

Happenings – Hillcrest Middle Newsletter

Monday, September 23rd, 2019

THIS WEEK AT HILLCREST: (see repeating events below)

Monday, Sept. 23 rd	· Gr. 6 Richmond Oval Exp. – payment available online until 9pm, salmon coloured forms due 9am Tuesday.
Tuesday, Sept 24 th	· Grade 6 Immunization Forms due back to office
Wednesday, Sept. 25 th	·
Thursday, Sept. 26 th	· Grade 6 Immunization
Friday, Sept 27 th	· Individual Photo Day
Please see our school calendar on our website: www.sd43.bc.ca/hillcrest	

Upcoming Events:

October 1	PAC Pizza Lunch – Green and Red	October 11	Div. 15, 16, 17 Soap Stone Carving
October 1	Performance: Tic Toc	October 14	Thanksgiving
October 4	Yellow Team Field Trip - Bowling	October 15	PAC Pizza Lunch – Blue and Yellow
October 4	Grade 6 Richmond Oval Experience	October 18	Div. 13 and 14 Soap Stone Carving
October 4	Div. 18, 19, 20 Soap Stone Carving	October 23	Early Dismissal – Student Conferences
October 8	Blue Team Div. 9 and 10 to Library	October 24	Early Dismissal – Student Conferences
October 9	Blue Team Div. 11 and 12 to Library	October 25	Non-Instructional Day (District/Prov)

Repeating Events:

Athletics (see games in calendar above):

- Volleyball:
 - Grade 6 – Monday/Friday – Lunch
 - Grade 7 Boys – Wednesday – Lunch; Friday 3:15-4:30pm
 - Grade 8 Girls – Tuesday 7:30-8:30am; Thursday 3:15-4:30pm
 - Grade 8 Boys – Thursday 7:30-8:30am; Monday 3:15-4:30pm
- Swim Team: Monday/Wednesday 4:40-5:30pm Eagle Ridge Pool
- Cross-Country: Tuesday/Thursday 12:30pm – Room 163
- Intramurals - Lunch: Tuesday/Thursday

Music:

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

Inside this Issue:

McFaul's Chat & Chew:

- The W's of Professional Development

School Happenings:

- Gr. 6 Richmond Oval Experience
- Athletics
- Gr. 6 Immunizations
- Meet the Teacher Open House Review
- 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

McFaul's Chat and Chew: The W's of Professional Development

This past week CBC News did a timely review of the ins and out of why BC Teachers have "so many" Professional Development Days, (Pro D Days) their purpose and accountability. I learned something that I did not know, and I thought that it would be meaningful and prudent for you to understand the why's, the how's and the what's of our Pro D Day work here in Coquitlam and specifically at Hillcrest Middle.

First, one must understand that the number of days allotted for Pro D are negotiated in contract with the Ministry of Education and each School District is provided with six days throughout the year. The calendar timing of these dates has two of these days set in stone for Provincial and District wide structures. For these dates' teachers and administration can attend a wide variety of learning opportunities throughout the province, be they International conferences, Provincial Specialists Association conferences or other district event workshop activities. Two other days are District focus and most schools, including Hillcrest align themselves with these dates in January and in April for teachers to attend specific workshops related to their teaching areas or needs they see that they would like to develop with further training. The last two dates are school based, and Hillcrest just completed one of these days last Friday and we have another one planned for early June.

Unbeknownst to me I never knew that Toronto area teachers have seven days and in Calgary the teachers have 13 days – three in the summer and ten throughout the year.

The why question for these days is straight forward as there are new curriculum structures and assessment for learning strategies along with the Ministry focus on Indigenous Studies to be further integrated into classroom practices. The paraphrased inquiry question often from parents and students is, "how does what you do on that day connect directly to my child?" Truly a fair question, that is simple to explain as an example from this past Friday's events. At Hillcrest the day was divided into three learning subsections each one directly connected to our students and their learning.

The first activity was the new Ministry mandated reporting process and the technological manipulations that are required by staff for sharing and celebrating the successes and challenges of your child. This reporting structure has over the past four years gone through three iterations and this year we are implementing the Ministry model for reporting on student achievements. The details are tricky with various technology platforms and sharing of student information. Important for your child because it will show their performance levels and have opportunities for them to provide their personal perspective. The second activity was a curricular piece that was very timely as it was based on how do we make the current Federal Election campaign something that is relevant, tangible and purposeful for our future electorate to get a hold of the matter and make connections to the big questions and the details of the election process. It was creative learning and very engaging as staff lead one another through serious role plays and deeper exploration of the election themes from a youth perspective. Our last activity engaged our minds, our hearts and our souls as we as a staff

explored the processes and challenges of establishing a school wide protocol for supporting our Action Plan for Learning (APL) goal of Building Healthy Relationships through a new vehicle strategy of Class Circles. The Class Circles were explored through their intentions for how we embrace and support student voice along with the possible ways to ensure balance of emotions and fairness for all to participate in our weekly dialogue format. Staff were provided with strategies, resources and several examples of traditional structures that help to set the tone for effective Class Circles. This is not an easy task for all, as it requires supportive structures for awkward and challenging situations along with encouraging freedom of expression from our students in respectful manners and builds on a sense of trust and vulnerability.

