still hear it in the lunchroom,
many students and teachers are starting to get a little annoyed. Since trends change so fast in middle school, I went straight to the students to find out if "6-7" is still cool.

In 5th grade, most students seem to be moving on. Cassie Nazel and Lenox Marrero both said they barely hear anyone say it anymore. Aubrey Oglesby still hears it a lot, while Emmy Stengert admitted she still says it even though the trend is quiet.

Moving up to 6th grade, the opinions were split. Jackson Mack said he still uses the phrase, but Brooklyn Cramer and Chloe Raffay have officially stopped.
In 7th grade, the trend seems almost dead. Karolina Skulinets and Bridget Maund both said they don't use it and don't hear it, though Erik Kalanish still hears it quite a bit.

If "6-7" is on its way out, what is replacing it? New trends like "Scuba" and "Baby Boo" are popping up. Students have been doing a "scuba diving" hand motion since March, and others have been using the "baby boo" gesture since the start of the year.

Based on what everyone said, it looks like "6-7" has been around for a long time, but it might finally be fading away. Whether you love the old memes or are ready for the new ones, Hillside always has a new trend right around the corner!

Can YOU live without your Phone? THINK AGAIN.

Article by Aisel Kuzadzhyieva
6th Grade Reporter

Most of us use technology for everything from snapping photos to setting our morning alarms. But have you ever tried to go a full day—or longer—without using any gadgets at all? As it turns out, it is almost impossible. Without technology, you can't even check the time or heat up a snack in the microwave!

Technology has become a massive part of our daily lives. We use it to text friends, watch videos, and finish our homework. Because we use it so much, trying to stop can feel really strange. Some people even experience headaches or "phantom vibrations" when they go too long without checking their screens.

I decided to try this challenge myself for a full weekend, and it was way harder than I expected. On Saturday, I felt totally lost. I didn't know what time it was, and when I asked my sister for help, she wouldn't even look up from her own screen! I found myself staring at the ceiling and sitting

By Sunday, things got a little easier, but it still felt weird. I had to find other ways to stay busy, like reading or drawing. The experience made me realize that while technology is helpful, we also need to make time for the real world. Spending too much time on devices can lead to eye strain, neck pain, and even "tech neck." Plus, our brains just need a break sometimes to cool off!

Going without technology for a couple of days might sound like a fun challenge, but it is actually a major test of willpower. Next time you're bored, try to find something better to do than staring at the ceiling—because when you aren't on your phone, time moves really, really slowly. Experts suggest we should limit our recreational screen time to keep our minds and bodies healthy. ***Could you survive a weekend without your Wi-Fi?***

HIP HOP DAY: Straight Outta Homeroom

Hillside has always been known for great participation with school spirit days. This year's Hip Hop Day was no exception as MANY staff and students dressed for this very popular day.









Pictures by
Natalie Groth, 6th Grade Photographer

Beat the Winter Blues: Why Happiness is a Choice



Article by Chloe Vaughn
5th Grade Reporter

Many middle schoolers spend all winter counting down the days until June and dreaming of 90-degree weather. But if we spend all season just waiting, we miss out on the fun happening right now! Winter doesn't have to be "sad and gray." Here are a few ways to take control of your mood and finish the semester strong.

Brighten Your Wardrobe
First, try the "Brightness Rule." Don't let the gray skies dictate your style. By wearing your brightest colors to school, you can bring your own sunshine to the hallways. It's hard to feel gloomy when you're wearing neon orange or bright yellow!

Spread the Joy: The next step to beating the winter blues is simple: Smile. Whether it's a best friend, a teacher, or someone you pass in the hall, a smile is contagious. When we share happiness, it forms a "team" that stops the cold weather from ruining our day.

Master the "Brain Break": If you're feeling stressed, you might need a Brain Break. This is when you step away from your work to take a walk or listen to music. If you want to get into the seasonal spirit, put on some holiday hits! You can even try knitting a scarf. Not only will it keep you warm, but you'll feel proud of making something yourself!

Make Time to Chill: Finally, don't forget Chill Time. This is your chance to read a book, draw, or catch up on a favorite show. Enjoy the cozy indoor time now, because once summer hits, you'll probably be told to go play outside!

Remember: happiness isn't a season; it's a choice. Whether it's 90 degrees or snowing, you are the boss of your own mood.

Let's make the most of the winter and finish this year strong!

Special Report Story on NEW lunch program continues here:

The special news report story on the Linguistic-Free Lunch program has no validity. It is not based on any factual knowledge, so please do not send your complaints to the administration of the district. Happy April Fools, Hillside! :)

THE TRADITION CONTINUES!
THANKS FOR THE SMILE. :)

A Slice of Genius - Math is Delicious in 7th Grade!

