

Happenings – Hillcrest Middle Newsletter

MAY 2025

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

Upcoming Events (including information for our incoming Grade 5 families):

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|--------|--|----------|--|
| May 2 | Ravens/Owls to Charles Best Play | June 2 | Pro D Day (school based) |
| May 5 | PAC AGM 7:00pm LLC | June 2 | Babysitting Course (registration in May) |
| May 5 | Div 11/12 to Science World | June 3-6 | Bike to School Week |
| May 6 | Band/Choir Music Festival in the Park | June 4 | PAC Lunch Sushi Fu |
| May 7 | PAC Lunch A & W | June 5 | Grade 6 for morning (for grade 5 students) |
| May 7 | Eagles to Charles Best Play | June 5 | Grade 6 Immunizations (Round 2A) |
| May 8 | Div. 7 to Science World | June 10 | Grade 8 HPV Immunizations |
| May 12 | Deadline to order PAC lunch for May 21 | June 12 | Jays to Otter Coop Waterpark |
| May 13 | 9:00am Registration for Babysitting Course | June 13 | Activity Day |
| May 15 | Grade 5 Parent Information Night | June 16 | Grade 6 Immunizations (Round 2B) |
| May 19 | Victoria Day Stat Holiday | June 17 | Spring Band and Choir Concert |
| May 21 | Beginner Band Day | June 20 | Eagles/Ravens to Movie |
| May 21 | PAC Lunch Subway | June 26 | Grade 8 Leaving Ceremonies: Yellow Eagles: 9:00-10:00am Orange Ravens: 10:30-11:30am |
| May 22 | Div 18/19 Swimming at Mundy Park Pool | | |
| May 26 | Deadline to order PAC lunch for June 4 | | |
| May 27 | Jays Swimming at Mundy Park Pool | | |
| May 29 | Owls Swimming at Mundy Park Pool | | |
| May 30 | Div 17/20 Swimming at Mundy Park Pool | | |

Repeating Events:

Band/Choir:

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:

Track and Field: Tuesday/Thursday lunch
Track Meets: May 14, 21 District Meet: June 6

Open Gym: 8:00am daily

Breakfast Club: Available daily for ALL students 8:00-8:30am

After School Club in the MPR: Daily 2:42-3:50pm



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Principal's Message

April 28 & Traffic Congestion

- A big thanks to everyone for helping out with an alternate transportation plan when Hillcrest was a federal polling site on April 28. Together, we managed to avoid a major traffic nightmare at drop-off and pick-up.
- I have spent months observing and analyzing the traffic patterns at drop-off and pick-up. One of the solutions that has been suggested was to open up the chain between the south and west parking lots. You may have noticed that we took down the chain to expedite traffic flow on April 28. However, a near miss between a student on a bike and a SUV was enough to convince me that the chain needs to separate the two parking lots. There is simply too much bike and foot traffic heading west towards Regan Ave. after school ends.
- If you have any questions or concerns around traffic safety and drop-off and pick-up procedures, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Student Expectations Assemblies (May 9)

- As we did last Spring, Mr. Hart and I will be reviewing the Code of Conduct with students as a reminder of the rules and expectations at Hillcrest. Please see the attached copy.
- We will be discussing respectful dress expectations with students on May 9. This is always a tricky subject. Please know that students will always be treated with respect and no student will be forced to cover up with clothing from the lost and found. Nor will students be sent home. Things will start with a private conversation and a reminder to make an appropriate choice on the next day of school. We all know that traditional dress codes have been discriminatory towards girls in the past. Our respectful dress expectations at Hillcrest will apply to both boys and girls.

Student Feedback about Hillcrest or “Street Data”

- 3-4 students per class were selected to participate. The point of the surveys is to gauge student beliefs around agency. AGENCY is what truly matters to build an inclusive school community. It is the idea that people have the capacity to take action, craft and carry out plans, and make informed decisions based on a growing base of knowledge. This feedback will help the staff navigate school goals and programming for the 2025-26 school year.
- The 4 domains of agency that our students were surveyed included:
 - Core Identity: Your ways of being, learning and knowing in the world.
 - Mastery: To build knowledge and demonstrate understanding as a learner.
 - Belonging: “I see myself, and I am seen and cared for here.” Belonging emerges in a classroom characterized by deep and caring relationships.
 - Efficacy: A feeling that “I can make a difference here.” Can our learners set an intention and achieve a desired result in their learning?

Parent Night (May 15) from 6:00 to 7:15 pm.

- We look forward to meeting our new to Hillcrest families on May 15. This event is for incoming grade 5 families and for families with children entering grade 7 or 8 at Hillcrest.
- Student leaders at Hillcrest will do a tour of the school and we will discuss the pillars of middle school, early adolescence and Hillcrest. After the tour, we will have a Question and Answer session in the gym



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Class Building Process for 2025-26

- Positive Peer Connections
 - Each student will be placed with at least 1 positive peer connection. Our current grade 6's and 7's will be submitting a list of names to their homeroom teachers shortly. Current grade 5 students have likely done this already at their elementary schools.
 - A positive peer connection does not necessarily mean a "friend." It means a peer whom your child has a positive LEARNING connection with. On many occasions, friends do not work well together and if that is the case, they will not be placed together. School is important to build social connections, but it is also about learning and getting work done.
- Parent Requests for Placement
 - We do NOT take parent requests for class placement (except in extenuating circumstances). I am always up for a chat if you have concerns about class placement.
 - Each student will have a digital articulation card with all the relevant information we need to know about them as a learner. We will then take this information and place it in a software program called "Class Solver." This program will enable us to ensure that every student has a minimum of one positive peer connection. No more human errors! In addition, Class Solver has the ability like never before to build balanced and equitable classes (which is our end goal).

Important Reminder:

Now that the weather is getting nicer, classes are going outside for walks more often. If you are planning to pick up your student early, please let the office know first thing in the morning to allow us to make sure they are at the office waiting for you.

Babysitting Course

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 **Monday, June 2nd**. This is a Pro-D day at Hillcrest, 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, May 13th at 9:00am on School Cash Online.

It will fill very quickly – usually within first 3 minutes. Cost for this course is \$39.00



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Hillcrest Yearbook

Purchase your 2024-2025 Hillcrest Yearbook on School Cash Online for \$45. Limited quantities – don't miss out! Yearbooks are distributed in June. **Only 4 left!** If you don't see this item in your School Cash Online, you have likely already purchased it. Please check your purchase history before calling the school.

Hillcrest PAC

PAC Meetings

Our next PAC AGM will be **May 5th 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](#)