



# HILLCREST MIDDLE SCHOOL

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## *Happenings – Hillcrest Middle Newsletter*

# SEPTEMBER 2025

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

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

Sep 2	First Day	Sep 26	Terry Fox Assembly and Run
Sep 10	Jays Team Swim	Sep 30	Truth and Reconciliation Stat
Sep 12	Owls Team Swim	Oct 8	Falcons to Britannia Mines
Sep 17/18	Early Dismissal 1:45pm – Welcoming Conversations	Oct 9	Individual Photo Retakes
Sep 19	Pro D Day (no school)	Oct 13	Thanksgiving Stat
Sep 22	Individual and Class Photos	Oct 24	Pro D Day (no school)
Sep 22	Hillcrest PAC Meeting 7:00pm		

### **Repeating Events:**

#### **Band/Choir:**

Beginner Band: starting soon!      Advanced Band: starting soon!  
Choir: Wednesday 7:45

#### **Athletics:**

Coming Soon!      Reminder to pay your one-time Athletic Fee in School Cash Online

**Open Gym:** 8:00am daily

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

**After School Club in the MPR:** Daily 2:45-3:50pm



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### **Important Reminders:**

- **Complete and return the gold Emergency Release Form (sent home today) – Due Tuesday**
- **Complete 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 the athletic fee.**
- **If you are dropping off lunch, please label it and leave it on the table in front of office**
- **If your student is arriving late, they must sign in at the office. If they are leaving early, we must hear from a parent, and the student must sign out at the office before leaving with the parent.**

### **Principal's Message**

On behalf of Mr. Hart, I want to welcome back all the returning Hillcrest families and the those who are new to this community. We have a wonderful group of educators and support staff in place to provide your child with an amazing year of learning. We are excited about our plans to increase student engagement and belonging at Hillcrest. Student engagement only works with the cooperation of all parties involved so please give your child a nudge to join a club, a team or a group so they can make new connections with peers and adults alike.

Sincerely, Your Hillcrest Admin. Team  
Ross Jacobsen, Principal  
Jeff Hart, Vice-Principal

### **Class Placements**

After three full days of very successful Team building, students moved to their permanent classes today. We know that some students will take some time to adjust to their new classes, and we are ready to support them. As ALL classes are at maximum capacity with respect to class size/composition, there can be no further movement.

What we have come to learn about using Class Solver is that it is only as good as the data that we input. There have been many examples where a student only listed 2 positive peer connections and that has limited our ability to place them. Students were directed in the Spring to give us 4-5 names of students who are positive peer connections. With 4-5 names, Class Solver would have easily placed them in a class with at least one of the listed students.

### **Early Dismissals for Welcoming Conversations – Sept. 17 & 18 @ 1:45 pm**

We hope that you can make the time to meet your child's new or returning teacher(s). Each teacher will be sending out a procedure for signing up with time slots. If you are unable to commit, please reach out to find an alternate date and time. These meetings are important for your child's teacher to know your child's strengths and stretches and to collaboratively plan learning goals for the year. We encourage you to arrive on time and with your child/student present to participate.



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### **Student Drop-off**

It is very smooth in the morning in the South parking lot (off Regan). On the other hand, over at the West parking lot, it can get very busy because the light at Thermal and Como Lake only allows 7-9 vehicles per green light.

\*Pro-tip is to use the South lot for drop-off.

### **Student Pick-up**

It is better in the South lot (off Regan) compared to the West loop as the congestion this past week has been bad. Please do not double park and/or leave your vehicle. Be courteous and pull up as far as you can to allow other drivers the ability to easily park behind you.

*Suggestions:*

- Teach your child how to take public transit.
- Have your child walk, bike or scooter to school.

*If you **MUST** drive students to school:*

- Have your child walk one block away from the school for an alternate pick-up location.

\*Pro-tip: use the Metro Ford Soccer lot or Como Lake Village.

- Arrive after 2:55 pm

*Reminders:*

- Double parking is unsafe for pedestrians and for emergency vehicles to get through in case of an emergency. Mr. Hart and I will be asking vehicles to move if they are double parked.

### **High Cost of Living**

For families experiencing financial hardship, please email Mr. Jacobsen ([rjacobsen@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:rjacobsen@sd43.bc.ca)) and we will have a private and confidential conversation about what supports we can offer.

*School Supplies*

- In light of inflation and cost pressures for families, we revamped and reduced the number of basic school supplies for this year. Please recycle and reuse as much as you can from leftovers.
- On Monday, your child's teacher may ask you for classroom specific items like coloured duotangs etc. Again, we are focused on keeping these costs low for families.

*SFAF money*

- The BC government has eliminated the Student and Family Affordability Fund (SFAF). In previous years, we have used these funds for families who were struggling to pay for things like school fees, school supplies, field trips, groceries, clothing, and other essential items.
- Knowing that this was coming, we did set aside some funding for 2025-26. It isn't nearly as much as in the past, but we will be able to help a small number of families.



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### *Feeding Futures*

- District funding for our Breakfast Club and lunch program will continue this year. If your family needs assistance with providing a healthy lunch due to financial hardship, please contact Mr. Jacobsen ([rjacobsen@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:rjacobsen@sd43.bc.ca)) or Ms. Kyle ([nkyle@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:nkyle@sd43.bc.ca)).

### **Ski & Snowboard Club 2025-26**

- More information will come out in mid-October. The program will accept approx. 100 participants, and priority will be given to the students in grade 8 who are first timers. The program will be like last year's with 4 days scheduled in February on Thursdays.

### **2025-26 Action Plan for Learning Highlights**

Using data from our Hillcrest student surveys from April 2025 and analyzing the results from our Middle Development Index (UBC) and Student Learning surveys (Ministry of Education), we concluded that we needed a plan to address:

1. Students are asking for more after-school programs. Thus, we have offered 4 programs through DWUL (<https://www.dwul.io/>) and a full assortment of athletics for the Fall (Volleyball, Field Hockey, Cross-Country and Swimming). More clubs will be coming online soon. Band and choir have already started recruiting students on Friday. Your child should track down Mr. Rusby for band and Ms. Plesko for choir. Our announcements are posted on our website so as caregivers you will be able to monitor when the sign-up meetings are for the various clubs and teams. Of course, we will be offering up additional programming for the Winter and Spring terms.
2. Students are telling us that they want to see more cultural celebrations and assemblies. To meet this need, we have Ms. Kuba, Ms. Litz and Ms. Plesko all dedicating some time to making this happen. We kick things off with a Spirit Assembly on Friday, September 12.
3. Students have also told us that they want more opportunities to give back. We have a plan to welcome more students to our leadership group (HLC) and to find more ways for our students to feel like they can make a difference in the world. Our first fundraising event will be to raise money for the Terry Fox Foundation through the Terry Fox Run on Friday, Sept. 26. Please consider donating by having your child do some jobs around the house/community 😊

**Hillcrest Middle School Fundraising Page:** <https://schools.terryfox.ca/HillcrestMiddleSchool>