



École Publique Hillcrest Public School

433 1st Ave, Petrolia, ON N0N 1R0

<http://hillcrest.lkdsb.net> T: 519-882-2260

Principal: M. A. Newcombe

Secretary: Mme T. Blakey

Follow us on Facebook: [@ecolepubliquehillcrestpublicschool](https://www.facebook.com/ecolepubliquehillcrestpublicschool)

We're Rolling Now

We wish to take a moment to thank everyone for their contribution to a smooth startup here at Hillcrest. It truly takes the entire school community to make great things happen for children. Thanks for being patient with all the different processes in place, from bus transportation, kindergarten staggered entry, and School Cash Online registration to many, many more. We were grateful to see so many families join us at our Meet the Educator Event and BBQ. Don't worry if you could not join us, it is important to remember that communication between home and school is a process that needs to continue throughout the entirety of the school year. Great job everyone! It has been a terrific start to the school year once again!

We would like to welcome M. Corey Chalupka to our team of educators. M. Chalupka will be our school's new rotary teacher, serving our Kindergarten, Primary and Junior students. We are excited to welcome M. Chalupka to our team! M. Chalupka is replacing Mme. Bailey, who has changed jobs and is now teaching a Grade 2/3 class at our school, as a result of our school being reorganized this month. Once again, we appreciate your help through this whole process.

Upcoming Events

September 29

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

October 5

Cross Country Meet – Optimist Club, Petrolia

October 6

P.A. Day – No classes

October 9

Thanksgiving Day – NO classes

October 11

Hillcrest Student Photo Day

October 13

Bus Evacuation & Safety Training for Students

October 24

School District Cross Country Meet – Bridgeview Park

October 31

Fiddicks Nursing Home Costume Parade (stay tuned for more information from teachers for class-specific details)

Orange Shirt Day/National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

On Friday September 29th, École Hillcrest, along with schools across the country commemorate Orange Shirt Day, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The annual Orange Shirt Day on September 30th opens the door to a global conversation on all aspects of Residential Schools. It is an opportunity to create meaningful discussion about the effects of Residential Schools and the legacy they have left behind on Canada's Indigenous Peoples. This is a discussion all Canadians can tune into and create bridges with each other for reconciliation. It is a day for survivors to be reaffirmed that they matter, and so do those who have been affected. Every child matters and in turn, every adult matters. We look forward to seeing so many members of our school community wearing orange on Friday, September 29th.

School Council

We are always looking for new parents to join us at our School Council meetings. If you have any interest in attending, please contact the office. We will be meeting on the second Tuesday in November at 6:00. Also, the School Council is looking for volunteers to help with upcoming pizza days. If you are interested, please email our School Council chair at: hillcrest.s.council@gmail.com

Vaccinations for Grade 7 and 8 Students

On December 7th, Lambton Public Health will offer hepatitis B, human papillomavirus (HPV), and meningococcal vaccinations to Grade 7 and 8 students at Hillcrest who have submitted online forms. All three vaccines are strongly recommended for students in this age group and provided at no cost. According to the Immunization of School Pupils Act, students are required to have the meningococcal vaccine for school attendance unless they have a valid exemption. An email was sent home a couple of weeks ago (the week of September 11th) providing parents with the ability to provide their child with permission to receive these vaccinations at school, to avoid having to set these up individually. Please contact Lambton Public Health if you have any questions.

School Access During the School Day

Traditionally, we know that parents and staff strive to reduce interruptions to instruction throughout the school day for students. The more we can reduce interruptions such as forgotten lunch deliveries, lost homework transfers, etc., the greater likelihood that students will have a productive academic day. For these reasons, as well as student safety and more, limited access to the school during the school day, outside of volunteerism, will be kept to a minimum. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding and share your desire to keep everyone safe and learning.

Nutrition Program

We are excited that the Nutrition Program is up and running at Hillcrest. The program has been running for two weeks now. Food items have been available in respective classrooms. If you are

looking for ways to contribute to sustaining this program this year, donations are always welcome and can be arranged through the office. As well, a fundraiser supporting our Nutrition Program is running now on school Cash Online and will end on October 16th.

Communication

Communication between home and school is key to your child's success. If you ever have concerns or questions, please speak directly to your child's teacher(s). If any concerns remain, please contact school administrators as soon as possible, but remember, this is a secondary support that pales in comparison to the working relationship between parents/caregivers and teachers. Do not think that you have to postpone communicating concerns you have until the Parent/Teacher interview time in November. Please contact us sooner rather than later. Please remember that technology can still be used to meet your scheduling needs.