A day of great learning for our staff that has direct connections back to what your child will experience in their new styled report card, in their foundational engagement with a major political/ cultural force and with their ability to build connections to others and see the perspectives of others in a safe and well cared for circle of support. Professional Development well thought out and attended by all teachers, who care for your child.

School Happenings: Events and Activities.

Gr. 6 Richmond Oval Experience – We ask that you please take the time to complete the online payment registration for this planned day of fun and engagement as we have organized a series of recreational type events for your child and their peers to embrace. The cost of the event includes a range of six activities all indoors, so weather free, and the cost of chartered bus transportation to the Richmond Oval. Our goal is for our Gr .6 students to have the opportunity to connect with peers from their previous school along with building new relationships with classmates of whom they will spend further hours with throughout this coming year. All of the events have supervisory staff from the Oval sharing their talents and instructions on how best to play and engage in the activities ranging form Giant Soccer, Obstacle Course, Museum Tour, Indoor Climbing and other physical activities.

Please send in the form that was sent out last week as a hard copy on the acknowledgment of risk for any type of field trip activity and please ensure that your child has snacks, lunch and a refillable container for their hydration and nourishment throughout the day.

Athletics – This week has a full accompaniment of practices for the Fall sports scene of Cross- Country Running, Swimming and Volleyball. The date of the District Swim Meet is set for Friday Oct. 4th ; however, the dates for X-Country meets and Volleyball game schedules have not been set by district coaching staff. We do know that X- Country meets will usually occur on Thursdays after school, while Gr. 7 Volleyball games will happen on Tuesdays after school and Gr. 8 games on Wednesdays. Our Gr 6 Volleyball format had the interested students meeting with Mr. Nay last week and they will have their practices at lunch time on Mondays and Fridays. Thanks to all of our volunteer coaches because without their generous gift of time then our students would not have the opportunity to share and experience the learning which occurs through athletic competition.

Gr. 6 Immunization Postponed – We have just received the medical forms from the Public Health Department, which are being sent home today, thus our first immunization date will be this Thursday, September 26th. Please stay tuned for further updates on catch-up immunization dates.

Meet the Teacher Open House Review– Thanks to all who attended our opening session last week; whereby, you had an opportunity to meet the team of teachers that your child spends most of their day with. The focus was to provide you an opportunity to hear directly form the teacher(s) how their class is organized, how they will communicate H.W. and assignment expectations, how best for you to contact them to clarify class

objectives and primarily for you to have a chance to feel the atmosphere and cultural vibe of your child's place of learning and residency from 8:30 – 3:00. Thanks also for those who gathered in the gym so you could hear more about our school culture, some of the ins and outs of how we operate to support the intricacies of daily functioning and learning. My apologies to all as I skipped over the presentation from our Exploration teachers, who offer a host of quality programs that engage your child in different modalities of learning. They were primed and ready to deliver a very entertaining showcase of their individual programs and I, in my absence of mind and too much talking, by-passed them and thus you missed out hearing directly from a wonderful and creative team of educators.

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.schoolcashonline.com>

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

» Fast ✓ Safe 👍 Convenient



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)

OUR NEXT PAC MEETING: TUESDAY OCTOBER 15th @ 7:00 pm in the library

Meet the Teacher Night – This was a great night for parents to meet teachers get an idea of expectations for the school year! It was nice to seem familiar and new faces and we were pleased to have the opportunity to speak briefly about the PAC, what we do and how to get involved. Parents please reach out to the PAC at anytime either through our Facebook page, or find our contact information on the Hillcrest Middle School website, under parents, then PAC.

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.

Thank you: Please join us in thanking your hot lunch team for all they do to run pizza lunches every 2nd week of the year! **Michelle Morrison** has taken on a big job heading up the pizza lunches along with **Amber Tarling** and they deserve our thanks! These lunches raise a substantial amount of fundraising dollars that benefit our school and students! Thanks in advance also to all the parents who will come out to help serve lunches this year! We couldn't do it without you volunteers!

REMINDER: OUR 1st PIZZA LUNCH DEADLINE TO ORDER FOR GREEN AND RED TEAMS IS TOMORROW - SEPTEMBER 24TH!!
NEXT UP WILL BE BLUE AND YELLOW TEAMS ON OCTOBER 15TH

PIZZA LUNCH VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS 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.