



November 27, 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 Web Site: <http://www.sd61.bc.ca>

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

Wednesday Dec 4	Star Search – 1pm
Friday Dec 6	PAC Pizza Lunch Dance Pl3y Student Performance – 1:45pm in the gym
Friday Dec 13	PAC Movie Night – 5:45pm doors open, 6pm start
Wednesday Dec 18	PAC Subway Lunch Aboriginal cultural event & luncheon Newsletter home
Friday Dec 20	Last Day of Classes before Winter Holiday (Dec 23 – Jan 3) Spirit Day - PJ & Stuffie Day! Report Cards home



Teachers are beginning to plan to write your child's first term report cards, so you may hear about different assessments occurring in the classroom. Students in grades 1 – 5 are assessed twice a year for their reading levels through an assessment tool called "Benchmarks". This assessment tests reading fluency as well as comprehension, and helps the teacher to gear the reading instruction. I look forward to reading about the students' progress in this first term, and then to compare it as the year progresses. Our younger students show much diversity in their learning in the primary years (K-3), and it is awesome to see them learn and grow socially and emotionally. The first set of report cards will be sent home with your child on Dec 20th.

Cammy Coughlin

WELCOME TO HILLCREST - We wish Ms. Natalie Smith a warm Hillcrest welcome as she joins Div 11 on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. **GOODBYE** to Ms. Shonki from Div 11, we wish her all the best in her endeavors.

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

We value every minute of instructional time at Hillcrest. If you need to speak to a teacher, we ask that you either email, phone or send a note in your child's planner to request and set up a time. Once the morning bell rings, teachers are ready to start their day, and it is not the most opportune time to discuss concerns or address questions you may have, especially with a class full of students. Also, the time BEFORE the entry bell is important for teachers. This is a time where teachers are preparing for their day (photocopying, setting up or gathering supplies, previewing on-line programs, etc). They may be in the room, but may not be available for discussions. Thank you in advance for your understanding of the importance of our daily learning schedule.



Second Step Program

Our staff has devoted their professional learning time to learn more about the Second Step Program (SSP) that our school will be formally adopting in January 2020.

The SSP promotes school success, school connectedness, and a safe and respectful school climate. The SSP directly teaches students the skills that strengthen their ability to learn, have empathy, manage emotions and solve problems. It prevents problem behaviors, peer rejection, impulsivity, antisocial behavior and low academic achievement. It does this by developing students' self-regulation skills, social-emotional competencies and school connectedness.

January's goal will be to reinforce that school is a welcoming place with norms for safety, respect and responsibility. The SSP has opportunities for parents to be involved so that skills can be reinforced at home. Each individual teacher will communicate this information to you, or ask your child about what they are learning to be a better listener, how to focus better, how self-talk can help us learn and how asking for help is best when we get stuck. Mrs. Coughlin will be presenting more about the SSP in January's PAC meeting on Tues, Jan 21st at 7 pm.



HOLIDAY GREETING CARDS

The grade 3/4 classes have worked very hard to make holiday cards. They are available to preview and order forms are located on the second floor hallway above out of school care. 20% of proceeds are going to cancer research, and the remaining proceeds benefit our student artists through classroom programs and activities. The due date for orders is extended until Monday, December 2.



Hillcrest's School Based Team

We have a strong school-based team at Hillcrest, who all have specialties that make our discussions rich and supportive for teachers. At our school, we try to intervene in the early years to assist students who are experiencing challenges. Some of these interventions include learning support, and referrals to our occupational therapist, speech and language pathologist, physical therapist and our school counsellor. As a school-based team (SBT), we meet weekly to discuss students who require supports. Our team consists of the principal and vice principal, English Language Specialist - Sarah Ball, School Counsellor - Sonnie Marsh and Learning Support Teachers - Shelley Weston and Tara Anderson. Should a parent have a concern, they can inform the teacher who can then share this information at a SBT meeting. We would refer this forward if the team feels it is warranted and necessary for the child's education or development.

Swim Club Update

A Swim Club meeting was called a few weeks ago just to get an idea regarding the number of students wishing to take part. This information was needed early on in order to determine the number of coaches required.

I am told that the program is having a difficult time finding enough coaches. A couple of weeks ago I received confirmation that pool time was available for us on Fridays at 3:15, however, no coach had been confirmed.

I am happy to report that today I received an email letting me know that one coach has been confirmed. For groups of more than 12 swimmers, which we will likely be, a second person is required to be on the pool deck in place of a second coach. We should be able to make this work as I have a few others at school who have offered to help.

I will pass on more information regarding dates as soon as it becomes available. Also, I will call a meeting for swimmers in order to distribute permission forms and payment information.

