

Happenings – Hillcrest Middle Newsletter

Monday, October 21st, 2019

THIS WEEK AT HILLCREST:

 (see repeating events below)

Monday, Oct. 21 st	· Hillcrest MPR hosts Federal Election Polling Station
Tuesday, Oct. 22 nd	· Grade 7 Boys Volleyball game at Kway
Wednesday, Oct. 23 rd	· Last Day Term 1 Explorations · Early Dismissal 1:45pm – Student Conferences 2:00pm
Thursday, Oct. 24 th	· Term 2 Explorations Begin · Early Dismissal 1:45pm – Student Conferences 2:00pm · Cross Country District Finals – 3:30-5:00pm Mundy Park
Friday, Oct. 25 th	· Non-Instructional Day (District/Provincial) – school closed
Please see our school calendar on our website: Hillcrest website	

Upcoming Events:

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|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| October 29 PAC Pizza Lunch – Orange & Green | November 15 Grade 7 to Richmond Oval *date changed |
| October 31 Halloween | November 20 Individual Picture Retakes |
| November 1 Grade 8 to Richmond Oval | November 26 PAC Pizza Lunch – Yellow & Orange |
| November 8 Remembrance Day Assembly | December 19 Div 17 & 18 Skating |
| November 11 Remembrance Day – school closed | December 20 Last day before Winter Break |
| November 12 PAC Pizza Lunch – Red and Blue | |

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 **(cancelled Thursday, Oct. 24)**
 - Grade 8 Boys – Thursday 7:30-8:30am; Monday 3:15-4:30pm
- 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

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- District Vandal Watch

McFaul's Chat and Chew: Federal Election Fun

For the past few weeks our students, like the rest of Canadian citizens, have been embedded in the conversation of politics and the election process. This timely opportunity to teach the civics of why elections, how elections and the what of the mechanics of elections is a great experience in helping our future leaders see the value of this critical right and responsibility of being a Canadian citizen. With the support for a national organization called CIVIX, our teachers have had students exploring the various political parties their platforms and pledges of commitments from party leaders and local candidates regarding the topics that are of interest to our students and our nation. On Friday, we had students trained by our staff to set up mobile polling stations allowing our students to see the list candidates running in your Federal riding of Port Moody-Coquitlam. They were given a facsimile of a real ballot and then they proceeded to their polling booth and made their mark to select their candidate. They did not do this like they were pulling a rabbit from a hat, on the contrary, they have over the past weeks been informed through student presentations of the different views on critical issues that are influencing our people now and into their future.

The Friday student ballots have been counted and submitted to the CIVIX organizers...but the clerks and Mr. Holbrook, our Student Elections Canada Agent, are sworn to secrecy at the moment. As per the National Student Vote Week guidelines: "All schools must keep their Student Vote results confidential until after the close of official election polls." Come Monday students will see the actual process in action and as simple as it is to mark an X, they will observe the significance of performing one's civic duty, their right to cast a vote and their responsibility to participate in democracy, all with no strings attached. That last comment is one we implore you to share with your child as you go about your civic duty on Monday – no strings attached – meaning no bribes, no threats, no intimidation, no removal and no armed police or military presence. Democracy in action for our nation, for ourselves and for our children to keep the rights to expression of voice through the marking of a ballot.

School Happenings: **Events and Activities.**

Halloween Appropriateness - Halloween across all schools in SD43 is a fun and festive day which brings the school community together. Typically, the time around Halloween is incident-free and very respectful.

From time to time, a few students "in character" push the boundaries of what is socially acceptable, or what is appropriate behaviour in schools, sometimes at the expense of others. With that in mind, and to ensure that every student and adult in our community enjoys the time around Halloween, we would like your assistance in reinforcing these guidelines with your children, for student safety and school climate reasons:

- Students in costume should be easily recognizable and/or identify themselves to any staff members when queried.
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- By law and School District expectations, the use and possession of firecrackers or fireworks at school is strictly prohibited. This pertains to students before, during or after school, on or offsite.
- Replica weapons (guns, knives, etc.) are inappropriate, as are costumes which are hyper-sexualized, or costumes which depict elements of sexual exploitation. Please encourage your children to avoid glamorizing sexual exploitation by refusing to allow them to wear Halloween costumes that re-victimize those who have suffered the devastation of this crime.
- Students “in character” are to conduct themselves appropriately. Behaviours which intimidate, harass or humiliate members of the community, or other behaviours which are inappropriate at the expense of others, do not contribute to a fun, festive, and safe environment.

