

Happenings – Hillcrest Middle Newsletter

Monday, December 2nd, 2019

THIS WEEK AT HILLCREST: (see repeating events below)

Monday, Dec. 2 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Basic Needs Drive Begins · Red Team Young Actors Project
Tuesday, Dec. 3 rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Red Team Young Actors Project · Photo retake orders due
Wednesday, Dec. 4 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Red Team Young Actors Project · Gr. 7 MDI Letter E-copy and Letter sent Home
Thursday, Dec. 5 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Red Team Young Actors Project
Friday, Dec. 6 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Div. 1/2/4 Green Team Young Actors Project · Div. 19 First Aid Course · Yellow Team Jr. Achievement BC Sessions
Please see our school calendar on our website: Hillcrest website	

Upcoming Events:

December 10	Literacy Day Celebration	December 18	Orange Team to Coquitlam Express
December 12	Explorations Term 2 Ends	December 19	Div. 17 & 18 Skating
December 13	Div. 1/2/3 Young Actors Project	December 19	Term 1 Core Reports go home
December 13	Div. 20 First Aid Course	December 20	Retro Ball
December 16	Exploration Term 3 begins	December 20	Last day before Winter Break
December 17	Winter Concert		

Repeating Events:

Athletics (see games in calendar above):

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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- Inquiry Hub Open House Invite

PAC News:

- Please see the accompanying PAC email attachment

Community News:

- District Vandal Watch

McFaul's Chat and Chew: Promoting Civility and Kindness

At this time of year, we are inundated with messages about the importance of giving and what is the best gift to give and where to find this best gift at the best price for your special loved one to help make their life more significant. The implied message is that purchasing a gift from the right store is the only way to show appreciations. I would venture to propose another key idea that gets lost in the hubbub of the holiday sale season and that is the idea of civility and kindness. In this time of hectic rushing around, trying to find the last parking spot to get your bumper in there before the other person or the antics we watched on the news last week of Black Friday shoppers aggression displayed towards each other to battle for the last boxed gift. We need to stop and teach our children the beauty and simplicity of politeness and self-respect as virtues that can change the world. If we invest as much time and thoughtfulness into kind words rather than behaviours that place us closer to the animal domain and further from being the reflective humans, we all have inside of us, then we might end up in a happier place.

It is rare that we hear words like excuse me, thanks, good morning, you're welcome... come attached with a smile and sense of sincerity and purposefulness. One day last month I stood by the entrance to the school after nutrition break and counted the number of students who greeted me with a thanks for holding the door, a friendly hello or a cheerful head nod and a flash of their pearly whites. Out of many students who passed by me, it was a low number of 10-15 students that ventured to share a greeting to me in some reasonable facsimile of a simple good morning. More would be better! I believe, that instead of the time spent shopping for the perfect gift, it might be best for us to slow down and say thanks and all of the other possible niceties that we could share with people we truly care about that would help make their regular day a much brighter experience. A kind gesture or word will carry me much further in my daily journey than a person ignoring my presence or buying me a gift with no words or personal thoughts attached. We try hard to model these small acts of kindness in our day to day living at Hillcrest, we write little notes of thank you to kids, we have wayside teaching moments in the hallways, we high five them on their way out the door with our Big Red Hands and we take the time to have a wee chat with a child who we may not get a chance to talk to on a regular basis. Our belief is that if we can model the acts of a caring and respectful community through the daily conversations that your children have with significant adults in their building, then it may become second nature or a good habit that is hard to break. Then, we will have moved that child further along their development in basic civil politeness and making relationships. We strive to make connections and reach out so that our students feel that they belong and that through time they will develop a closer bond with somebody in a caregiving position so that they feel a part of the larger community. These we believe are acts of civility and kindness that we feel helps them become a citizen of Hillcrest, who has a voice and who is acknowledged for their gifts of their head, their heart and their body.

As we approach the holiday season, expect news about many school and community minded activities with regards to supporting families in our school and community who may be in need. Please help us role model the appropriate level of empathy and support required to make some of our Socially Responsible Initiatives happen successfully. We thank you for your support of our PAC Christmas Hamper Project, Our Hillcrest CARES – Basic Needs Drive and your support of your local charities.

School Happenings: Events and Activities.

Literacy Day Activities – As many

School-Wide Read Literacy Day for “The Bridge Home”



- Regular Block Schedule
- Celebration of the Culture of India

Block A- Assembly in the Gym for all classes (loop of video clips to draw interest for the day; will play as students enter: Lion, Slumdog, World of Dance, Costco India & or Author)

Guest Speakers:

Mrs. Tina Balachandran- (Hillcrest Parent, worked with youth in India)

Ms. Amrita Kauldher – (Hillcrest Blue Team Teacher)

"Ms. Kauldher will be presenting on her trip to India in March, her experiences visiting for the first time, learning where her family came from and making a personal connection to the theme of caste that was in the novel. "

Block B, C, D, E, & F Stations



Station 1: Ms. Roberts- Bollywood Dance (Gym) for all 4 classes and teachers of your team in the gym.

