

Annual Hilldale Events:

Back to School Pool Party and Pot Luck

Students, parents, and teachers are invited to bring a dish to share for the potluck and enjoy the pool as we visit with old friends and make new ones.

Back to School Breakfast & Opening Day Assembly

Parents and students meet in the courtyard to get forms, make payments, ask questions, and mingle, while sharing a breakfast and an assembly welcoming everyone to the new school year. Student council members offer tours to incoming Kindergarteners and their parents, as well as any new students. The Family Association has merchandise on sale and provides breakfast for all.

Back to School Night

On Thursday of the first full week of school at 7 p.m., parents are invited to the school to meet with the principal and their children's teachers in order to acquire information about the class, homework, and expectations for the upcoming year.

Picture Day

Students come to school in full dress to get their picture taken.

Grandparents Day Breakfast

The Grandparent Appreciation Breakfast is a time for students to share their school experiences with their grandparents. Together, they enjoy breakfast, tour the classrooms, and grandparents are welcome to shadow their grandchildren for as much of the day as they would like.

Student Council Elections

Students in the upper school run a campaign, including a presentation of speeches in order to run for Student Council offices: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Each class also elects a representative.

Spelling Bee

After having selected the winners of the class bees, students in the First through Eighth grades compete in the lower school and upper school Spelling Bees, yielding a winner in the lower school and an overall upper school winner. The overall winner has the opportunity to participate in the San Francisco Chronicle Annual Spelling Bee and possibly go on for further state and national bees.

Science Fair

The Science Fair is a school-wide event which showcases students' scientific inquiries and experiments. Students present their experiments with displays (and demonstrations where appropriate) to staff, students, and parents. Students are graded according to creativity, execution, neatness, comprehension, and oral responses. Kindergarteners complete an experiment together with the teacher; all other students complete an experiment individually. Winners in the Fifth through Eighth grades may be eligible for entry into the San Mateo County fair.

Spirit Week

This week of activities is intended to increase student pride and enthusiasm in the school. Some past themes have included: Sports Day, International Day, Crazy Hat Day, Crazy Hair Day, Green Day, Explorer's Day, Wacky Wednesday, Backwards Day, Pajama Day, Tacky Tourist Day, and College Sweatshirt Day. Activities which earn a group points include: Best Poster, Best Motto, Best Rap/Song, Best Dance/Cheer, Best Narrative Pantomime, and Winner of the 3-legged-race.

Halloween Carnival

On the Friday before Halloween, the Family Association sponsors a huge event which turns the school into a carnival including a haunted house, bake sale room, cafeteria, game area, scream and costume contest, and much more!

Make a Difference Day/ Potluck Lunch

Twice a year, parents, students, and teachers pitch in to spruce up the campus and share a potluck lunch, making Hilldale an even better place to attend school.

Math-a-thon

Hilldale participates in a fundraiser for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Students complete math problems in a math booklet and get pledges for how many problems they can complete. Prizes are given to those students who receive the most pledges.

Operation Cratchit

During December, the Student Council creates a holiday giving program. Whether a toy-drive or a sponsor-a-family program, this program teaches kids to connect with those less fortunate than they are.

Winter Program

On the last day of school before Winter Break, students present a delightful program of music, skits, recitations, and art for parents and friends.

National Geographic Bee

Students in the Fourth through Eighth grades participate in this exciting event designed to test students' knowledge of geography. The school winner has a chance to qualify for the state and national bees.

100th Day Celebration and Mid-Year Awards

From the beginning of school, the Kindergarten class has been counting up to the 100th day of school, and the whole student body participates in the fun! Throughout the day there are 100th Day classroom activities. In an afternoon assembly, student awards are given for first semester Perfect Attendance and No Tardies, the Math-a-thon, Geography Bee and Spelling Bee, Honor Roll (As and Bs), and Principal's List (All As). The event culminates with an ice cream sundae party.

Open House Celebration and Alumni Day

During February, parents are invited to find out what has been happening at Hilldale School. Students and teachers prepare their rooms with decorations and examples of student work across the curriculum. Alumni are encouraged to visit the school and meet with former classmates.

Celebrate Reading Week

This is a week for reading and exploring literature in fun and creative ways in order to create enthusiastic readers. Students often take trips to the library and book stores, and authors meet with the children to talk to them about the writing process. Students then begin their own Young Author Project. On the final day of the week, students participate in a fun read-a-thon. Additionally, the Scholastic Book Fair is held during this week to continue to encourage children to become passionate about reading. Daily themes include: Dr. Seuss' Birthday, Sleuth Day, Little House Day, Shakespeare Day, and Favorite Book Character Day.

Young Author Projects

In conjunction with the National Celebrate Reading Week, Hilldale student each write and create a book of their very own. Students in grades K-8 create books (a rough and a final draft) complete with a cover, a table of contents, illustrations, and an author's page. Grade specific requirements for length and content guide the students work. Gold and Silver prizes are awarded in each class.

Jump Rope for Heart

During the third week of March, students in the Kindergarten through Fourth grades participate in a fundraiser for the American Heart Association that raises awareness about heart diseases and teaches children about what their heart does and why it's important to take care of it. After having collected pledges, students get busy jumping at a variety of stations including Over the River, Single Jump, Double Dutch, and Long Jump. The jump ropes and jumping skills are used during recesses throughout the remainder of the year.

Career Day

Guest speakers from around the community come to Hilldale to share information about their careers and the preparation they needed to pursue the careers. Students ask questions and are encouraged to formulate and follow their dreams.

Family Association Dinner and Talent Show

In the spring, the Family Association hosts a group spaghetti dinner for all Hilldale School families. The evening includes a silent auction and a festive student talent show.

Earth Day

In April, and especially on Earth Day, teachers work with students to raise awareness about conservation, protecting resources, the effects of pollution on our world, balanced and unbalanced ecosystems, and carbon footprints. Students become actively involved in protecting planet earth.

SAT 9 Testing and International Fair Prep

Students take the SAT 9 standardized test in order to determine how Hilldale students rank in comparison to public and private school students across the nation. The goal is the 90th percentile for all grades! Tests are given in the morning, with the afternoon devoted to preparing for the International Fair which happens the following week.

Student Council Carnival

The Student Council throws a big end-of-the-year party, including games, prizes, food, and a jumper, for all Hilldale students! This culminating event is looked forward to by all.

International Fair

Throughout the year, students in each grade study a region and one country within that region. At the end of the year, they demonstrate their acquired knowledge to the rest of the students and to parents. Students learn from each other and celebrate world history, culture, governments, art, religions, foods, and practices, with the purpose of promoting interest, understanding, and awareness of the global community.

Class Pool Parties and Yearbook Day

Each class has time to enjoy the pool, do classroom cleanup, and receive yearbooks during this last full day of school.

Graduation/Awards and Field Day

On the last day of school, students gather in the morning for end-of-the-year awards, followed by Kindergarten and Eighth grade graduations. Awards include: Language Arts, Math, Science, Creative Writing, Art, Music, Spanish, Character, Leadership, Attendance, Honor Roll, Principal's List, and Young Author's Projects. Kindergarteners present a short poem and song. Eighth Graders deliver a speech reflecting upon their time at Hilldale. Teachers present awards. Students are then released to their parents for all-school Field Day activities, which take place at one of the county parks. The event involves games (three-legged race, sack races, tug-of-war, water gun fight, etc.) and a pot luck barbeque.