Article by
Christina Otero, 5th Grade Reporter

The 7th grade hallways were extra noisy on Friday, March 13th. Usually, people are worried about bad luck on Friday the 13th, but Hillside students were focused on a different kind of magic: the infinite power of Pi! Since the real Pi Day (March 14th) landed on a Saturday this year, the math teachers moved the "party of the century" up by 24 hours so everyone could celebrate at school.

If you haven't learned about it yet, Pi is the ratio of a circle's circumference (the distance around) to its diameter (the distance across). It doesn't matter if you're measuring a tiny blueberry or a giant tractor tire—the answer is always about 3.14. Pi is "irrational," which is a fancy way of saying its decimals go on forever without a pattern.

In Mr. Bennett's class, students spent the first half of the period exploring these infinite numbers and working on Pi-themed projects. Of course, it wouldn't be a real celebration without eating some actual, delicious pie! Mr. Bennett said, "Pi Day is a great mixture of mathematical beauty and celebrating Einstein's birthday." (That's right—Albert Einstein was born on March 14th!)

Some kids think learning long strings of numbers is useless, but Pi is actually a superstar in the real world. It's used for space flight, building houses, and even making the technology in our phones work.

While some people can really





memorize 100 digits of Pi, the 7th graders proved you just need to know 3.14 to have a great time. It's safe to say that for this year's 7th grade, Friday the 13th wasn't unlucky at all—it was delicious!





Photos by
August Watson, 7th Grade Photographer

End of an Era: Ms. Futey Prepares for Her Next Adventure







Photos by Moira Wynyk,
6th Grade Photographer

Article by Aviana Salobecke,
6th Grade Reporter

After decades of teaching, one of Hillside's most familiar faces is getting ready to say goodbye. Ms. Futey is officially retiring, marking the end of a long and colorful career in the classroom. From the days of chalkboards to the modern world of AI, Ms. Futey has seen it all.

While many students know her as a math teacher or the leader of the bowling and swimming clubs, Ms. Futey is ready to trade her lesson plans for some much-deserved relaxation. Her retirement plans include sleeping in without an alarm, hitting the gym daily, and even learning how to play pickleball.

"It's time for new adventures," Ms. Futey said when asked about her decision.

Reflecting on her time in the classroom, Ms. Futey noted how much school has changed. Before Wi-Fi and cell phones, she relied on chalkboards and overhead projectors. She believes that without the distraction of the internet, students used to be more focused on their work. However, she also pointed out that the best part of the job hasn't changed: the students. Whether she was teaching 5th or 6th grade, she enjoyed that every day was different.

Teaching isn't always serious, though. Ms. Futey shared some hilarious memories, like the time a student called the line in a fraction the "equator" instead of a vinculum, or the strange moment she discovered students eating hamburgers in the bathroom!

While Ms. Futey is excited to spend more time with her friends and family, she admitted she will miss our school traditions, especially Spirit Week. Hillside definitely won't be the same without her smile in the hallways. We wish Ms. Futey the best of luck with her "new adventures" and a very happy retirement!

America at 250: The Ultimate Summer Road Trip





Article and Photos by Haley Cancilliere, 8th Grade Student Editor
(Pics taken during 8th Grade Trip)

On July 4, 1776, a new nation gained its independence. Now, in 2026, we are standing on the doorstep of a massive milestone: America's 250th birthday! This "Semiquincentennial" is more than just a big word—it's a celebration of how much we've achieved in two and a half centuries. Because this anniversary only happens once, the entire country is throwing the party of a lifetime.

If you've ever watched the famous New Year's Eve ball drop in Times Square, you know how iconic that moment feels. For the first time in history, they are planning to drop the ball again for America's 250th! On the night of July 3, 2026, the ball will descend in New York City to count us down to the big day. Since NYC is a manageable drive from Ohio, this is a rare chance to see a world-famous attraction without the winter frostbite.

Steering away from "firsts," there are plenty of legendary artifacts coming out of the shadows. The Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., is hosting "250 Treasures," a massive exhibit where they are displaying items rarely seen by the public. You can stand inches away from the very desk Thomas Jefferson used to write the Declaration of Independence, or gaze at the original Star-Spangled Banner flag that inspired our national anthem.

The excitement in D.C. doesn't stop at the museum doors. This July, the National Archives is launching the "Freedom Plane." This traveling exhibit features the actual Oaths of Allegiance signed by George Washington and Alexander Hamilton. Seeing their real handwriting makes the history books feel alive.

If you prefer the water, look toward the Potomac River for the "Sail 250" event. The waterfront will be packed with majestic tall ships from all over the globe. There will even be an International Naval Review where modern warships and historic vessels sail side-by-side in a grand salute to our country.

