

Happenings – Hillcrest Middle Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2024

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

Upcoming Events:

Sept. 10	Babysitting Course Registration Opens (details below)	Oct. 4	Ravens Bowling
Sept. 16	PAC Meeting	Oct. 10	Individual Photo Retakes
Sept. 18	3-way Conferences – Early Dismissal 1:42	Oct. 14	Thanksgiving Stat
Sept. 19	3-way Conferences – Early Dismissal 1:42	Oct. 25	Pro D Day (District)
Sept. 20	Pro D Day (District)	Oct. 28	Explorations Term 1 ends
Sept. 20	Babysitting Course (registration required)	Oct. 29	Explorations Term 2 begins
Sept. 23	Individual Photo Day	Nov. 11	Remembrance Day Stat
Sept. 24	Div 11/12 Kayaking at Rocky Point	Nov. 21	Grade 6 Immunizations (1A)
Sept. 25	Div 9/10 Kayaking at Rocky Point	Dec. 2	Grade 6 Immunizations (1B)
Sept. 27	Terry Fox Run and Assembly	Dec. 20	Last Day before Winter Break
Sept. 30	Truth and Reconciliation Stat		

Repeating Events:

Band/Choir (begins September 10th):

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

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

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

Athletics:

Coming Soon!

Breakfast Club (begins September 9th): Available daily for ALL students 8:00-8:30am

Important Reminders:

Complete and return the gold Emergency Release Form – were due back Wednesday, Sept 4th

If your student has a medical alert, you must submit the required forms immediately

Complete the forms on School Cash Online. Classes will not be able to go on walking trips in the park until everyone has completed their District -School Policies form. You can also pay the school activity fee and submit volunteer forms.



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Principal's Message

As we ring in the 2024-25 school year, we have lots to be excited about at Hillcrest! We hope that your family had a great summer that was filled with great memories 😊

We need parents to step up and volunteer for Hillcrest PAC (Parent Advisory Council) executive positions. It is mandated by provincial law that every school has a PAC. Without one, our school will not have access to extra funding from the province. I urge you to consider volunteering for PAC to enhance the learning experience for your child. Previously, our PAC has provided classroom funds for consumables, money to subsidize field trips and funds for special projects. In addition, PAC funds have given us the ability to purchase extra athletics/PE equipment and to bring in Art Starts performers and guest speakers. Your child benefits greatly when we have a strong group of parent volunteers!

Mr. Wiskar and Mr. Holbrook have been working hard on another collaborative school-wide project like we did last year with the Ancient Civilization Fair. What we learned from that experience will be used to improve our upcoming Renaissance Fair in 2024-25. Our doors will be open for families to help us celebrate all the amazing learning accomplishments.

Other changes to this year will see more student assemblies and adjustments to our Student Leadership Council (HLC). In addition, we will endeavor to make deeper connections with our family of schools (Charles Best, Centennial, Baker Drive, Parkland, RVP, Meadowbrook, Ranch Park and Harbor View). Our staff will continue to offer a multitude of opportunities for our students to join clubs at lunch and after school. Last year we had the following clubs: boardgame, crafting, D & D, chess, cooking, Minecraft, Hot Wheels, Pokémon, yearbook, graphic design, table tennis, book, sewing, coding, newspaper, school beautification, creativity, intramurals and chill zone. If your child has an idea for a club, they should discuss it first with their teacher as all clubs need to have a staff member to sponsor them.

On Thursdays, we have our YMCA youth workers (Joe and Jason) on site who will be here to support our students throughout the day and after school. Part of their mandate is to promote YMCA programming for families in our community. They have an incredible facility located a short distance away that offers a multitude of programs to support families. Stay tuned for more information.

Last Spring, we were able to bring in the following after school programs through DWUL: volleyball, soccer, basketball, flag-football, chess, coding and art. Currently, we have chess lined up on the DWUL website (<https://www.dwul.io/search?result=hillcrest>) for registration at Hillcrest. Please email me if you have other suggestions for after school programs for this Fall.