Station 2: Mrs. TW- Cuisine of India (Home Ec Room)- Split your block so 2 classes come the first 26 mins and the other 2 classes come the second 26mins. Teachers may select a student from their class to be a sous chef for our Roti Demonstration. Following the demo they will travel to the Costco India like sampling stations of some foods mentioned in the book such as; pakora, biryani, roti, samosas and chai tea.

Station 3: Reading Activity (Library)- Games with origins from India, maps and books. Bring your team in to engage.

Station 4: Mrs. Ngo- Hillcrest Cares Club (Drama Stage/MPR)- Will be running a team activity. Students will engage in a Global Village in Crisis Presentation with a Trivia component in the DRAMA Stage Room (15 min) then move to the MPR to roam the Global Village Market (30 min). The market will have "international street" games and goodies to raise money for the Food Bank.

Hillcrest – CARES Club - SPECIAL REQUEST: For our Hillcrest CARES Club to sponsor this station we are looking for people to volunteer baked goods that will be on sale throughout the day. Your creative contribution of tasty morsels of different assortments of baked goods will go along way in our efforts to support our local Tri-Cities Food Bank. Our goal is to take the knowledge from our shared story read aloud; whereby, poverty and food become major themes in our school wide read novel and make the connection to the food needs in our own community. **YOUR SUPPORT** of baked goods can help us have an impact for our neighbours in our community.

Mrs. Ngo/ Mrs. Byrne

Theme: Global Village in Crisis

**Baked Goods with "global" theme if possible, eg. earth, flags, nature Flora & Fauna
 Cupcakes, Sugar cookies, Chocolate Chip Cookies, Brownies, "maple" flavoured treat, etc.**

Date: Tuesday, December 10th

Drop off goods in morning of the 10th at the office, labeled with Hillcrest Cares.

Station 5: Circle Time (classrooms)- Focused on a theme in the book; loss, creating family, friendships, perseverance, resilience...

Schedule:

Block A: School-Wide Assembly gym

Block B 9:33- 10:26	Block C 10:40-11:33	Block D 11:33-12:26	Block E 1:15-2:08	Block F 2:08-3pm
Green Station 1 Bollywood Dance Gym	Green Station 5 Circle Time in classrooms	Green Station 4 Hillcrest Cares Club in the Drama Stage Room first then MPR	Green Station 3 Reading Activity in the Library	Green Station 2 Cuisine of India Home Ec Room First 2 classes 2:08- 2:34pm Second 2 classes 2:34-3pm
Blue Station 2 Cuisine of India Home Ec Room First 2 classes- 9:33-10am Second 2 classes 10am-10:26am	Blue Station 1 Bollywood Dance Gym	Blue Station 5 Circle Time in classrooms	Blue Station 4 Hillcrest Cares Club in the Drama Stage Room first then MPR	Blue Station 3 Reading Activity in the Library
Red Station 3 Reading Activity in the Library	Red Station 2 Cuisine of India Home Ec Room First 2 classes- 10:40-11:06 Second 2 classes 11:06-11:33	Red Station 1 Bollywood Dance Gym	Red Station 5 Circle Time in classrooms	Red Station 4 Hillcrest Cares Club in the Drama Stage Room first then MPR
Yellow Station 4 Hillcrest Cares Club in the Drama Stage Room first then MPR	Yellow Station 3 Reading Activity in the Library	Yellow Station 2 Cuisine of India Home Ec Room First 2 classes 11:33-12 Second 2 classes 12-12:26	Yellow Station 1 Bollywood Dance Gym	Yellow Station 5 Circle Time in classrooms

Orange Station 5	Orange Station 4	Orange Station 3	Orange Station 2	Orange Station 1
Circle Time in classrooms	Hillcrest Cares Club in the Drama Stage Room first then MPR	Reading Activity in the Library	Cuisine of India Home Ec Room First 2 classes 1:15-1:42 Second 2 classes 1:42-2:08	Bollywood Dance Gym

Gr. 7 Middle Years Development Index - Coquitlam SD #43 has partnered with the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at UBC to invite Gr. 7 students at Hillcrest to take part in completing the Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI). The MDI is a self-report questionnaire that asks children in Grade 4 and grade 7 about their thoughts, feelings and experiences in school and in the community. The survey questions align with the BC Ministry of Education’s K-12 curriculum which includes a focus on promoting children’s personal and social competencies.

The questionnaire will be administered between January 15th and February 21st, 2020.

Gr. 7 parents will receive more information this week about your child’s participation in the MDI.

Math Mania @ Montgomery Middle

Montgomery Middle School has invited the popular *Math Mania* program to the school for an evening event. We are pleased to be able to come to the school on **Tuesday, December 3rd 2019**. The event will be held in the gym from **6:30 to 8:00 pm**. In order to hold this event, there will be a number of volunteers coming to the school – students from the Math for Teachers course at Douglas College. We are really looking forward to meeting you and your children at the school on December 3rd.

What is Math Mania?