Phone Numbers and Email Addresses

As shared last month, updated contact information is essential at this time, more than ever. We are working so hard to communicate with families and are fully committed to share information with you, when it becomes available, and when we can share information. Please ensure that the school is aware of any changes to your contact information. Updated email addresses and phone numbers are critical. Simply email the office, or call us, and we will update your information for you. Thanks for your assistance.

Hillcrest Pizza Nights

We are excited to announce that **every second Saturday of the month is Hillcrest Fundraiser Night at Johnny G's Pizza in Petrolia**. This day is a change from last year, and will run on Saturdays this year. For every order made on those evenings, \$2 for each

order will be donated to École Hillcrest Public School (regardless if one states they are there for the fundraiser or not that evening). If it has been a while since your family has ordered pizza, consider changing that on the second Saturday of the month. We appreciate their support and look forward to

seeing what happens this year through these efforts.



Figure 1 Hillcrest Receiving Johnny G's Contribution to Our School (Amy Ewing - Owner)



Terry Fox Run

This year we held our 28th Annual Terry Fox School Run event. Classes participated in several activities that helped students to understand the history behind Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope. We were able to raise over \$1,900 as a school community (as of writing this newsletter). Thank you to our students, their families, and our community for their support of our Terry Fox School Run event. We also wish to thank Mme Myers and the organizing committee for their leadership in facilitating this Run and Fundraiser.



Fire Prevention Week

The week of October 8th is Fire Prevention Week. The Petrolia and North Enniskillen Fire Department will be visiting our students to educate us on how to remain safe in a fire emergency. During their visit, one of the things they will be doing is showing us a compilation of videos that are created by students. They are currently looking for contributions for their presentation. Participating entries become eligible to win \$500, but ultimately every participant will be a winner, as they will learn more about fire safety and fire prevention. For contest details, please see the provided poster.

Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol

The Lambton Kent District School Board is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors, and community members. When a student behaves inappropriately, principals will most often employ progressive discipline strategies to help a student take responsibility for their actions, learn from their mistakes, and make better choices in the future.

In more extreme cases however, when a student's behaviour poses a potential threat to their own or others' well-being, the Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol (VTRA) supports principals in taking further steps to safeguard everyone.

The VTRA protocol outlines how a school responds immediately to threatening incidents including but not limited to: possession of a weapon or replica weapon, bomb threat or plan, verbal or

PETROLIA & NORTH ENNISKILLEN FIRE DEPT.
Be our Fire Prevention Star!

Did you know that cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries?
Cooking safety starts with YOU.

Pay attention to fire prevention.

GRAND PRIZE \$500

Send us a video clip 30 to 60 seconds long promoting this year's Fire Prevention week theme.
Note: Video Clip must be capable of being emailed.

Cooking Safety Starts with YOU.

Contest is open to All Residents of All Ages within Petrolia and North Enniskillen Fire Department's fire area

To Enter:

- > Video must feature this year's fire prevention theme.
- > All entries must be sent by email to fireprevention@petrolia.ca by October 05, 2023, at 6pm

For more information, please contact Deputy Chief Darren Allan fireprevention@petrolia.ca

written (including electronic) threats to harm oneself or others, other threats of violence, and fire setting.

The initial response team is likely to include the principal, police, and board staff. Should conditions warrant, a Community Threat Assessment Team will be convened. This community team includes representatives of community agencies who work with schools and boards to keep our students and staff safe, such as local police and children's mental health organizations. Parents and guardians will be notified if their child will be discussed through the Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol.

If parents/guardians cannot be reached, or if they choose not to provide consent, but a concern for safety still exists due to threatening behaviour, the threat assessment may still proceed.

Link to Fair Notice Communication Regarding Violent Threat Risk Assessment Protocol:

https://www.lkdsb.net/Pages/newsitem.aspx?ItemID=460&ListID=1cb83139-1d39-452b-8ab2-b6cfab6c2ba7&TemplateID=Announcement_Item#/=

Thanks

We appreciate you dedicating your time to peruse our October Newsletter. Just like this one, all newsletters for the year will be accessible on the School's Website. We feel fortunate to collaborate with you in fostering student achievement. We take pride in being members of this community and relish our interactions with your child(ren). If you ever have any inquiries or require assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us at the school. We're always just a phone call away. Wishing everyone a wonderful month ahead!

