

Happenings – Hillcrest Middle Newsletter

Monday, September 16th, 2019

THIS WEEK AT HILLCREST: (see repeating events below)

Monday, Sept. 16 th	· Muffin Mingle Grade 6 and New Students – Gym Hallway 8:00am
Tuesday, Sept 17 th	· PAC Meeting – Library – 7:00pm
Wednesday, Sept. 18 th	
Thursday, Sept. 19 th	· Beginner Band Rental Night – Music Room 5:30 pm · Meet the Teacher Night – 6:30-7:30pm
Friday, Sept 20 th	· District Non-Instructional Day

Please see our school calendar on our website: www.sd43.bc.ca/hillcrest

Upcoming Events:

- September 25 Gr. 6 Immunization Day #1
- September 26 Gr. 6 Immunization Day #2
- September 27 Individual Photo Day
- October 1 Gr. 6 Immunization Day #3
- October 1 PAC Pizza Lunch – Green and Red Teams
- October 4 Grade 6 Students Richmond Oval Experience
- October 4 Yellow Team Field Trip - Bowling

Repeating Events:

Athletics (see games in calendar above):

- Intramurals/Open Gym - lunch: Monday/Wednesday
- Swim Team: Monday/Wednesday 4:40-5:30pm Eagle Ridge Pool
- Cross-Country: Tuesday/Thursday 12:30pm – Room 163

Music:

- Boys' Choir: Tuesday - Music Room 7:45am
- Girls' Choir: Thursday - Music Room 7:45am
- Advanced Band: Monday/Wednesday - MPR 7:45am
- Beginning Band: Monday/Wednesday – Gym 7:45am

Inside this Issue:

McFaul's Chat & Chew:

- Meet the Teacher Opportunity

School Happenings:

- Choir Loud and Clear
- Beginner Band Rental Evening
- Emergency Preparation Information
- Early Morning Responsibilities
- Student Successes
- School Cash Online Payment Info

- Messages from SD43 Board of Education
PAC News:

- PAC Notes & Requests

Community News:

- Links to Coquitlam Wide City Events
- Gr. 6 Stay Active Card Info
- Noon Hour Supervisor Job Ad
- District Vandal Watch
- UBC Engineering – STEM Events

McFaul's Chat and Chew: Meet the Teacher Opportunity

This Thursday evening, we ask that all parents and guardians take the opportunity to convene with our Hillcrest staff so that we can get to know one another and most importantly, so that you get to see the daily operations of who your child spends their day with and how that room functions. Your child will spend more time with us over the next 10 months during their Monday to Friday learning week than they will with you during that time. This significant shift in how your child will learn to manage their day and their activities on their own with our guidance is a key foundational step in their developing independence. Do not be fooled and fall into the trap of the cartoonish, he said she said scenario; whereby, the child can play the go between in the communication link. This is a major reason why we host this evening event, so that you can hear firsthand the expectations of how the classroom functions, how the school operates with close to 600 bodies of students and staff combined. Most importantly is the opportunity to hear and see how we show the 5 C's of care, compassion, communication, collaboration and creativity in our daily living and learning activities. We ask that you arrive at 6:30 with your child and make your way to their classroom where the teacher or teachers will share their insights and structures about classroom routines, homework communications and events planned for the upcoming year. This event is not a one to one opportunity to discuss the specific learning profile of your individual child, as that opportunity is planned for the dates of Oct 23rd and 24th with parent, teacher and child Triad meetings. This Thursday is to meet new faces, hear messages of classroom functionality and develop the senses of what your child will experience with the adults who are given the privilege of guiding their academic and social growth over the year.

We fully embrace the situation of taking responsibility for your child; however, we also know that we must have a starting point of communication and trust that will be at times challenged throughout the year. We all know that what you hear from your child may not be exactly what transpired in their learning or social activity. Clarity with homework, emotional angst over fair and equitable treatment along with reading the emotional temperature of student and staff can at times create a mixture of perspectives. This state of confusion is what needs to be sorted through with the belief that we will show care and concern for your child in the good celebratory times and in the tough murky times of mixed communication messages.

By your attendance at our Meet the teacher event we feel that you begin to forge an understanding of how your child will move and be challenged throughout their workday. An opportunity to start with new information, a clear path for communication and a vision of how your child will adapt and grow to the changing pressures and celebrations that they will have the opportunity to challenge and embrace with success and with much failure. Through failure backed by foundational successes, provided by you and us, then we begin to establish an open growth mindset for your child.