Math Mania is a popular alternative math education event which has been presented in some of the elementary schools in Victoria, the Lower Mainland and other areas of the Province- the events have been held since 1997. These events are free, open to all students in the school and to their community. We welcome all age levels – parents are welcome to participate.

This event is being hosted by Douglas College and sponsored by PIMS as part of an educational outreach program.

Math Mania presents a variety of interactive demonstrations, puzzles, games and activities including error detection, the penny game, the Set Game, Towers of Hanoi, polyhedra building, modular origami and paper cutting and folding. Youth and adults can explore a number of mathematical ideas, puzzles and paradoxes. All of the activities are designed to be hands on and demonstrate to students - and their parents - fun ways of learning both math and computer science concepts.

For more information, check out the PIMS Math Mania web-page at:

<http://www.pims.math.ca/educational/math-mania/>

Red Cross Babysitting Course – This is the first information sharing for a wonderful opportunity for students interested in adding to their learning portfolio for registration in a training session and certificate in the Red Cross Babysitting Course. This opportunity usually fills up very quickly, so please discuss with your child their plans for this date as it is a Professional Development Day at Hillcrest, thus your child has the flexibility to attend and participate at their home school. Registration is limited!

Red Cross Babysitting Course

So, you want to be a babysitter? Or, your parents want you to take this course, so they feel confident leaving you at home alone? Babysitting with First Aid Hero emphasizes learning through real life scenarios. information covered includes: Exploring the business of babysitting, creating safe environments, safely caring for ages 0-12, and first aid skills.

Red Cross Babysitting Course

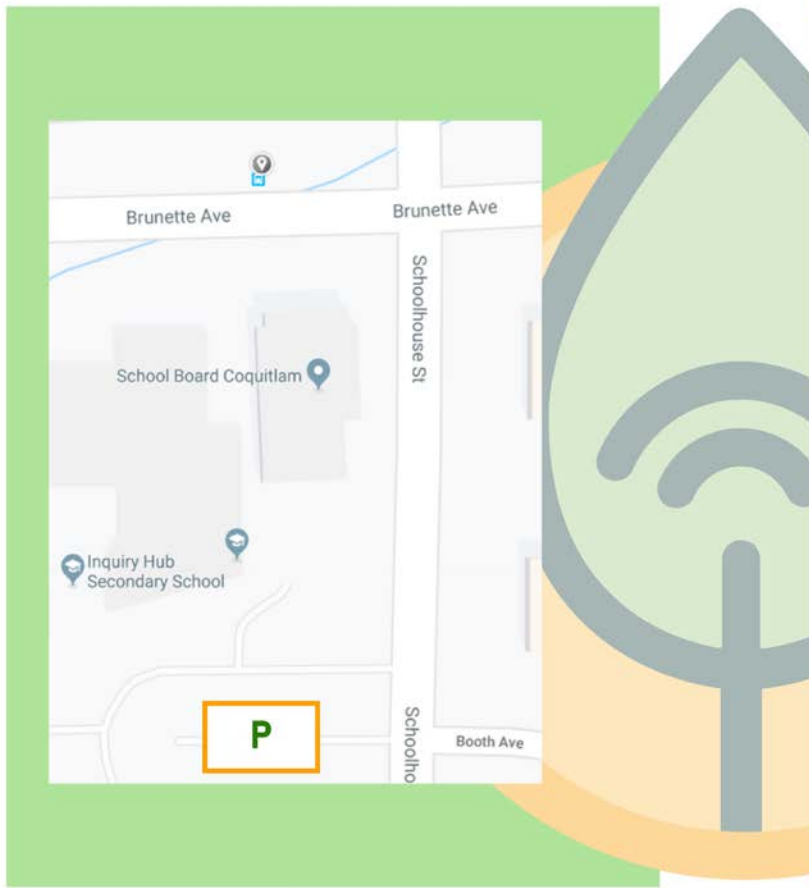
Hillcrest, Jan.27, 2020, 8:30-3:30

Grade 6+

\$60 + GST online registration

<http://www.firstaidhero.com/babysitting-vancouver.html>

SD #43 – Inquiry Hub Open House – For students interested in an alternative learning environment for their Gr. 8 and 9 education you may want to checkout the Open House at iHub on Wednesday December 4th @ 6:00. For more information see the following link and invite below: <http://www.inquiryhub.org/open/>



Inquiry Hub is School District 43's award- winning, inquiry-based, public secondary school. We're looking for motivated learners; students who want to, and can, make a difference.

So, we're inviting you to an open house where students will share their dreams, their creations, and what it's like to learn at Inquiry Hub.

Please RSVP at inquiryhub.org/open

Wednesday Dec. 4th, 6:00pm

Inquiry Hub at Millside Centre,
1432 Brunette Ave.
Coquitlam B.C., V3K 1G5

Winter Weather Ahead!

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>

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.

PAC News and Events:

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

To provide a stronger profile and presence of our PAC information you will now see in this email two newsletters – Our Hillcrest Happenings and the PAC News and Events. This will provide you the reader with a more direct connection to PAC information

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.