With your assistance, I trust we will have a wonderful next few weeks, and our children will continue to love being at school. Thank you for your support.

Please refer to these readily available public websites of our partner agencies for more information:

<https://www.coquitlam.ca/public-safety/fire-and-rescue/fire-prevention/fireworks.aspx>
www.childrenofthestreet.com

Parent Teacher -Three Way Conferences – We have our early dismissal times set this week for 1:45 so we can start our conferences precisely at 2:00 with the goal to allow as many opportunities for parents and students to meet with the class teachers. If you missed the opportunity of booking a meeting with the teacher and all of the online scheduled meeting spots are full, then we ask that you contact the teacher by email to attempt to arrange an alternate time to meet in the weeks ahead. The dialogue at this meeting is significant as in a 3-way conference the triangle of learning is best articulated with the student present to discuss their goals and challenges that they will work with in the coming year. The conferencing time is short so please be prompt and have your questions and inquiries from yourself and your child ready to go to ensure optimal use of the conferencing session. Students will be provided with an Early Dismissal at 1:45 for both days and so we ask that your child go directly home to help keep our hallways quiet and accessible. If you are having an early interview in the 2:00 – 3:00 range, then your child is welcome to stay and wait at school then join you in the teacher conference.

Gr. 8 Field Trip Richmond Oval – This week our Gr. 8 students will be bringing home their parent permission form allowing them to attend the Gr. 8 Field Trip set up for Richmond Oval on Friday Nov. 1st. Parents will also receive a reminder email to make payment for this full day experience, by using the School Cash online process. 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 total cost of the event is \$32.00 which 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. 8 students to have the opportunity to connect with peers from their previous years along with building new relationships with classmates of whom they will spend further hours with throughout this coming year. All the events have supervisory staff from the Oval sharing their talents and instructions on how best to play and engage in the activities ranging from Giant Soccer, Obstacle Course, Museum Tour, Indoor Climbing and other physical activities.

Please send in the hard copy form 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. Please **DO NOT send money** as the cafeteria is under renovations and there is no location to purchase food.

Yearbook 2019-2020 – This is one idea that requires some very serious forethought as this puts the concept of delayed gratification to the ultimate test. The purchasing of the traditional Yearbook in October when the excitement and hoopla is based in the month of June and the memories are stored away for a lifetime is a huge challenge to the concepts of patience and persistence. It seems so far away the idea of signing Yearbooks and reflecting upon the past 10 months; whereby, the energy of the lives and the reality of one's existence is captured in photos and messages. The time to purchase a Yearbook is now as you will ensure that your child has that memory memento secured for the wish of holding onto and getting the treasured signatures and messages from significant people in their life. The time to purchase is now because you will save money in the long run than if you purchase later in the year. The time to buy the pre-ordered Yearbook is now because you want to have possession of evidence that shows the growth, the relationships and the memories of life at Hillcrest Middle.

We are pleased to offer a Hillcrest Yearbook for sale again this year. This is a beautiful, hard cover, full colour book that is well over 50 pages in length. This year, students will be participating in creating this lovely memory that will be treasured for a lifetime. Purchase the 2019-2020 School Yearbook at the Early Bird Sale price of only \$55.00. Only available at this price for 8 weeks. **Sale ends November 22nd at 9pm.** Don't miss your chance to get the yearbook at this special price. Any remaining copies of the Yearbook will be offered for sale in the New Year for an increased price. Limited quantities available.

Please go to our website and click on the link for purchasing a yearbook, as this is our first round of sales and you do not need to pay more and risk missing the purchasing timeline for when June delivery of this always valuable and hot commodity rolls around and it then becomes critical that your child has a Yearbook.

