

Hillside Elementary School and PTA's Response to Covid-19

As soon as school's closed, before we even knew that it was for the year, Hillside PTA began communicating with families through email and social media. We sent our first email about food insecurity, both for families that were experiencing it and families that wanted to help, on Friday, March 13th. One of our PTA presidents began collecting food on her front porch and communicating with local organizations that provide food to insecure families to arrange delivery and pickup. It was important to us that ALL Hillside families felt informed and safe.



As we transitioned to a full Teleschool schedule Hillside began morning meetings for every student with their homeroom teacher. To kick off these morning meetings Hillside put together a virtual spirit week that the PTA promoted and supported. Hillside teachers continued to be innovative and creative in designing activities, lessons, and games that were engaging and educational. Students were able to build on the amazing connections teachers had made through the first 7 months of the school year.

Staff continued to meet regularly and post pictures on Twitter. Hillside PTA supported these efforts by collecting images on Twitter and posting them to Facebook. As the only official Hillside presence on Facebook, it was important to us that we ensure parents were seeing how hard the staff was working each day.



Hillside had been working hard to celebrate Autism Awareness this year. We had several great plans that we were not able to do. Even from home, our Hillside staff still went blue for autism awareness!



Hillside Teacher and Staff Appreciation

The PTA wanted to honor teachers in a meaningful way. We had students send emails with notes, videos, and pictures of appreciation. A bin was put outside the school for families who wanted to give a tangible gift or card. We also worked with business partners to provide a lasagna, bread, and cookies for each staff member! These were handed out in a drive through celebration. The PTA also gave each teacher and staff member an “Essential Husky” key-chain. It was a pleasure to serve the teachers and staff who had been working so hard for our students!



Huskies Give Back

In addition to donating food and money to organizations supporting food insecure families, Hillside staff was a constant presence at each weekly food distribution event in our area. There was not a single week that a Hillside staff member was not present at these events; handing out food, schoolwork packets, and devices.

Celebrating our 5th Grade Graduates!



Hillside PTA had to get creative in honoring our 5th grade graduates. We had each teacher create superlatives for their students and posted them, with their yearbook photo on social media. We posted 4-5 per day and sent them all out as an album when we were done. We worked hard to ensure that every single 5th grader, including our Special Needs students, were included.



Hillside staff planned a virtual ceremony presentation and an amazing graduation parade. Every teacher at the school lined the parade route and students proceeded to travel through the carpool lane. They decorated their cars, heard their names called, received their certificates, and were cheered and waved to middle school by all their teachers. We had a DJ and a photographer and celebrated these students and the end of their elementary school years. For several families, it was the end of their time at Hillside. While it was emotional it was also nice to have the opportunity to celebrate an entire family and their dedication to Hillside.