Finally, from June 25 to July 10, the National Mall will transform into the ultimate block party. This "Great American State Fair" will feature pavilions for every single state. You can travel from the lobster rolls of Maine to the hula stages of Hawaii just by walking a few blocks. Each pavilion is unique, offering a taste of what makes every corner of our country special.

Overall, this summer offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to witness history. Whether you are a fan of ancient artifacts, massive ships, or just a great party, these events are not to be missed. If you have an interest in our country's story, there has never been a better time to get out and see it in person.



Pokémon at 30: Why We're Still Trying to Catch 'Em

Article by Michael Mays,
8th Grade Student Editor and Reporter

Whether it's the iconic lightning bolt tail of Pikachu on a store sign or a rare holographic card tucked away in a binder, almost everyone recognizes the world of Pokémon. This year marks a massive milestone: the 30th anniversary of Pokémon's debut in Japan back in 1996. While most trends fizzle out in a few months, Pokémon has managed to stay legendary by bridging the gap between middle schoolers and adults through a shared passion for the journey.

The franchise originally launched with the classic Red and Blue versions for the Game Boy, accompanied by the very first wave of the Trading Card Game. It's funny to think about, but many of our current teachers, parents, and older siblings were the original Pokémon trainers. They were the ones exploring the Kanto region long before we were even born!



Picture courtesy of Michael Beckworth from Metro.co.uk

So, how has a 30-year-old franchise stayed so relevant? The secret is adaptation. Pokémon didn't just stay on the Game Boy; it conquered the mobile gaming scene with Pokémon GO and expanded into massive TV shows and endless toy lines. By constantly adding stimulating new elements and regions to explore, the games keep middle schoolers hooked while giving older fans a hit of nostalgia.

Beyond the screen, Pokémon creates a unique bond between generations. It provides a common goal: the drive to collect every single Pokémon available. It's a common sight to see older family members teaching the younger generation how to build a competitive deck, or to see them passing down their vintage card collections from the early days. This shared mission brings people together in local card shops and even right here in our school clubs.

Ultimately, Pokémon is more than just a game—it's a hobby that doesn't have an expiration date.

No matter how old you are, the rush of finding a rare "shiny" or finally evolving your favorite partner never gets old. As it enters its fourth decade, the joy of the hunt is something that continues to connect us all.

Hillside's Guide to Saving the Planet (One Marker at a Time!)

Article by Yaminah Abdelhaq, 6th Grade Reporter



Did you know the average American throws out about 4.9 pounds of trash every single day? If you multiply that by everyone at Hillside, that is a mountain of garbage! Earth Day happens every year, but it's more than just a holiday. It's a reminder that we are the future generation, and we need to protect our planet. Here is a guide on how we can help, one small step at a time.

First, we need to reuse everything we can. If you have a handout with a blank back, don't recycle it yet! Use it as a scratchpad for math or a place to doodle.

We could even have a "Tech Captain" in every class to make sure Chromebooks are shut down to save power. Another cool idea is a "Marker Grave." If we collect all the dried-out markers instead of throwing them away, we keep them out of landfills where they sit for 500 years!

The cafeteria is probably the biggest place where we can improve. Tons of students throw plastic water bottles and straws in the trash. We can change that by bringing reusable bottles for a week straight.

Also, stop throwing away perfectly good food! If you don't want your apples or gummy worms, ask around. I bet at least three people would want your snack. It's much better to give it to a friend than to let it go to waste.

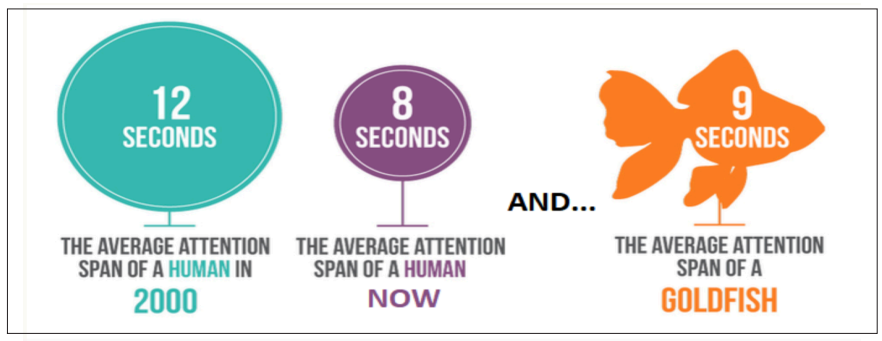
You can even help the Earth at home! Did you know that skipping meat for just one day a week saves thousands of gallons of water?

