



École Publique Hillcrest Public School

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Starting With Gratitude

Being mindful of the things for which we can be grateful is good for mental health and well-being. Here are just a couple of the things we can celebrate here at Hillcrest:

- We wish to thank the School Council, who have donated over \$6000 to the purchase of outdoor play equipment since the start of the year. Most recently they purchased two new basketball hoops for our students and installed a Gaga Ball Pit back in October. Nice job, School Council!
- Our students in Grades 3 to 8 will be participating in curling this winter. Curling is one of Canada's great pastimes. Our Grade 3 and Grade 3/4 classes started these field trips on January 13th. Other classes will be participating in the coming weeks and months. If your child is in Grades 3-8, and you have not seen a field trip permission form come home already, stay tuned. Research has shown that curling can reduce stress, and strengthens our legs - as we maintain our balance on the slippery curling sheet, we tone our leg muscles. Curling develops balance and provides social opportunities for participants. All participants are reminded that they need a CSA-approved helmet to participate. The Dragons are going to bring the Heat to the Sarnia Curling Club. Thanks, Mme Thomas for organizing this for everyone!

Upcoming Events

February 1

Muskoka Woods Installment Due – Grade 8

February 2

Kindergarten Registration Day (first-time registrants) – 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – See the "Kindergarten Registration Section in the Newsletter for more details)

Spirit Wear Day - Sunglasses Day

February 7

River Valley Tubing – upper grades

February 9

LCCVI Open House – 6:00 – 9:00 (at the High School for Grade 8 Students graduating this year)

February 10

Spirit Wear Day – Disney Day

February 14

Johnny G's Pizza Night (a portion of each purchase is donated to Hillcrest)

February 18

Choir Singing the National Anthem for the Sarnia Sting

February 17

Term 1 Reports Card (& Communication of Learning – Kindergarten) Go Home

Spirit Wear Day – Hawaiian Day

Kindergarten Registration

If your family has a child that is turning 4 years old in 2023 and starting Junior Kindergarten, or starting school for the first time this year and will be entering Senior Kindergarten, please review this information. Additionally, please consider sharing this with friends of yours anywhere in the Lambton Kent District School Board, if they are looking for the registration process. All dates for registration events are consistent throughout the District.

Registering your child for Kindergarten is as easy as 1, 2, 3.

1. Find your school by visiting this site
2. Complete the online registration form at www.lkdsb.net/kindergarten in advance.
3. Come and meet our caring staff on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2023, from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm, preferably. If that evening does not work, families can visit on Friday, Feb. 3, 2023, from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.



Remember to bring:

1. Birth certificate or proof of Canadian Citizenship or Residency Status (if appropriate) Please note: We cannot accept Heath Cards as proof of age
2. Proof of residency (e.g., utility or tax bill, lease/rental agreement, etc.) Please note: We cannot accept cell phone bills or driver's licenses as proof of residency
3. Your child

Please contact the school if you have any questions about the Registration Process

Hillcrest Pizza Night at Johnny G's

Don't forget that funds are raised for each purchase at Johnny G's Pizza in Petrolia on the second Tuesday of each month. We are so grateful for all of our Community Partners in the area and applaud their efforts to bless the lives of our students, your children!

Grade 7 and 8 Vaccinations

As parents of students in Grade 7 and 8 are aware, students who submitted their permission forms for routine vaccinations were given their Grade 7 and 8 vaccinations back in the fall. Students will be receiving their second doses, if applicable, on May 5th. If your family missed out on the first vaccination (and/or did not submit permission forms for vaccinations), please reach out to Lambton Public Health at 519-383-8331 extension 3822. They will be able to provide families with an avenue to complete these vaccinations.

Black History Month

During Black History Month, people in Canada celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians and their communities who, throughout history, have done so much to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate, and prosperous nation it is today. During this upcoming month, teachers will provide activities and learning that will provide students an opportunity to familiarize themselves with these many achievements and contributions. Please take a moment to speak with your child in the month of February about this learning.

Physical Education Equipment Purchases

We wish to thank the School Council who raised funds to purchase two new basketball backboards for our schoolyard. We are so grateful for these efforts and know that these hoops will be up at Hillcrest for years to come. Nice work, School Council! We are also excited to share that the Student Parliament raised enough funds to purchase new volleyball standards for our school, a much-needed replacement purchase. The Students raised this money through their popcorn fundraising efforts. We applaud them for these endeavors and are grateful they are working to make their school a better place to learn. The Milk Program organized by Mme Blakey also provided a new volleyball net to accompany the Students' purchase, as well as providing transportation for the new volleyball Standards. Outstanding work everyone! Thanks to everyone who supports these efforts by purchasing popcorn and milk. Nice work, everyone!



Field Trips

Students have multiple intelligences. They can be tactile learners, visual learners, kinesthetic learners, and more. Truly, students are a mix of many different learning styles and strengths. Field Trips help students build on classroom instruction and gain a better understanding of topics, build cultural understanding and tolerance, and expose them to worlds outside their own. Sometimes trips are planned to promote and enhance mental well-being and provide social opportunities while simultaneously satisfying curriculum expectations. We know that these trips can be expensive. Transportation costs often represent a large portion of all Field Trip costs. As these costs have increased in the past few years, so have the cost of Field Trips. When your family becomes aware of an upcoming Field Trip, and if the cost represents a sum that is too much to pay at the moment for your family, for a variety of reasons, please reach out to us at the school. We have a range of ways that we can assist you and your family. No child should miss a Field Trip because of the cost of the Field Trip. Please call the office and we will provide some options to make these trips accessible for all families to attend if assistance is needed.



Family Movie Night

The Student Parliament is organizing a Family Movie Night on March 2nd. The Movie will start at 6:00 p.m., with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00 each. With the purchase of a ticket, guests will receive entrance to see the movie Sonic the Hedgehog, pop or water, and a bag of popcorn. Guests are encouraged to bring blankets, etc., to get comfy. Of interest, the LKDSB subscribes to Criterion Pictures, which permits us to comply with copyright regulations.



Volunteer Interest Survey

At our last School Council Meeting, it was proposed that the school conduct a Volunteer Interest Survey. If you are interested in volunteering at Hillcrest, [please consider completing the survey at this link](#). Also, if your child has a Grandparent, aunt, uncle, or family friend, etc., who might be interested in volunteering, please consider forwarding the survey to them for their consideration. Of note, we may not be able to accommodate everyone who wants to volunteer this year, and depending on the activity, a Background Check with a Vulnerable Sector Verification might be required. There are so many ways at so many times when the school could use an extra set of hands to help support students.

Final Thoughts

As shared before, we are always here to help. 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. As 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. 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, everyone!