School Happenings: **Events and Activities.**

Choir Loud and Clear – People love to sing, and they love it even more when they are with others and not shouting out tunes by themselves in the shower. This concept is evident by the numbers of enthusiastic students that showed up this week for their first early morning practices. The simple concept of having voices harmonize and support your individual sound has incredible power not just in volume and tone, more importantly in the sense of wellbeing and collaboration. The power of your voice creating a wall of sound that inspires others with smiles flashed on their faces, for chills to run up and down their spines and for hearts to soar high with energy and pride, these are the immeasurable pieces of why a choir is so important to many. Yes, volume can be measured in decibels, but joy and passion cannot be quantified as it is with kindred spirits that people come together to find a place of purposeful being and comfort.

That comfort was felt by 30 young men who showed their strength of character to join choir last Tuesday and then that number was doubled with our young ladies who gathered together on Thursday to unify their voices and their dreams of singing loud and proud. A huge credit to Mrs. Gallello for her leadership and her creative ability to push for quality performance while having fun in the process of learning to aspire and achieve. We look forward to their choir performances throughout the rest of the year.

Beginner Band Rental Evening – This event happens on **Thursday Sept 19th @ 5:30 – 7:00** the same evening as our **Meet the Teacher Event**, but an hour before the teacher event starting at 6:30. Tom Lee Rentals will be here in the Music Room to provide rental information, sign contracts and provide the instrument equipment for your child to begin their musical journey. Please contact Ms. Yeates at ayeates@sd43.bc.ca for more information and exact details on the instrument rental process. Our Beginner Band Instrument Petting Zoo from last week, gave all of our Gr. 6's and new students to Hillcrest a chance to come down and make some noise and learn how to create sound with their mouths, that for many will turn into the sweet tones of familiar tunes, after lots of practice.

Emergency Preparation Information – The School District #43 sent out an email with an attachment for Emergency Preparedness Information to help you navigate the procedures and protocols of what will be happening at school and in the district on how you can be up to date with preparing your child for this type of event. We have already had our first Fire Drill this past week with our students doing an excellent job of exiting the building quietly, quickly and with a sense of purpose in knowing the possible seriousness in the case of such a real event to occur. In case of an evacuation type emergency, students know how to exit to the gravel field no matter what time of day if the emergency event was to happen at lunch or non-classroom time then students need to react with an individual sense of purposefulness and clarity to the routines. We will be doing an Earthquake Drill in the immediate future and throughout the year we will be reviewing the expectations of a classroom Hold & Secure. With the help of our RCMP liaison officer we will review the situation for a full Lockdown Drill. These events will be shared in advance and then for our more routine ones we do some surprise Fire Drills to help showcase to our community that we always need to be prepared.

Early Morning Responsibilities – This is an important notice about the parental and school responsibility for families that have early morning challenges with dropping off their child early before school starts. The following are our key expectations that parent/ guardians must ensure they follow for the safety of our children:

- Students who are attending early morning Band/ Choir or Athletic Team practices will arrive just before their scheduled start time
- Students not participating in the above activities should not be dropped off at school before 8:00AM
- Staff are not present before this time and thus there is no SUPERVISION to be offered in case of an emergency.

- Parent/ Guardians needing to drop off their child before this time **MUST have a conversation with Mr. McFaul** to ensure safety procedures are in place for all.
- Most students arrive at school usually between the time of 8:15 – 8:35 at the Welcoming Bell
- Please respect the protocols in place for the safety of your child and that of our staff

Hillcrest Student Successes— Last week our Student Leadership Council members and Mrs. Gallaccio took the time to present to the Coquitlam Animal Shelter a cheque for money raised at the end of June last year in aid of support for the animals at the shelter. The students raised over \$200.00 through freezie sales and other treat sales to ensure that they met their goal of supporting our local animals in need of some extra Tender Loving Care (TLC). Please see their smiling faces below, although not sure why the cat is not smiling! Thanks to Sameera, Holly, Isabelle and Maddy for their kindness and hard work.



Messages from the Coquitlam Board of Education:

Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation


Government has approved the Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation requiring parents or guardians to report the vaccination status of their school-age children. This regulation comes into force on July 1 and public health units will begin implementation of the regulation in September of 2019. Read more [here](#).