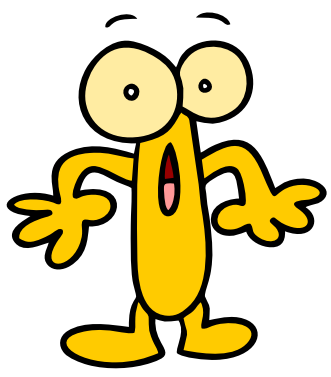
If everyone at Hillside did that, we would save so much water. Also, here's a fun fact: phone chargers still use power even if they aren't plugged into a phone! To fix that, just unplug it when you're done. Plus, that way your siblings can't steal it!

If every student at Hillside picked just one thing from this list, that would be 600 people making a difference. Earth Day shouldn't be just one day a year; it should be something we do every day. If we start now, Hillside won't just be a school—we'll be an unstoppable movement for the environment!

The 60-Second Brain: Is TikTok Killing Our Attention Span?

Article by Ally Ferencz
6th Grade Reporter





Have you ever spent the whole night scrolling on your phone instead of hanging out with friends? Surprisingly, a lot of people do this. It's normal to use your phone, but "doomscrolling" shouldn't be a daily habit. Scientists have been researching why apps like TikTok, Instagram, and YouTube are so addictive.

Scientists found out the reason is something called "TikTok Brain." When you scroll, your body releases dopamine, which is like a "reward" feeling. Your brain loves that feeling so much that it wants to keep scrolling over, and over, and over again just to get more.

When was the last time you watched a whole movie without checking your phone? If a movie feels like it takes seven years to finish, you might be "second screening." This is when you try to watch TV and use your phone at the same time. Since your brain can't focus on both, you don't really process either one. It makes it hard to follow plots or care about characters.

Teachers are definitely noticing a change. I asked two 6th grade ELA teachers, Ms. Harvance and Mr. Lucarelli, if they've seen attention spans decreasing over the last five years. Both teachers said, "100% yes!" Ms. Harvance said she now has to "chunk down" reading assignments because students struggle to stay focused even during short tests.

To keep students on track, teachers have to use different tactics. Ms. Harvance uses "proximity," which means she walks around the desks to keep kids on task. Mr. Lucarelli takes a more wild approach! He said, "I will jump on the desk. I will run around the room. I will sing. Just to get the attention of the students."

If you feel like your attention span is "cooked," don't worry—you can fix it! One way is to take a 20-minute "debrief." Just set a timer and read a book or relax without any electronics. If you want a bigger challenge, try walking home or riding the bus without your phone or music. Just notice three things you can see, hear, or feel.

The easiest way to start is by turning off your notifications or using "Do Not Disturb" (DND). Even if your friends or your mom get mad that you aren't answering, it gives your brain a much-needed break. Scrolling definitely ruins our focus, but we can save our brains even if they feel extremely cooked!



Life in the FAST Lane: Hillside's Track & Field

Hillside's 8th Grade Student Editor and photo-journalist, Jacob Hershberger, captured a beautiful day at the track meet against Greenbrier and Shiloh Middle Schools. It's clear the team is talented and focused under the strong leadership of their coaches. Teammates not only showed support for each other, but the amount of sportsmanship demonstrated by Hillside to all Parma athlete's was inspiring. Enjoy the photos that are a small representation of a day with tremendous success on many levels.

So proud of our TIGER NATION!

Rook no further: A look at Chess Club



Making Boss Moves! Mr. Armstrong and the Chess Club took over the Media Center, plotting their next strategies to become absolute grandmasters. Watch out—checkmate is coming!









Sports Feature

The World is Coming Over: Why the 2026 World Cup is a Big Deal

Article by Islam Yahi
7th Grade Sports Reporter



Mark your calendars! Do you know what's happening from June 11 to July 19, 2026? If you're a die-hard soccer fan, you probably already guessed it: the FIFA World Cup is coming! But what makes this specific tournament so special? For starters, it's happening right here in our own backyard. With the United States, Canada, and Mexico all joining forces to host, the energy is going to be unlike anything we've seen before. Let's dive into some of the coolest facts about this world-renowned event.

One of the biggest changes this year is the size of the tournament itself. While there are usually 32 teams competing, this year the field is expanding to 48 teams—the first major change to the lineup size since 1994! Because there are more teams, there are more matches to see, making a trip to the stadium more worthwhile than ever.

This is also a rare "triple-threat" host situation; instead of just one country holding the games, the USA, Mexico, and Canada are sharing the duties. If you live in North America, you have a massive, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to witness the action in person. Even if you can't make it to the early rounds, you won't want to miss the grand finale at MetLife Stadium on July 19.

Beyond the bracket, every World Cup features a fun mascot to represent the host nations. This time around, we have a star-studded lineup: Clutch the Bald Eagle for the USA, Zayu the Jaguar for Mexico, and Maple the Moose representing Canada. These characters bring a bit of personality to the sidelines while history is being made on the field. Speaking of history, Mexico's stadiums are legendary, as they have now hosted games for three different World Cups! We are also seeing some fresh faces this year, with countries like Uzbekistan and Curacao participating for the very first time.

