



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

- Mme Davis and over 60 students represented our school brilliantly while singing the National Anthem at a Sarnia Sting Game. We are grateful for Mme Davis (and Mme Williams) and their efforts in organizing this for everyone, parents who took the time to support their children, and all of the students who worked hard to enjoy that moment with their schoolmates and represented our school with pride. Nice work, everyone!
- As we head deeper into Term 2 together, we are so grateful for all of the progress made during the first half of the school year. Thanks, parents, teachers, and students for all of the dedication to success.
- We are grateful for the Student Parliament organizing Spirit Days. We love hearing our students' voices at the planning table and appreciate their input into the governance of the school.
- Mme Arsenault and Mme Thomas are once again involved in the French Virtual Penpal Project, partnering with French schools in Northern Ontario and Quebec. Many classes

Upcoming Events

March 2

Hillcrest Movie Night

March 3

Spirit Wear Day – Matchy-Matchy Day and Hillcrest Wear

March 6

Muskoka Woods Payment Due (Grade 8 Students)

March 7

School Council Meeting starting at 6:30 p.m.

Hillcrest Fundraiser Night at Johnny G's Pizza in Petrolia

March 8

Grade 5/6, 6/7, 7/8 classes to view LCCVI's Rendition of "Clue"

March 9

Grad Photo Retake Day (SK & 8)

March 10

Spirit Wear Day – St. Patrick's

March 13

March Break (13-17)

March 24

Spirit Wear Day – Country Day

are involved in this project in the two provinces, connecting learners of the French language and forging relationships between students. Mme Arsenault presented to educators in Toronto in February and will present to educators in Montreal in March, promoting the merits of providing authentic French oral communication opportunities, all expenses paid by Apple Canada. Hillcrest is leading out in French education!

- Students in our Grade 4/5, 5/6, 6/7, and 7/8 classes went on a field trip on Tuesday, February 7th to River Valley Golf and Tubing. Everyone benefited from the beautiful weather, the physical activity, and the chance to socialize. We appreciate the parent/guardian volunteers who helped facilitate this event. We could not go on these trips without you.
- We are excited that the Staff and Students at LCCVI graciously invited our Grade 5/6, 6/7, and 7/8 classes to their school's rendition of "Clue" at Victoria Hall, VPP, on Wednesday, March 8th. We are always excited when our students can see what they can look forward to as they enter High School. Students from LCCVI also presented to our students on February 13th. The school's band and choir helped us learn about different instruments and entertained us with an hour-long concert. It was great having some former Dragons return to our school to share their many acquired talents!

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. 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 welcome to return to school when the pediculosis is no longer evident. 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 17th. 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.

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 24th. 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.



Final Thoughts

As shared last month, 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. 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 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!