



Sept. 25, 2019

# HILLCREST ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

4421 Greentree Tce. Victoria, BC V8N 3S9 Ph: 250-477-7273 Fax: 250-477-8400

E-Mail: [hillcrest@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:hillcrest@sd61.bc.ca) Web Site: <http://www.hillcrest.sd61.bc.ca>

Follow us on Twitter @hillcreststars

Principal: Dr. Cammy Coughlin Vice Principal: Mrs. Amanda Johnson Admin Asst: Ms. Jolette Holland

**School Goal:** To increase students' experience, understanding, and awareness of Aboriginal ways of knowing across the curriculum. As students explore their own identities along with learning from the Aboriginal perspective, this will lead to further growth in their emotional and social development.

Hillcrest is a globally aware community that values acceptance, diversity and engaged learning while fostering and celebrating student successes

## IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE



|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Thursday Sep 26</b>  | Terry Fox Run - 1:45 pm<br>Meet the Teacher Night - 6:30 - 7:15 pm   |
| <b>Monday Sep 30</b>    | Orange Shirt Day   |
| <b>Thursday Oct 3</b>   | Individual and Class Photo Day (for ordering info see below)   |
| <b>Friday Oct 4</b>     | PAC Pizza Lunch  |
| <b>Monday Oct 14</b>    | Thanksgiving Day - NO CLASSES  |
| <b>Tuesday Oct 15</b>   | PAC Meeting - 7pm  |
| <b>Friday Oct 18</b>    | PAC Subway Lunch   |
| <b>Wednesday Oct 23</b> | Early Dismissal for Parent Teacher Conferences - 11:38am<br>(Conferences from 12:40 - 6:40pm) - more info below  |
| <b>Thursday Oct 24</b>  | Early Dismissal for Parent Teacher Conferences - 11:38 am<br>(Conferences from 12:40 - 2:40pm) - more info below |
| <b>Friday Oct 25</b>    | Pro-D Day - NO CLASSES FOR STUDENTS  |
| <b>Thursday Oct 31</b>  | Orange & Black Day   |



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

September brings our students back to school with a fresh start and excitement for the year ahead. This month started us off with full classes and many new students to get to know. While most classrooms are well into their routines, a couple just got off the ground. We welcome Ms. Alicia Williamson and Mr. Travis Mitchell as our two newest teachers to the Hillcrest team.

Con't...

Our teachers are all looking forward to meeting you at our Meet the Teacher event tomorrow at 6:30 pm, in our school gym. Another opportunity for one-on-one with your child's teacher will be during Parent teacher conferences which will be held on Oct 23 & 24th. Of course, please be in touch with your child's teacher before then if you've any questions or concerns about your child's classroom or school experience. It is sure to be another great year for our students!

Cammy Coughlin

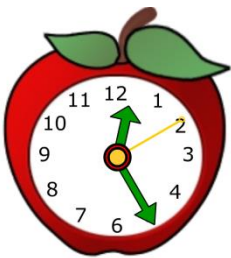


## A Message from the Vice Principal

Wow, what a busy and fantastic September it has been! It is hard to believe that it is officially fall but the changing leaves, and my two son's hectic ice hockey schedules, remind me that our season has changed! For me, September has been a month of first experiences as the new vice principal of Hillcrest. I can relate very well to our newest students in kindergarten as they learn the school culture, where everything is, who everyone is (and what their names are) and when and where everything happens. I want to extend a warm thank you to all the parents and students who have so kindly welcomed me into the Hillcrest School community. Looking forward to a great year of learning together!

Sincerely, Amanda Johnson

## HILLCREST ELEMENTARY BELL SCHEDULE



|               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Start time:   | 8:35 am             |
| Recess:       | 10:13 - 10:28 am    |
| Lunch (M,F):  | 11:38 am - 12:35 pm |
| Lunch (T,Th): | 11:38 am - 12:37 pm |
| Lunch (F):    | 11:39 - 12:36       |
| Dismissal:    | 2:40 pm             |

### *Is Your Child Late or You Need To Take Them Out Of School Early?*

If a child is late for school, please ensure that either your child, or you, sign them in at the front office, otherwise they will remain marked "absent excused". If you know that your child will be away, you need to let the teacher and the office know. If not, the teacher will record their absence as "unexcused", and you will receive an automated phone call from our student absence call out system. If your child must leave early, a parent or guardian needs to sign them out at the front office. Thank you for your cooperation. **AFTER SCHOOL PICK-UP:** Our school day ends at 2:40 pm. It is important to convey after school pick-up arrangements to your child BEFORE the start of their school day. We do not have supervision for students after school.

## MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT: Thurs, Sept 26<sup>th</sup>

We welcome you to come to the school after hours to meet your child's teacher, check out your child's classroom and to tour the school from 6:30 - 7:15 pm. We will meet and make staff introductions in the gym. You can then venture to your child's classroom until 7:15 pm. We will alert parents at 7:00 pm to move to a sibling's classroom (if applicable), and we will say our good byes at 7:15 pm. We encourage further, in-depth conversations with the teachers during our parent-teacher conferences on Oct 23 & 24<sup>th</sup> (more information to follow).