Vaping Products Information for Families

Superintendent Patricia Gartland's letter to parents about vaping products and cannabis may be found [here](#). The use of vaping products by youth is becoming increasingly common. There are some misconceptions about the aerosol (vapour or cloud) produced, and currently the long-term health effects are unknown. As caregivers, you can connect and discuss issues around vaping products with your child. Read more [here](#).

Important Notice for School Payments:

Please sign up for School Cash Online (if you haven't already). The school Permissions and Policies are ONLY available online, and all fieldtrips etc. will be posted online for payment. The account will serve families through high school years. Please see the registration information below.



Make online payments with
SchoolCashOnline

Become a **SchoolCashOnline** member today and see why so many parents have joined!

- ✓ Pay for your child's school fees online. Anytime, anywhere.
- ✓ Stop sending money with your child to school.
- ✓ Get automatic email notifications about BACK TO SCHOOL fees.
- ✓ Help us reduce the amount of cash coming through school doors.

Register today at:
<https://sd43.schoolcashionline.com>

School Cash Online is our school's PREFERRED method of payment.

» Fast ✓ Safe 👍 Convenient

KEVGROUP
School Cash Simplified

Policies & Permissions and Student Fees – Start off right and ensure that you have completed the Policies and Permission Forms online and some paper copies as it is critical that we have every student complete a Policies and Permissions form and make payment of Student Activity Fees.

When forms are not completed, or payments not made then students miss out on:

- Walking field trips in the forest for social emotional management
- Activity Days and Field Trips

Both the School Policies and Permissions form and your Student Activity Fee can be completed through [School Cash Online](#). This account will serve your student through high school. We look forward to your full cooperation and ensuring that you have done all your homework for your child's best and safest start at Hillcrest.

PAC News and Events:

The PAC is on Facebook – join us at Hillcrest Middle School Parents (Coquitlam)

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE FIRST PAC MEETING: TUESDAY SEPT. 17TH @ 7:00 in the library

Meet the Teacher Night - The PAC will be hosting a coffee and tea service in the Library during Meet the Teacher Night on Thursday September 19 at 6:30 – please stop by and introduce yourself.

PAC MEMBERS NEEDED – Our PAC Executive need people interested and willing to volunteer to support our school community. You would be working with a very dedicated team of parent volunteers in helping with the organization, support and administration of many school and district initiatives. We have an immediate need for someone to help with fundraising. You would work alongside our current Fundraising Coordinator Joanne Gaska. We ask that you contact our PAC Leaders: ANNIKA MOUNTAIN annika@wilmount.ca and/or JENNIFER BELL-IRVING jennilynns49@gmail.com if you are able to help. We do not need a large time commitment in order for you to make a difference!

FUNDRAISING - If you have specific questions about fundraising please contact Joanne Gaska at coq.hms.fundraising@gmail.com.

Pizza Lunch Fundraisers: The Hillcrest PAC organizes pizza lunches for purchase throughout the year. Coordinators for this year are Michelle Morrison and Amber Tarling who can be reached at hmsshotlunch@gmail.com. All orders and payments will be through the MunchaLunch system, which is up and running now. Please read the attached instructions before registering and ordering. You will also find a list of hot lunch dates for the year beginning October 1st (for green and red teams). Two teams are included at each hot lunch and teams rotate throughout the school year.

REMINDER: OUR 1st PIZZA LUNCH DEADLINE TO ORDER FOR GREEN AND RED TEAMS IS SEPTEMBER 24TH!!

PIZZA LUNCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – If you are able to donate your gift of time on some Tuesday lunch hours for approximately 30-40 minutes to help with the organizing of our student Pizza Lunches your time would be well spent and greatly appreciated. Please contact Michelle Morrison at hmsshotlunch@gmail.com or sign up as a volunteer via our MunchaLunch system online (see attachment to this newsletter). It takes a minimum of 16 volunteers to serve each lunch. Time commitment is just 40 minutes on lunch days from 12:05 to 12:45 pm.

Fundraising by Donation: If you would like to support Hillcrest by providing a donation you can do this through our School Cash Online (KEV) or by completing the PAC donation letter/form. No other fundraiser has a 100 percent profit margin and for donations of \$25 or more you will receive a tax receipt from SD43.

Community News:

Gr. 6 Stay Active Card Information

The Tri Cities, in cooperation with School District 43, are pleased to once again offer the [Grade 6 Stay Active! Program](#) for all School District 43 Grade 6 students. This program has been approved by the Cities of Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody to promote youth involvement in physical activity. We are very excited about this community partnership and we hope that you will be able to take part in it.