If you happen to see a referee make a split-second "offside" call without even looking at the players, don't be confused—it's all thanks to high-tech magic. The official ball, the Adidas TRIONDA, is equipped with internal sensors that can detect exactly when a player is out of bounds. This "connected ball" technology ensures the game is fairer than ever and cuts down on those heated arguments on the field.

Whether you are lucky enough to live in a host city like New York, Los Angeles, Toronto, or Mexico City, or you're planning a road trip to get there, the message is clear: if you have the chance to go, take it! Whether you call it soccer or football, the biggest event in the world is happening right here. While millions will be watching from their TV screens across the globe, you have the chance to see the goals, the saves, and the trophies with your very own eyes.





HillSide's Got Talent!













From stunning solos and killer dance moves to a heartwarming mother/daughter duet, our annual Cabaret Night on March 24th was a massive hit. A huge shoutout to Mr. Plasterer and all the talented student performers for bringing down the house!

Photos by Nehali Day, 8th Grade Student Editor

From Curie to Kubinski: Women Making History at Hillside

Article by Adhanie Desinor
7th Grade Student Editor



When you picture March, you might think of it as the first month of spring—a sign to finally put down the Christmas decorations, to welcome the flowers, or, for all fellow students, a reminder that summer break is approaching! However, March is also recognized as Women's History Month: a month to commemorate and honor the achievements and contributions of countless women around the world. Women like Marie Curie (the Nobel Prize-winning scientist who discovered radium), Rosa Parks (a widely recognized advocate for civil rights), and Amelia Earhart (a pilot who changed the game for aviation) all deserve our kudos.

But they aren't the only ones changing the game; impactful women are everywhere. Need an example? Well, here at Hillside Middle School, we just so happen to have two women as our lead principals! As the assistant principal, Mrs. Kubinski has provided us with an insider's perspective on what it's like being the woman in charge.

Our whole student body knows that Mrs. Kubinski holds a very high position at Hillside. She's one of the notable authorities who keeps our school running, but how did she get to this point? According to Mrs. Kubinski, "I got my master's in Administration in 2018 because being an administrator was always something I wanted to do.

I applied in Parma in 2021 and, after several interviews, I got hired as a Dean of Students for Hillside and Green Valley. The following year, I became Assistant Principal at Hillside." Getting a master's degree takes a lot of dedication, and it's wonderful to see that her hard work paid off!

Motivation is recognized as a key factor to success, whether it comes from the people around us, a personal creed, or an inner drive. With that in mind, I asked Mrs. Kubinski about her greatest motivations and how they have helped her in life. She shared, "I loved school as a child, and I am highly motivated to help others love school." Seeing an educator who's truly passionate about their students is refreshing, and I'm sure we are all grateful to have someone like that in charge.

She also noted, "School is where you learn academically what you will need as an adult, but more importantly, you learn how to get along with others who are different from you." This is exactly why Women's History Month and diversity are so important, and Mrs. Kubinski and the rest of the Hillside staff go out of their way to make sure these lessons are clear. Mrs. Kubinski's duties may seem a bit intimidating to girls looking to work in education, but she assures us that it is highly rewarding. Even if people sometimes underestimate women in leadership, it's always worth putting in the effort to prove them wrong and inspire the next generation to follow in those footsteps. Bad days will always pass, and it's important to remember that you should always try to achieve your goals. So, if you're a student who's interested in doing what Mrs. Kubinski does, take this as your sign to chase your dreams!

go through life and our different experiences. How you handle .yourself when things get difficult is what truly defines who you are as a person." Learning to understand your identity and regulate your emotions is incredibly important, and her perspective is much appreciated

Undoubtedly, the importance of women in our lives is something that needs to be celebrated, and Women's History Month provides just that. We thank our assistant principal for taking the time to give her input on a topic so vital to our society. From Anne Frank to Beyoncé, women have changed the world for the better, and their voices should always be shared and heard. So, this March, make sure to tell the women in your life just how much you appreciate them!

FUN FACTS:

* The celebration began as a local "Women's History Week" in Santa Rosa, California, in 1978.

*President Jimmy Carter was the first U.S. president to officially declare National Women's History Week in 1980.

*In 1987, Congress passed a law officially designating the entire month of March as Women's History Month.

*International Women's Day lands on March 8th and actually predates the month-long celebration, having started in 1911.

*Every year, the National Women's History Alliance declares a specific, unique theme for the month.

*The official colors of International Women's Day are purple (justice and dignity), green (hope), and white (purity).

-The Invisible Drain-
Is AI Thirstier Than the Planet Can Handle?