### UPCOMING PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-teacher conferences are coming up on  
**October 23 & 24<sup>th</sup>.**

At this point, school will have been in session for almost two months and is an opportune time to hear how your child is progressing in his/her first term. The school will be sending you information on how you can sign up on-line for your 15 minute appointment. This way you can choose what time works best for you during the two day period. The appointment start times will be from 12:40 - 5:25 pm on Wednesday Oct 23; and from 12:40 - 2:25 pm on Thursday Oct 24 (with teachers blocking out short time frames for a nutrition break). You will be informed via email on how/when to log on to sign up for your conference times. Note that report cards for term one go home on Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>.



### **PHOTO DAY IS COMING - Thursday Oct 3**

After Picture Day, order your pictures on [mylifetouch.ca](http://mylifetouch.ca)  
using your Portrait ID and Access Code:

**QU479494QP.**

## CHOIR NOTES

Mrs. Seale will be offering an extra-curricular choir this year for those students in grades 3, 4 and 5 who love to sing and would enjoy some additional performance opportunities. Choir rehearsals are scheduled for every Thursday at lunchtime, after the students eat, during the outside play time. Rehearsals will run from 11:58 to 12:36 and those students who have signed up are expected to attend every rehearsal unless they are absent from school that day. Choir rehearsals will begin on Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, and I will be speaking to the students about this in their performing arts class. Parental involvement is encouraged and appreciated. Please email Mrs. Seale at [jseale@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:jseale@sd61.bc.ca) if you are able to help. No prior musical experience is required

Thank you, Mrs. Seale



### Orange Shirt Day - Monday Oct.30



Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in the spring of 2013. It grew out of [Phyllis' story](#) of having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually.

The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. It also gives teachers time to plan events that will include children, as we want to ensure that we are passing the story and learning on to the next generations.

Orange Shirt Day is also an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

### District Complaint Process for a Resolution of Concerns

Our school district has a detailed process that addresses complaints that come to the school.

Please read the following Regulation 1155 should you wish to forward a complaint:  
<https://www.sd61.bc.ca/our-district/documents/name/regulation-1155-complaint-process-for-a-resolution-of-concerns/>

## NOON HOUR SUPERVISOR - JOB OPENING -

We are looking for a noon hour supervisor to join our team. If you love kids and would like to earn some extra income, submit your letter of interest to Mrs. Coughlin by Oct 3. Must be available Mon-Fri, when school is in session. One hour/day - 11:38-12:38 pm. First Aid certificate is required.



## 1000X5

1000 Books by Age Five  
Children's Book Recycling Project Greater Victoria

### BOOK FOR EVERY CHILD, EVERYDAY

Every child develops language, imagination and love of learning by hearing story after story by age five. But many families lack the resources to provide these critical books for their babies and preschoolers. With your help 1000X5 has sent 200,000 books into homes providing 30 books/year for each child. That changes everything in reading opportunities and habits.

We always need more books – and they always come in to the volunteers who sort and package for the 27 agencies giving a gift bag of 3 books every month to the families who attend their free programs.

Please bring your gently used child and toddler books to the pink in in the school foyer



### A Few Things to Remember:

Student Pack Ups: If you haven't already done so, please take a few moments to go through the forms that were sent home a couple of weeks ago, and return them to the school as soon as possible.

Planner Payments: Thank you for remembering to pay for your child's student planner! If you are able, please remember to pay online (or bring your \$10 to the school)

## PARKING LOT CONCERNS

We are becoming increasingly concerned about the congestion in the parking lot closest to the gym. This area is not meant to be a student pick-up or drop-off area, and yet we know the following is happening:

- Students are going through the parking lot to get to their parent's cars when cars are actively moving through the lot.
- Cars are being blocked in by other cars.
- Cars are parking in the fire lane.
- Cars are parking on the grass, etc.

The designated drop-off and pick-up zone is in the "Staff Parking Only" lot where cars can actually drive through. We have a supervisor in place both before and after school to monitor the zone. We do not have a supervisor in the adjacent parking lot, nor should we need one if everyone abided by the procedures. Please do not use the parking lot for dropping off or picking up your child. We suggest you park further down the road and either park and walk your child to school, or allow your child to walk independently. The parking lot is for staff and for parents who are taking their little ones to the preschool in our building. Be respectful that everyone is busy and has places to go, and our ultimate concern is ensuring that our students are safe on the school grounds. Should a car be reported in the fire lane or is blocking another car from leaving, the car will be towed. Thank you for doing your part to keep all of our children safe at Hillcrest.



### Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP) through Industrial Alliance

This plan replaces the previous plan that was offered in previous years: Kids Plus Accident Insurance – through IA Financial Group.

This program is once again an alternative for parents to purchase for your students or family if you do not already have extended medical coverage through another plan. This voluntary plan provides coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses and critical illness.

Families can register online to participate in the FARP using the following URL:

<https://www.solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc>

If you have questions about the program you can contact Industrial Alliance directly using the following contact information: Phone 1.800.266.5667 or Email [solutions@ia.ca](mailto:solutions@ia.ca)