A letter issued by the school is required for registration. Grade 6 students must take this letter to the Recreation location that serves their home address, with their **birth certificate and proof of residency** (has to be **phone, hydro, cable, gas bill or Property Tax Notice - driver's license and PO Boxes are not acceptable**).

- Coquitlam residents register at Coquitlam Recreation locations;
- Port Coquitlam residents register at Port Coquitlam Recreation locations;
- Port Moody, Anmore & Belcarra residents register at Port Moody Recreation Centre

With this verification, you will receive a Grade 6 Stay Active! Card – a photo identification card (**student must be present so that photo can be taken**) that you can use from September 3, 2019 to September 6, 2020, **to access 12 free visits of drop-in swimming, skating and gymnasium programs** in Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam or Port Moody.

All Grade 6 students are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. This summer have fun and stay active during public skating, access to the indoor and outdoor pools, or being active with your friends at City run drop in gym programs! All during your Grade 6 year.



ATTENTION NEIGHBOURS OF HILLCREST MIDDLE SCHOOL

You can help stop vandalism on school grounds

What You Can Do

Parks, schools and public spaces are most vulnerable at night. Keep your eyes and ears open for suspicious activities. Everything you see and hear helps. Note the physical characteristics and clothing of individuals. If you see automobiles, jot down license plate numbers.

Report All Suspicious Activities to the Vandal Watch Tip Line

604-927-7600

Call immediately when something raises your suspicions.

Do not wait for the damage to be done.

Your Call is Anonymous and Confidential

No one will ask for your name or phone number. Security personnel will be alerted and will investigate. They will take direct action or involve the police. **Do not get involved in a confrontation yourself.** The Tip Line is available 24 hours a day.

KEEP THE TIP LINE PHONE NUMBER HANDY. MAKE SURE IT IS GIVEN ONLY TO RESPONSIBLE ADULTS.

Coquitlam Open Learning Opportunities:

Please see the various links below for: [Continuing Education](#),

Casual Noon Hour Supervisors

School District #43 Coquitlam is looking for Casual Noon Hour Assistants to be available on an On-Call basis to supervise students indoors and outdoors during lunch break (one hour per day) at various schools throughout the District in Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody and Anmore.

Previous experience working with groups of children is an asset. Successful candidates will be available over the lunch hour Monday – Friday, 5 days per week while school is in session and be willing to accept callouts to all schools in our District. We offer \$21.43 per hour plus 16% in lieu of benefits.

To apply, please click on the following link and create a user account/profile. <https://ejp.sd43.bc.ca/postings/Account/Login> Once you have completed your profile you will have access to the job postings.

UBC Engineering – STEM Events for the Fall

Take a peek at some of our programs below!



Engineering Explorations - Girls Only!

This is an exciting opportunity for girls* to visit UBC Engineering and learn about engineering. Enjoy a full day of fun, hands-on activities led by current university students and meet inspiring mentors.

Who & When?

Gr. 12 Girls on October 19, 2019

Gr. 9 Girls on November 30, 2019

* We have an inclusive view of the word "girl" and we welcome trans, genderqueer, and non-binary folks interested in these workshops.

[Register](#)



Let's Talk Tech

Each half-day, co-ed workshop shows the exciting possibilities of the tech industry and develops your digital skills!

Who is Let's Talk Tech for?

Gr. 4-5 in the Morning Workshop
Gr. 6-7 in the Afternoon Workshop

When? Saturday, October 5, 2019

[Register](#)



Clubs

Our year-round after-school clubs are a mix of science and engineering through hands-on projects, demos, design challenges, and lab tours!

Who are Clubs for?

Students anywhere from Gr. 1-12

When? All year-round!

[Register](#)



STEM Ed: Pro-D Program

Designed for educators, our Pro-D programs are focused on integrating STEM activities into your classroom!
We focus on activities related to the ADST and Science Curriculum.

Hillcrest Middle 2161 Regan Ave. Coquitlam, B.C. V3J 3C5
Phone: 604-936-4237 Fax: 604-937-6878 Web: www.sd43.bc.ca/hillcrest
Principal: Mr. Rob McFaul Vice-Principal: Mr. Tony Romano

What programs are offered?

Engineering for Your Classroom for Gr. 4-7 teachers

Tech Night for Teachers for Gr. 4-9 teachers

When? Throughout the school year!

[**Learn More**](#)

Our events have helped inspire and motivate countless students in the past and enabled them to find out more about STEM fields and UBC Engineering!