



École Publique Hillcrest Public School

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Starting With Gratitude

As shared last month, being mindful of the things we can be grateful for is good for mental health and well-being. Here are some things for which we are grateful here at Hillcrest

- We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated volunteers who made our recent Pancake Day a resounding success. Your enthusiasm and support added a delightful touch to the event, creating a memorable experience for all. Without you, it would not have happened.
- A special thank you goes out to the parents who generously offer their time and assistance during our field trips. We understand the unique challenges in recruiting volunteers for older grades, and we truly appreciate the commitment of parents who stepped forward to ensure the success of these enriching experiences for all age groups, even if their child(ren) is/are not in these classes.
- We also want to express our appreciation to the parents who actively engaged in conversations with their children regarding their report card progress. Your involvement in these crucial discussions greatly enhances the efficacy of the reports and fosters a collaborative approach to academic success.
- Lastly, a big thank you to all our nutrition program volunteers who contribute their time and efforts to nourish our school community. Your dedication to promoting healthy eating habits is instrumental in creating a positive and thriving environment for our students.

Upcoming Events

March 1

International Staff Appreciation Day

Hillcrest Spirit Wear Day

March 8

Last School Day Before the March Break – March 11th to 15th

March 18

First Day of School After The March Break

March 22

School Spirit Day – Sports Day (Jersey or otherwise)

Head Lice

Sometimes students arrive at school infected with pediculosis. Your assistance in early detection is greatly appreciated. Please check your child for head lice weekly. If you find evidence of head lice, please contact the school immediately. This will allow us to notify other parents in the classrooms affected, so that they may check their children, keeping anonymity of course. Infestation by head lice is an unpleasant nuisance, but not a health problem. Head Lice do not carry or spread disease. If we detect head lice on your child, you will be notified and asked to come to the school to pick up your child. We then ask that you use the necessary treatment on his/her hair. Your child(ren) is/are welcome to return to school when the live pediculosis is no longer evident which can be extremely quick if the proper treatment is applied. We can find ways to support in the process, if financial help is needed to purchase the correct items. Hopefully, by working together we can control the spread of head lice.

Report Cards

As you know, Term 1 report cards (Grade 1-8) and Communication of Learning (Kindergarten) were sent home on Friday, February 16th. The purpose of the reports is to inform parents of their child's progress based on the expectations set out by the Ministry of Education. There are no formal interviews being set up for the Term 1 Reports, but if you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress, please reach out to your child's teacher.

Soirée française internationale

On Tuesday, May 7th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. our school will be holding an international French evening for students and their families. More details will be shared in the coming months, but we are anxiously engaged in planning some activities and food tastings for you and your family. Please save the date.

Kindergarten Registration

We had a great turnout for Kindergarten Registration – some new families and some returning. It was wonderful to be able to welcome families into the school to sign up. If you weren't able to make it to the registration day, or you know someone who couldn't come in, it's not too late – registration is ongoing through the spring. You can visit [Kindergarten Registration](#) to register or call the school to register your child. For those who register this year, please remember to watch for an email in the spring regarding classroom tours.

Individual Education Plans and Universal Supports

Families of students with Individual Education Plans (IEP) will receive proposed updated plans on or before March 22nd. This is an important part of the school year. As students with the greatest learning needs are prioritized, undoubtedly every student receives what they need. Often accommodations found on IEPs are great universal supports for all learners. As educators strive to

make the accommodations on IEPs come alive, students without IEPs benefit from these universally beneficial learning accommodations as they are just great teaching practices. Every learner has unique needs. Even if your child doesn't have an IEP, consider contacting your child(ren)'s teacher(s) to discuss your child(ren)'s unique learning needs and how they are being met in the classroom. Consider providing insight into things you have discovered about your child while learning with them in your home. Remember, you are always the expert on your child, and we become better at supporting your child as deep, rich conversations between home and school take place.

Lost & Found Items

With March Break coming quickly, we wanted to take a moment to tidy up our school. Our Lost and Found currently has lots of lost treasures. We hope to be able to find the owners of these valuable clothing items. Please take a look at the pictures here to see if you recognize any of these belongings. Please encourage your child(ren) to retrieve the items, or message their teacher(s), depending on the age of your child(ren) so that these items can be returned to their rightful owners. Please note that all items will be washed and repurposed at the school, or recycled so that the items will not go to waste, but will bless the lives of someone who needs them. This will take place on Thursday, March 9th. Classes will also be encouraged to come down to the items that are currently displayed out front of the office here at Hillcrest.





Become a Foster Parent!

The Sarnia Lambton Children's Aid Society is looking for Foster Parents!

- We need foster parents for children of all ages!
- Call now to start the application process!
- Find out how you can make a difference in a child and their family's life!

CALL 519-336-0623 EXT 504

Email: aarbour@slcas.on.ca

Sarnia Lambton Children's Aid Society Is Looking For Foster Parents

The Sarnia Lambton Children's Aid Society is looking for Foster Parents for children of all ages. Please see the poster to the side, sharing details and contact information.

Plastic Utensils

Over the past couple of years the school has noticed a huge uptick in the number of students asking for disposable forks and spoons. We are no longer able to do this. In our efforts to support the environment and to save money for the school so we can do great things for kids. Please provide a reusable option for student lunches, if utensils are needed for the food options provided. As always, reach out to the school if we can help in any way, should your family need assistance with this item or any other need around lunches or otherwise.

Final Thoughts

We are always here to help. Sometimes it goes unsaid, but please know that you can always contact the school for assistance. Traditionally, it is recommended that you reach out to your child(ren)'s teacher(s) first. They truly know your child better than anyone in our building and are the very best partners with parents to promote student success. You can always reach out to me, Andrew Newcombe, the school's principal as well, at Andrew.Newcombe@lkdsb.net after reaching out to your child's teacher. My contact information is always at the top of each monthly newsletter and on the school's website. Please feel free to call the office during business hours, and I will do my best to take your call or call you back hopefully in a timely manner.

Have a great month!