

## *Happenings – Hillcrest Middle Newsletter*

Monday, September 11, 2023

### **THIS WEEK AT HILLCREST:** (see repeating events below)

Monday, Sep. 11 <sup>th</sup>	.
Tuesday, Sep. 12 <sup>th</sup>	· Meeting for any students interested in Band or Choir – 10:26am (nut break) in the Music Room · Babysitting Course registration opens 9:00am (School Cash Online) Limited spaces available (see details below)
Wednesday, Sep. 13 <sup>th</sup>	· First HLC Meeting 3:00-4:00 MPR
Thursday, Sep. 14 <sup>th</sup>	.
Friday, Sep. 15 <sup>th</sup>	· Individual Photo Day
Please see our school calendar on our website: <a href="#">Hillcrest website</a>	

### **Repeating Events:**

#### **Band/Choir:**

Beginner Band: Monday/Wednesday 7:45-8:30am –Stage (starts September 18<sup>th</sup>)

Advanced Band: Tuesday/Friday 7:45-8:30am – Stage (starts September 19<sup>th</sup>)

Choir: Thursday 7:45-8:30am – Stage (starts September 21<sup>st</sup>)

#### **Athletics:**

Swimming: info coming soon

Cross Country: info coming soon

### **Upcoming Events:**

Sept. 22	Pro D Day (District)	Oct. 2	Truth and Reconciliation Stat
Sept. 22	Babysitting Course (registration required)	Oct. 10	Thanksgiving Stat
Sept. 25	PAC Meeting	Oct. 16	Individual Photo Retakes
Sept. 26	3-way Conferences – Early Dismissal 2:00	Oct. 20	Pro D Day (District)
Sept. 27	3-way Conferences – Early Dismissal 2:00	Oct. 30	Explorations Term 1 ends
Sept. 28	Terry Fox Run and Assembly	Oct. 31	Explorations Term 2 begins
Sept. 29	PAC Hot Lunch – Pizza (order on Munchalunch)	Nov. 10	School Closure Day (District)
		Nov. 13	Remembrance Day Stat



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### **Clubs:**

Board Game Club: Thursdays – 12:40pm – Learning Commons  
HLC: Wednesdays – 3:00pm - MPR

### **Important Reminders:**

Everyone must complete the forms on School Cash Online. Classes will not be able to go on walking trips in the park until everyone has completed their District -School Policies form. You can also pay the school activity fee and complete volunteer forms.

### **Babysitting Course Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Hillcrest will be offering a babysitting course for interested students where they can build their knowledge about babysitting. This full day babysitting course will take place on Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is a Pro-D day, so participating students will not miss any schoolwork.

This hands-on course will run from 8:40am – 2:54pm with regular breaks for Nutrition Break and Lunch. At the end you will receive a certificate of completion.

Here are some of the things that students will learn in this course:

- Look after babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children
- Care for yourself and siblings when home alone
- Create a safe environment and deal with phone calls and unexpected visitors
- React confidently in case of an emergency, such as choking, bleeding, poisoning or burns
- Cope with common problems such as tantrums and crying
- Play games and organize activities to keep kids of all ages entertained
- Manage a babysitting business. This includes creating a resume and a business card and asking the right questions before accepting a babysitting job
- Learn how to correctly fit a helmet to a child (**participants are asked to bring a helmet to the course if they have one**)
- Students need to bring a pencil/pen to the course

We need a minimum of 20 students to sign up and the maximum is 25 students. The first 25 students to sign up will receive a spot in this course. Registration starts Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am on School Cash Online. Cost for this course is \$39.00

If you have any questions, please reach out to Mr. Gangnes ([pgangnes@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:pgangnes@sd43.bc.ca))

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### Principal's Message:

Greetings Hillcrest Community,

We have arrived at a new school year and with the fresh start we find ourselves embracing possibilities. Hillcrest Middle staff are excited to embrace a school year through the eyes of the Middle School learner. Your children received their lockers and locks last week. This was a huge event, and I must admit that even some of the teachers forgot how to rotate a lock combination. Hillcrest staff and students focused on the core competency, personal culture, and identity last year. Our core competency focus for this year is collaboration. Our theme continues to be “Our Stories Matter”.

At Hillcrest we engage and empower our diverse young people by building connections within a collaborative and inclusive school community. Your child's teacher will be contacting you soon requesting your input on your families' story. We are invested in understanding how collaboration connects all our stories. Learning is embedded in memory, history, and story. Story is what binds us together as a community. On September 26<sup>th</sup>, teachers will be available throughout the day and into the evening to meet with you and your child to share all the nuances of your story. We have decided as a team to have our three-way dialogues earlier in the school year as you know your child best and we invite you to educate us on your family's identity and thus we can connect with and understand your child better. September 26<sup>th</sup> and the 27<sup>th</sup> will be early dismissal days, explicitly for this purpose. Please stay tuned for more information which will be coming from Mr. Hart.

Students can now securely lock away their cell phones when they arrive in the morning and retrieve them again at the end of the school day so if you need to contact your child, please call the office. Cell phones are not to be used during the school day.

Clubs, intramurals and athletics will be starting soon and will be shared in the Monday, Hillcrest Happenings. The first Band/Choir meeting is **Tuesday** during nutrition break with Mr. Abramzik and Ms. Plesko. If you have any questions about band or choir do not hesitate to contact them. Fall sports Swimming and Cross Country will be starting soon. Mr. Gangnes is our swimming coach and Mr. Vandette & Mr. Arthur are our Cross Country Coaches, if you have any questions regarding these sports, please contact them.

A reminder if your child is going to be away sick, has an appointment or needs to arrive late or leave early, you need to contact the office not just the classroom teacher. We have a table outside the office if you need to drop anything off for your child, please ensure it is labeled with their name. A reminder that we are a BYOD (bring your own device) school, your child will need a device. If this is a hardship for your family, please let the teacher know.





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### **BC DEMOGRAPHICS SURVEY**

We all deserve to live in a province where we have equitable opportunities to thrive. But many of the systems and structures our society is built on turn a blind eye to the unique needs of Indigenous Peoples and racialized people.

That's why the B.C. government is running two important initiatives. They're asking everyone in B.C. to fill out the BC Demographic Survey to help identify and eliminate systemic racism from government programs and services. The survey is available online in 15 languages until Oct. 15 and will take about 15 minutes of your time. It is available at <https://antiracism.gov.bc.ca/bcdemographicsurvey>

The B.C. government is also asking for public input in developing anti-racism legislation that will hold government accountable for addressing systemic racism within its programs and services, and to provide supports to those who have been negatively impacted. No matter what your experiences or background is – your input matters! The public questionnaire is available until Oct. 15 in 15 languages and takes about 10 minutes to complete. It is available at <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/antiracism>

So, don't wait! Your feedback is anonymous and will help us make our province work better for everyone. Every person's perspective counts.

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