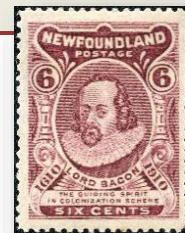
Thank you for your patience,
Siobhan Kivell



Stamp Club News

Mrs. Weston and Mr. Lim would like to extend an invitation for all interested students in grades one through five to join Stamp Club this year. Mr. Don Shorting is returning to Hillcrest and will be hosting an information session on Wed Dec. 11th at 12:00 pm in the library. We look forward to meeting all returning stamp collectors and hope to meet many new faces this year.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Weston & Mr. Lim





STUDENT PERFORMANCES

This year we will be offering a Spring Concert for all of our students, rather than a Winter Concert. The spring concert will take place on the afternoons of May 6 & 7, 2020. Further information will follow as we get closer to the dates.

The Star Search program that Mrs. Seale leads has been changed from a spring date to a winter date of Wed, Dec 4th at 1 pm. The winter concert and spring concert will alternate years (the next winter concert will be in Dec 2020), with the goal that all of our students have the opportunity to participate in a performance each year.



DANCEPL3Y

DANCEPL3Y was born from a need for a more fun and engaging way for people to discover the physical, social and mental benefits of dance.

On December 6th at 1:45pm, students will perform 4 or 5 songs in front of the entire school that they have learned during the Dancepl3y program. Parents and caregivers are invited to attend and there is a suggested donation of \$5.00.

CHOIR NOTES

Thank you to the choir members who sang so beautifully at our Remembrance Day Assembly. Choristers can be very proud of their commitment, attention to detail and poise as they stood in front of such a large audience and performed so well. I am also very grateful to parent helpers Sandy Hansen, Michelle Loukko, Trish Myers, Sarah Schoeck, and Suzi Smart for their invaluable help with the assembly.

The choir has been invited to sing at Berwick House on Tuesday, December 17th at 7pm for the Seniors Residence annual Winter Event. Choristers are asked to arrive at 4062 Shelbourne Street by 6:40 pm in their usual performance attire of a dark pant or skirt and a white top. This is a family event and choristers and their families are welcome to stay after we sing for the various activities that evening. We ask that at least one adult stay with each choir member for the entire time they are at the residence.

Spring performances for the choir include a school assembly scheduled for Wednesday, February 26th at 10:40 am, as well as the Lambrick Family of Schools Evening which is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11th at 6:30 pm. There is an opportunity for any grade 3, 4 or 5 student to join the choir beginning January 9th, 2020. Choristers must commit to weekly rehearsals which occur every Thursday from 11:58-12:37pm.

If you have any questions about our extracurricular choir or are able to volunteer in any capacity, please contact Mrs. Seale at jseale@sd61.bc.ca.

Yours in Song,
Mrs. Seale



Please Be Mindful

We love to see our Hillcrest families and students interacting and enjoying a healthy social atmosphere within our school!

Unfortunately, our school foyer doubles as our school office area. Phones are ringing and staff are working well before and after the school bells ring and the volume level can make it very difficult for office staff and teachers who work and connect during these times. There has been an increasing level of volume in the foyer outside the main office area this year.



Please try to remember, and remind your children, that the area by the fish aquarium is a great place for these social interactions to take place, and if the weather is dry, outside is the ideal area!



IT'S COOOLD OUTSIDE! **Supervision Information**

We are coming into our cold & rainy season which we know can last for many months. Thank you for sending your child to school with warm, waterproof jackets, rubber boots, umbrella, and mittens and hats for the cooler weather ahead. Students are expected to go outside at break times, unless we are having a heavy downpour.

We have supervision both before and after school, but only at the school crosswalk and driveway (not inside the school or on the playground). Please be aware of this if you plan on dropping your child off early.

If it is raining outside, you have a few options:

1. Park on the street and come inside to wait with your child until the bell. We would ask that you wait in either the hallway by the gym or the hallway near the aquarium (all on the main floor). Students should not be going upstairs or into classrooms as the teachers are preparing for their day and may not be in the classroom or;
2. Drop your child off closer to the bell. Our entry bell rings at 8:35 am, or;
3. Your child can wait outside until the first bell. Thank you for your cooperation with avoiding the main foyer of the school as it can become quite noisy when the office staff needs to attend to incoming phone calls and parent enquiries.



1000 x 5

3 Books = 1 Gift
Help top last year's drive
Of 4000 books

This is the third year of the three book challenge

As we head into the holiday season, many families appreciate a bit of help with gifts. Every month 1000X5 pops 3000 books in 1000 gift bag: three books for each receiving child.

If each child in Hillcrest Elementary School brought in 3 gently used books for babies and preschoolers, we would collect 867 books, enough for gift bags of books to 289 children. **Let's make it happen.**

Drop your books for babies and preschoolers off in the pink bin
in the school foyer.