We will be posting our daily announcements on the school website so family members at home can stay in the loop.

Finished facility improvements:

- Sports Court Expansion
- Gaga Ball Pit
- Gym floor refinishing
- Crest Café upgrades
- 7 new TV's

Upcoming facility improvements:

- New entry mats
- New wrestling mats
- New AV system for the gym
- Window coverings for classrooms
- Student desks/tables/chairs



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Welcoming Conversations (3 way):

- Sept. 18 & 19 (Early Dismissal at 1:42 pm)
- We urge you to book an appointment with your child's teacher to share your family story and to set up a plan to support your child's socio-emotional and academic development.
- Teachers will be reaching out soon with how to book an appointment.
- Exploration teachers will be hosting an Open House for informal visits.

Student & Family Affordability Fund (SFAF) & Feeding Futures

The province is continuing to support families experiencing financial difficulties related to inflationary pressures we can provide the following:

- Bagged Lunch Program (provided by the school district)
- Breakfast Club (access is free for ALL students)
- SFAF - School Supplies (including winter clothing)
- SFAF - School Fees (including athletic and field trips)
- SFAF - Fees for after school programming (through DWUL)

Please contact Mr. Jacobsen or Mr. Hart for a confidential conversation about your family situation to access SFAF funding.

Staffing for 2024-25:

We had a few teacher changes for this school year due to vice-principal appointments, resignation, temporary positions and moving schools (Ms. Penk, Mr. Rosse, Mr. Arthur, Ms. Toolsie-Worsnup, Ms. Azaroff, Ms. Yeates, Mr. Abramzik).

Many of the changes this year have been on the Explorations Team:

- Mr. Rusby will be teaching Music.
- Ms. Bahng will be teaching Health and Wellness.
- Mr. Poth will be teaching Art.
- Mr. Ross will continue with Digital Media Arts and Ms. Litz will continue with Outdoor Education.

New to Hillcrest we have:

- Ms. Nicholson – Ravens grade 7-8
- Ms. McKinlay – Ravens grade 7-8
- Ms. Filomarino – Eagles grade 8
- Ms. Kuba – Owls grade 6-7
- Ms. Duncan – Student Services
- Ms. O'Neill – Eagles grade 8

I look forward to a great year of learning at Hillcrest 😊
Ross Jacobsen, Principal



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Babysitting Course Friday, September 20th

Hillcrest will be offering a babysitting course for interested students where they can build their knowledge about babysitting. This full day babysitting course will take place on Friday, September 20th. This is a Pro-D day, so participating students will not miss any schoolwork.

This hands-on course will run from 8:40am – 2:42pm with regular breaks for Nutrition Break and Lunch. At the end you will receive a certificate of completion.

Here are some of the things that students will learn in this course:

- Look after babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children
- Care for yourself and siblings when home alone
- Create a safe environment and deal with phone calls and unexpected visitors
- React confidently in case of an emergency, such as choking, bleeding, poisoning or burns
- Cope with common problems such as tantrums and crying
- Play games and organize activities to keep kids of all ages entertained
- Manage a babysitting business. This includes creating a resume and a business card and asking the right questions before accepting a babysitting job
- Learn how to correctly fit a helmet to a child (participants are asked to bring a helmet to the course if they have one)
- Students need to bring a pencil/pen to the course

We need a minimum of 20 students to sign up and the maximum is 25 students. The first 25 students to sign up will receive a spot in this course. **Registration starts Tuesday, September 10th at 9:00am on School Cash Online. It will fill very quickly – usually within first 3 minutes.**

Cost for this course is \$39.00

If you have any questions, please reach out to Mr. Gangnes (pgangnes@sd43.bc.ca)

Hillcrest PAC

PAC Meetings

Our first PAC meeting will be **September 16th at 7:00pm** in the Hillcrest LLC. We encourage all parents to join us. 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](#)

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.