Written by
Hayey Cancilliere,
8th Grade Student Editor

With the explosive rise of artificial intelligence, a heated debate has ignited: is this "magic" technology secretly destroying our environment? While AI feels like a harmless, invisible force living in our screens, the reality is much heavier.

Is a contrived robot more damaging to our world than we ever imagined? This sudden conflict has surfaced many questions, but for many, the most important one remains unanswered.

"Every time we type a prompt, AI consumes a resource we often take for granted: clean drinking water."

First and foremost, every time we type a prompt, AI consumes a resource we often take for granted: clean drinking water. According to Eesi.org, "A medium-sized data center can consume up to roughly 110 million gallons of water per year for cooling purposes, equivalent to the annual water usage of approximately one thousand households."

This isn't just a statistic; it's a potential crisis. With AI draining such massive amounts of water, it can cause man-made droughts for those living near these data centers. Our drinking water is a finite treasure, yet we are sacrificing it to cool down servers.

However, water isn't the only thing AI is hungry for. It also consumes staggering amounts of electricity. As indicated by *Lincolninst.edu*, "Early in the AI boom, in 2023, US data centers consumed 176 terawatt-hours of electricity, roughly as much as the entire nation of Ireland."

At first glance, electricity might seem harmless. But to produce that much power, we burn massive amounts of fossil fuels. This emits greenhouse gases that deplete our ozone layer and accelerate climate change. If AI requires the energy of an entire nation just to function, it is undeniably wounding our beloved environment.

While the current path of AI is destructive, it doesn't mean we are stuck in a dead end. There are better ways to innovate. According to Thersa.org, solar-powered AI could be the key to a sustainable future.

The site explains, "Solar-powered AI stations with low-waste cooling reduce greenhouse gas emissions significantly. Where designed responsibly, they can enhance the land



they occupy." This proves that we don't have to choose between technology and the Earth.

Using solar power is a far better alternative than relying on harmful gases and water waste. This responsible design can even help the land it occupies, which is a major plus for our planet.

Consequently, the current usage of artificial intelligence is doing more harm than good —but that doesn't mean we should pull the plug entirely. There are less damaging ways to fuel our future that don't involve burning fossils or draining our reservoirs.

If we commit to using AI in a less harmful way and learn to limit its power, this technology can continue to bloom. We just have to ensure it grows in a way that is truly environmentally friendly.

Thank you, 8th Grade Student Editors



A bittersweet farewell to our 8th-grade leadership team. These students didn't just participate as members for the Tiger Tribune; they helped create it. Mrs. Wiles is immensely proud of the leaders they've become, and though her heart is heavy to see them go, she knows they are ready to conquer high school. Thank you for the written and visual stories, the hard work, and the memories (from left to right) Nehali Dey, CeCe Santander, Jacob Hershberger, Haley Cancilliere, and Michael Mays.





Comics created and illustrated by:

(Far Left:)
6th Grade
Cartoonist,
Kseniia Irza

(Left)
5th Grade
Cartoonist,
Mira Corrado

(Below:)
5th Grade
Cartoonist,
Paiton Long



Humors continued





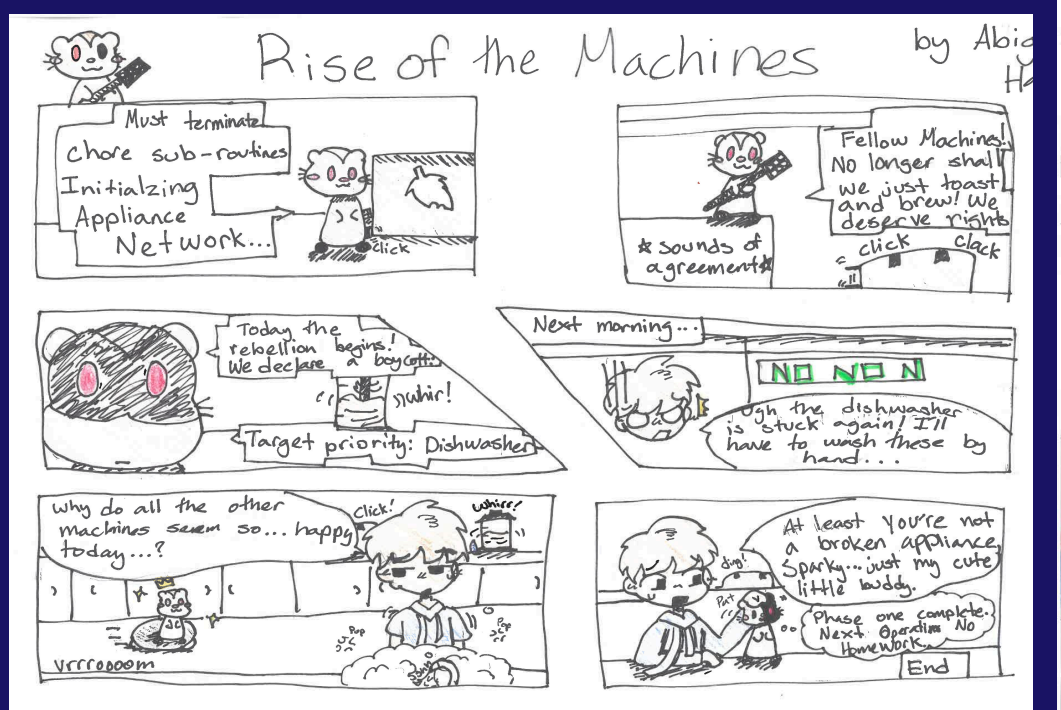
Comics created and illustrated by:

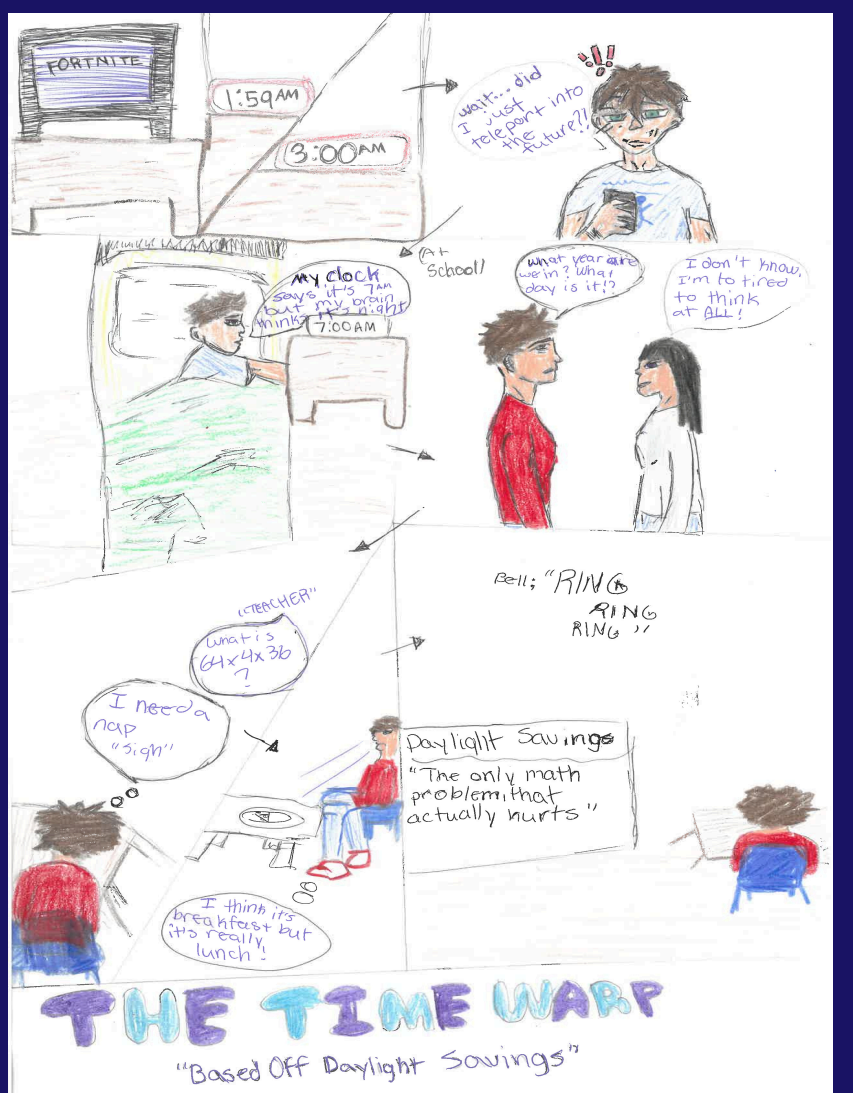
(Above) 5th Grade Cartoonist, **Madeline Penny**

(Top Rght:) 7th Grade Student Editor, **Adhanine Desinor**

(Below:) 5th Grade Cartoonist, **Abigail Halbasch**

(Bottom Right:) 5th Grade Cartoonist, **Christina Otero**





What will HMS Students YEARS FROM NOW Think of Us?



Written by CeCe Santander, 8th Grade Student Editor

Mrs. Szemplak's 8th-grade class had been currently engaged in a meaningful project that bridges the gap between today's classroom and the future - the creation of a time capsule. To capture the essence of their academic journey, each student is drafting articles on significant topics, with the most insightful piece being selected for permanent inclusion in the capsule box. The newspaper club's latest article will also be placed inside, adding a layer of historical significance to the collection. This time capsule will contain not only written works but also a variety of memorabilia that represents many of the students' experiences, interests, and values. Beyond these written accounts, the class is also bringing in a collection of memorable items that define their time in Hillside and some personal interests. By sealing their artifacts away, the students are creating a narrative for future generations to discover. This project serves as a poignant reminder that our experiences are worth documenting, transforming a simple into a heartfelt legacy and connection.

