

## *Happenings – Hillcrest Middle Newsletter*

Monday, January 8th, 2024

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Please see our school website: [Hillcrest website](#)

### **Upcoming Events:**

Jan. 8	First day back after Winter Break	Mar. 1	PAC Lunch – Pasta Polo
Jan. 8	Explorations Term 3 begins	Mar. 1	Eagles Team Young Actors Project
Jan. 15	PAC Meeting	Mar. 8	Eagles Team Young Actors Project
Jan. 19	PAC Lunch – Red Robin	Mar. 15	Eagles Team Young Actors Project
Jan. 29	Pro D Day (School Based)	Mar. 15	Last Day before Spring Break
Feb. 2	PAC Lunch – Sushi	Mar. 18-28	Spring Break
Feb. 13/14	Student Led Conferences/Early Dismissal	Mar. 29	Good Friday stat
Feb. 15	PAC Lunch – Pizza	Apr. 1	Easter Monday stat
Feb. 16	Eagles Team Young Actors Project	Apr. 2	First Day back after break
Feb. 16	Owls Team Skating	Apr. 15	PAC Meeting
Feb. 19	BC Family Day Stat	Apr. 19	Pro D Day (District)
Feb. 23	Non-Instructional Day (District)	Apr. 26	Falcons to Camp Jubilee
Feb. 26	PAC Meeting	May 13	PAC Meeting
Feb. 28	Explorations Term 3 ends	May 20	Victoria Day stat
Feb. 29	Explorations Term 4 begins		

### **Band/Choir:**

Beginner Band: Monday/Wednesday 7:45-8:30am –Stage

Advanced Band: Tuesday/Friday 7:45-8:30am – Stage

Choir: Thursday 7:45-8:30am – Music Room

### **Athletics:**

Wrestling – see school website calendar for schedule

Open Gym Drop In: Tuesdays – 3:00-4:00pm



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### **Principal's Message**

Welcome to 2024 Hillcrest Community,

I trust you had an opportunity to recharge over the break. I have no doubt everyone has a story to share or a memory to revisit. As you all know I retire at the end of January. The definition of retirement is 'the act of retiring or of leaving one's job, career, or occupation permanently, usually because of age.' I prefer to use the synonym to 'depart' from my current position of employment.

We tell our students the importance of growing, evolving and shifting. I also know how important for adults it is to shift, transform and move in a new direction. Change is hard, and don't let anyone tell you any different but without change we cannot grow as a human. I have had the honour to work in the field of education for the past 36 years. I am not going to lie there have been tough times but always, always without a shadow of a doubt, I knew I was where I was supposed to be.

My journey has been remarkable. The many young people I have been so blessed to walk with has been an indescribable experience. The endless questions, the guileless curiosity, the stubbornness, the joy, laughter and wonder. My first few weeks of middle school are always my favourite, as I witness grade 6s, innocent and anticipating, they skip down the hallways, they still kiss mom or dad goodbye, and they are full of expectation. Those memories and so many more are what I will ponder as my own path transforms into something new and exciting, and hopefully brings me a renewed sense of wonder.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Hillcrest Community for being outstanding in so many ways. Your supportive and caring attitude to our school community. I would like to specifically like to thank the PAC executive, Andrea, Aubrey, Ashley, Taryn, Jennifer, Naomi, and Erica.

Finally, to my wonderful staff, you have been nothing but top notch, I raise my hands to all of you. Ross Jacobsen will be joining the community, as Hillcrest's Principal on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Hillcrest PAC**

#### **PAC Lunches**

These lunches can be ordered through Munchalunch. Ordering closes at 3:00pm one week before the lunch.

Friday Jan 19th - Red Robin Hot Lunch  
Friday Feb 2nd - Sushi Lunch  
Thursday Feb 15th - Pizza Hut Hot Lunch  
Friday March 1st - Pasta Polo Hot Lunch

#### **PAC Meetings**

Our next PAC meeting will be **January 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm** on Zoom. We encourage all parents to join us using this link: [Zoom Meeting](#)

By taking part in PAC meetings, you will connect with the Hillcrest Middle parents' community and learn about events & activities that are happening at school this school year. You can find future PAC meeting dates, minutes and fundraising information at [Hillcrest PAC](#)



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### **PAC Donations**

Please consider donating to our PAC. Donate online through School Cash Online. Any donations over \$25 will receive a receipt from the District.

Fundraising initiatives from the PAC provides students with additional resources throughout the year. These resources include live performances and presentations.

Scheduled performances this year include:

David Jonsson – A professional skateboarder, David Jonsson shares his story of overcoming the physical and emotional scars of surviving a plane crash. His story focuses on resiliency and relying on a community to help in overcoming obstacles.

Metaphor - Metaphor is a crew of hip hop artists who build community empowerment and social justice through performance and facilitation. Using the hip hop arts--DJing, Breakdancing & Emceeing--Metaphor members have performed and lead workshops globally, to hundreds of schools and community groups. The Metaphor crew are experts at inspiring youth - they are always ready to rock shows and grow hearts.

Dumpsta Dragons is a unique Asian duet who have performed hundreds of shows for children throughout BC and Saskatchewan. Alvin Ramos is a recognized grand master of the Japanese Shakuhachi and has also trained extensively on the didgeridoo with aboriginal masters in Australia. Andrew Kim has toured the world with Delhi2dublin, studied sitar in India under a master, and has toured with numerous African bands. He was also featured on an album by Raffi and has been the subject of 3 CBC documentaries. Together they bring joy and inspiration to children with their unique blend of traditional and homemade instruments!

The fundraising initiatives also help provide buses to transport students to and from field trips so that students can extend their knowledge and experience outside the classroom. These funds assist in purchasing equipment to support extra curricular activities. This year's focus will be on purchasing a new portable scoreboard for our athletic teams to use in the gym.

### **PAC Social Media**

Join the "Hillcrest Middle School Parents (Coquitlam)" Facebook page and keep up to date with PAC events and announcements.