Odyssey of the Mind @ Hillcrest - Odyssey of the Mind is a creative problem-solving competition for students of all ages. As a team member, you and your teammates select a problem, create a solution, then present your solution in a competition against other teams in the same problem and division.

By participating in the Odyssey of the Mind program you will improve your critical-thinking and creative problem-solving skills. As a middle school student you will have learned some theories of physics, chemistry or coding, you also may have learned writing, music, arts, even acting, Odyssey of the Mind will allow you to integrate all your skills and knowledge into one piece-----create a show or a performance, and present it in front of your parents and friends. They will applaud your efforts and be proud of you.

Beyond the curriculum learning, Odyssey of the Mind is a TEAM sport, in the team you will learn how to share opinions, how to make a good decision, how to manage the time..., you and your teammates will have some fun experiences, but also you will face failures and difficulties. Through the practice and cognitive challenges presented you will also build friendships.

If you like to use your brain and your hands to create something, you are welcome to join our Odyssey of the Mind team in Hillcrest. For more information about this program, please go to:

<http://odysseybc.ca/>

After you check the website, you will find out that parents have major roles and responsibilities in supporting this program. For every year's competition and events, we need parents to be the volunteers. So, if you are interested to join the team, please talk to your parents first.

Here some basic information about Odyssey of the Mind team in Hillcrest:

One coach – Trained Parent Volunteer

Seven team members (maximum)

Long-term problem meeting: once/week (after school)

Spontaneous practice: once/week (lunch time)

Cost: coach is free, team members share the cost of materials which are used for the long-term project and spontaneous practice.

If you are interested, please ask Mr. McFaul for the application form.

Middle Schoolers Tame Anxiety with Mindfulness Video – Our staff work very hard to help students learn to manage anxieties and stressors in the world of our students. We have small groups discussions and we do deep breathing exercises along with supportive one-one counselling. With the numerous demands upon youth these days from social media on what is cool and popular, to school peer and academic pressures and the challenges of home life and parental relationships, it becomes challenging seeking ways to support our youth. Below is an example of how some middle school aged students tackled the concern about their growing anxieties. Please take a moment to checkout the attached link:

http://www.mindful.org/middleschoolers-tame-anxiety-release-short-film/?utm_source=Mindful+Newsletter&utm_campaign=7700d6eaf8-MF+Top+Stories+Oct+3+16+10+4+2016&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_6d03e8c02c-7700d6eaf8-22086889&mc_cid=7700d6eaf8&mc_eid=30b061c21d

Winter Weather Ahead!

While the District tries to make the best decision with the information available, the weather does change quickly. Therefore, when schools remain open, decisions to stay at home during challenging weather conditions should be made by each family.

Schools are not routinely closed due to snow or other inclement weather conditions. All schools in School District 43 (Coquitlam) will remain OPEN, if at all possible, during winter weather, including snowfall.

However, on occasion, a district-wide or partial-district closure is required due to extreme weather. Partial-district closures affecting individual schools may occur due to the very different geography within our school district. If there is a partial-district closure affected schools will be identified.

The decision on schools remaining open or needing to be closed, because of extreme weather, occurs **before 6:30 a.m.** so that families can plan and make alternate arrangements.

Any district-wide or partial-district closure will be decided and communicated by 6:30 a.m. via the School District 43 website www.sd43.bc.ca and CKNW AM 980 radio, CKWX 1130 radio and CBC (690) radio.

Extreme weather can also impact transit. Transit schedules may face significant changes or cancellations due to the weather conditions. Parents seeking information on transit schedules need to consult the Translink website:


<http://www.translink.ca/>

We encourage families to continuously check the School District 43 website for updates and changes: www.sd43.bc.ca

Learn more about SD43's process for emergency and inclement weather status updates at:
<http://www.sd43.bc.ca/NewsEvents/Pages/EmergencyInformation.aspx>

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

 **KEV GROUP**
School Cash Simplified

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 is scheduled for TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19th @ 7:00 pm in the library (however please note **this may be pushed back one week to November 26th** to coincide with a presentation). Stay tuned for confirmation! At our meeting last Tuesday we spent time discussing the budget for the school year. The PAC executive has since been working on finalizing the full budget for approval at our next PAC meeting.