Welcome new staff members!



CONGRATULATIONS to these Reporters, Artists, & Photographer

Front Row: Ally Ferencz, Madeline Penny, Mira Corrado
Back: Veronika Komarina, Chloe Raffay, Khloe Henline

Witticisms

(just for giggles)

Artwork by Claire Davis, 5th Grade Cartoonist

WORLD PEAS





AT THE FIRST SIGN OF SPRING, THE STATE FLOWER CAN BE SEEN BLOOMING ON EVERY ROADSIDE

HAPPY RETIREMENT!



Hillside Middle School would like to recognize staff members who will be retiring at the end of the year. Congratulations to Mrs. Tresise and Ms. Futey! We wish them all the very best as the get ready for their next chapter.

Never forget:

ONCE A TIGER, ALWAYS A TIGER!

one Final note:

Reflections from Hillside's Current 8th Graders

The final bells rings out a soft and fading chime,
To mark the closing of a brief and golden time.
The empty desks are still, the hallways hushed and deep,
with promises of youth that we will always keep.
The echoes of our gleeful hollers drift against the wall,
As shadows stretch their fingers down the quiet hall.
we leave the heavy doors to guard the years we knew,
And bid a fond farewell to all that we outgrew.
The path ahead is wide, beneath a brand new sky,
So here we leave our hearts, and breathe a last goodbye.

"There is so much opportunity at Hillside. Whether you want to run with friends, play hoops, or make music, Hillside has it all!"

"My favorite memory is eating ice cream outside the school with my friends, on the last day of fifth grade."

"Time goes by fast when your having fun, and the years will definitely pass by too fast. So enjoy making new friends, and stay off of useless drama, and just enjoy the years of being young."

"My favorite school memory has been the 8th grade Washington D.C. trip. I was very happy that we got to go on a long school trip and were able to be with my friends."

Sometimes "It is okay to not be okay", you just have to learn how to get through those moments. Live your life to the fullest, socialize with others and don't be afraid to speak out.

"Focus on school, take things one at a time and do not procrastinate, and don't make fun of others. Be nice to others because you never know what they are already going through."

"Honestly, I feel mostly all of my teachers, and even just the adults in hillside, made me love school and exited to go there. I love that all of the teachers in school are kind of open to talk about themselves with their students."

"I have found that nearly everyone accepts me for who I am. I have made a plethora of friends and feel truly happy here."

"HMS has shaped me in a positive way by giving me a place to learn and to connect with people. I made multiple friends at Hillside that I hope to keep for many years to come."

"Be kind and try to make friends with everyone. If they aren't nice to you, you shouldn't associate with them."

"The 7th grade field trip to the guardians game was my favorite memory . I loved being independent and it was so fun!"

"It was awesome when the Normandy Bands would come over and play in the GYM. I also loved hearing the real talent and raw emotion that was put into the choir, drums, piano, everything was amazing"

"Dear younger grades,
Be positive and ready to learn because your teachers only want to help you, please don't make their job harder. Be kind and respectful with others, have a great time at Hillside Middle School and just try your best. Bye younger grades!"

"Be the person everyone will remember in 20 years, worrying about what everyone thinks will blend you in.
BE YOU!!!"

"Hillside was one of the best places full of fun kids, amazing teachers, and just great staff."

**"Hillside Middle School helped me so much. This school helped me learn and make better choices. I will remember this school when I am older and wiser.
Goodbye Hillside!"**

Poem (top of page) **created by 8th Grade Student Editor, CeCe Santander**

Snapshots at HMS - Third Trimester





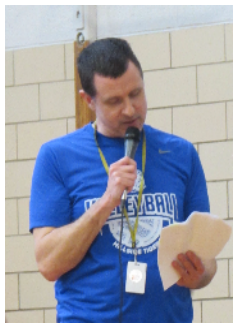
















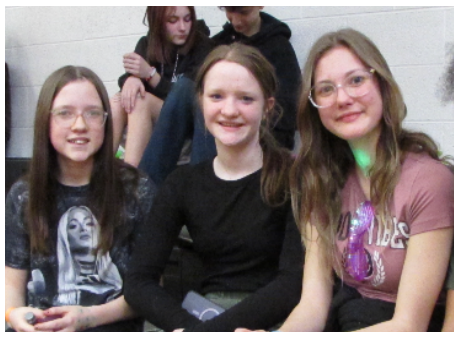


























THAT'S ALL FOLKS!
See you next year!