PAC MEMBERS NEEDED - We are always looking for more PAC members and currently need help with our multiple fundraising projects. Also, please consider serving on the PAC Executive for the next school year (2020-2021) as we have at least 2 executives leaving the school and therefore the PAC. We are seeking people interested in the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair. If you are interested, please contact our PAC Leaders: ANNIKA MOUNTAIN annika@wilmount.ca and/or JENNIFER BELL-IRVING jennilynns49@gmail.com.



We are pleased to announce that KidsCAN Theatre will be back at Hillcrest again after a very successful theatre program last year! Watch for more information coming soon from our drama mamas/instructors Karen Illman and Erinn Gleeson!

FUNDRAISING – Please consider supporting our various fundraisers. We need strong support in order to be successful and remember that funds raised directly benefit the students of Hillcrest – our children and grandchildren!

SPC (STUDENT PRICE CARDS) ARE STILL AVAILABLE! For just \$10 these cards are valid for discounts at over 450 retailers (see partial list below). To order email coq.hms.fundraising@gmail.com – we have them in stock now! See spccard.ca for more detail or to order online use reference code 37268.

SPC Cards 2019-2020 participating retailers			
aerie	Extreme Pita	New Balance	Teriyaki Experience
ALDO	First Choice Haircutters	Old Navy	Thai Express
American Eagle Outfitters	Forever 21	Orange Julius	The Brick
Ardene	Freshslice Pizza	Panera Bread	The Chopped Leaf
Banana Republic	Globo Shoes	Pantorama	The Source/La Source
Bath & Body Works	GNC	Pita Pit	TOPSHOP/TOPMAN
Bench	Jack Astor's	Pizza 73	Urban Outfitters
Bentley	Journeys	Pizza Hut	Urban Plaet
Bikini Village	Jugo Juice	Pizza Nova	Victoria's Secret PINK
Bluenotes	Kernels Popcorn	Pizza Pizza	West49
BonLook	KFC/PFK	PUMA Outlet	WIRELWSSWAVE
Booster Juice	la Vie en Rose	Rexal/Pharma Plus	WLKN
Burger King	Little Burgundy	Roots	Yellow Shoes
Call It Spring	Manchu WOK'	Running Room	Yogen Fruz
Calvin Klein	Marble Slab	Sirens	Yogurty's Froyo
Chatters	MR.SUB	Sleep Country	
Coffee Culture	Mucho Burrito	South St. Burger	
Country Style	Nando's Chicken	Tbooth wireless	
DAVID's TEA	NYX Professional Makeup		
ecko			and MANY MORE!



Our **Christmas Fundraiser** is coming up soon and will include the sale of **Poinsettias, Purdy's Chocolate and Gift Cards**. If you are able to assist with the organization of any one of these please contact our fundraising coordinator Joanne Gaska at coq.hms.fundraising@gmail.com. In addition, we will definitely need a few people to assist with sorting on December 5th.

Fundraising by Donation: You can still support Hillcrest by providing a donation to the school! You can do this through our School Cash Online (KEV) <https://www.schoolcashionline.com/> 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. Your support is greatly appreciated!

QSP Magazine Fundraiser: As it turns out we will not be able to participate in this fundraiser as reported in the previous newsletter because we recently learned that QSP has closed down!

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. Please read the attached instructions before registering and ordering. You will also find a list of hot lunch dates for the year. Two teams are included at each hot lunch and teams rotate throughout the school year.



REMINDER: Pizza Lunch for ORANGE AND GREEN TEAMS IS ON OCTOBER 29.

Order through <https://munchalunch.com/>

PIZZA LUNCH VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED – If you are able to help out some Tuesday lunch hours for approximately 30-40 minutes (from 12:05 to 12:45) with the organizing of our student Pizza Lunches it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Michelle Morrison at hmsshotlunch@gmail.com or sign up as a volunteer via our MunchaLunch system online. It takes a minimum of 16 volunteers to serve each lunch!

Community News:



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.