



École Publique Hillcrest Public School

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A Month of Change

As we step into the transformative month of November, we brace ourselves for the shifts it brings. With the reversal of the clocks on Sunday, November 5th, and the final leaves gracefully surrendering to winter, we prepare for the embrace of a new season. Amidst this seasonal shift, we anticipate progress reports going home, signaling an important juncture for parents, teachers, and students alike. The upcoming parent-teacher interviews serve as a crucial opportunity for us to collaborate and ensure support for students between home and school. With change on the horizon, we eagerly anticipate the possibilities it brings, eagerly seeking avenues to enhance and refine the educational journey for all our students.

Progress Reports

We are always grateful for opportunities to communicate student progress with parents and guardians. Progress Reports will be coming home on November 10th. Students and teachers have been working hard this fall to help identify gaps in learning and find ways to bridge those gaps. Importantly, everyone has been working hard to determine just where students are in reading, where their strengths are, and where work needs to be done to improve literacy.

Upcoming Events

October 31

Bear Creek Terrace Costume Parade

November 5

Treaty Recognition Week Starts
(November 5th to November 11th)

November 5

Hour Change

November 10

Remembrance Day at Hillcrest
(Friday)

November 10

Remembrance Day at Hillcrest
(Friday)
Report Cards Go Home

November 16

School Spirit Day (PJ Day)
Parent/Teacher Conferences – 3:40
to 7:20

November 17

P.A. Day
Parent-Teacher Conferences
Continue in the Morning

November 28

FDK & Grade 2 Dental Screening
Day 1

November 29

FDK & Grade 2 Dental Screening
Day 2

Progress Reports show a student's development of learning skills and work habits during the beginning of the school year, as well as a student's general progress in working towards the curriculum expectations in all subjects taught thus far. This is an excellent opportunity to hear how your child's year has begun, and how you can support their learning at home in the months that follow.

The Progress Report Card uses PW, PVW and PWD to indicate early on in the school year areas of strength and areas for improvement as students work to achieve the expectations by the end of the school year. The phrases "Progressing Very Well, Progressing Well, and Progressing with Difficulty" are not aligned to letter grades or percentage marks. **They are not predictive of the Report Card Marks.** They are indicative of where a student started the year, and how they are progressing at this stage of the school year (two months later). We need to remember that all we can ask of any student is that they are working hard, and we need to hope that they are progressing (regardless if they are meeting provincial expectations yet). Just because a student receives a "Progressing Well" or "Progressing Very Well," this does not mean that they will necessarily have a high letter grade or high percentage on their report card in February. As we work together, attend Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences, and find ways at home and school to meet the individual needs of each learner, we will all have a better idea of how our students, your children, are progressing. Once again, progress reports come home on Friday, November 11th.

Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Student/Teacher conferences will follow on November 16th and 17th and will be arranged by individual teachers. A form will be sent home on Thursday, October 26th that will need to be returned to each of your children's homeroom teachers. The forms that were sent home are due back to the office by Friday, November 3rd, so that we can coordinate times for families with more than one student attending Hillcrest. Meeting this due date, November 3rd, is especially important for families with multiple children attending Hillcrest, so we can coordinate with the different teachers helping your children so we can schedule your appointments in one block of time, rather than having them spread out, so as to protect families' valuable time.

Student Parliament

Students' involvement in decision-making processes, particularly within their schools, not only upholds their right to participate in community affairs but also fosters a deeper understanding of democratic principles. Hillcrest acknowledges the valuable contributions of its Student Parliament, who have actively worked towards enhancing engagement and fundraising initiatives. This year's Student Parliament is building upon the precedent set by its predecessors, exhibiting a heightened commitment to improving the school environment. We extend our gratitude to the Student Parliament members and M. Woltz and M. Kennefick for their continued efforts and dedication.

Student Parliament Spirit Days

Our Student Parliament has organized a number of upcoming Spirit Days here at Hillcrest. For the month of November, here is what they have planned.

- Friday, November 3rd – Blue and Yellow Day (school colours)
- Thursday, November 16th – Pajama Day

We are grateful for the organizing committee on our Student Parliament and all that they are doing to enhance student engagement, enjoyment of learning, and a desire to make our school a fun place to be, ultimately leading students to desire to want to be at school and find learning fun. Thanks, Student Parliament.

School Council

We are always looking for new parents to join us at our School Council meetings. We meet again on Tuesday, November 14th at 6:00 p.m. Please contact the office should you wish to receive a link to join our virtual meeting.

Hillcrest Pizza Nights

Don't forget that **every second Saturday of the month is Hillcrest Fundraiser Night at Johnny G's Pizza in Petrolia**. Saturday, November 11th is our fundraiser night this month. For every order made on those evenings, \$2 will be donated to École Hillcrest Public School (regardless if one states they are there for the fundraiser or not).

Winter Dress

With the ever-changing weather, please ensure that your children have dressed appropriately in hats, boots, mittens and warm coats every day. This is also a great time of year to wear layers so that children can adjust their clothing as the temperature warms throughout the day. Our students enjoy playing outside twice a day for twenty minutes each break and we want all of them to feel comfortable. Please ensure items are labeled so they are easier to retrieve if misplaced. If your family needs any assistance acquiring winter gear, we have numerous ways that we can help. Please reach out and speak with office staff should anyone need support.

Remembrance Day

We look forward to commemorating the many sacrifices made by service men and women on Friday, November 10th this year. With Remembrance Day falling on a Saturday this year, we will not be walking to the Petrolia Cenotaph to join in the Remembrance Day commemoration ceremonies



like we did last year, and hope to do in the future. This year our assembly is student organized, staff-directed. We look forward to learning from our students.

Treaties Recognition Week 2022

Treaties Recognition Week helps students, staff, and the public learn about treaties from diverse Indigenous perspectives and encourages a greater understanding of the importance of treaties in Ontario. Treaties negotiated in Ontario over the past 250 years are the foundation of the relationship between governments and Indigenous peoples. They represent a mutual commitment to building a prosperous future for everyone. Historical treaties are important to the ongoing relationship between the Crown and First Nations and are still relevant today. By building an understanding of these agreements, we are moving towards reconciliation with Indigenous people. This helps create equitable and respectful relationships, enabling a better way forward together. Treaties Recognition Week this year is from November 5th to 11th.

Petrolia Christmas for Everyone Campaign

Our School will be participating in the Petrolia Christmas For Everyone Campaign. The Campaign starts on November 6th and will run until December 6th. The School will be accepting online donations through School Cash Online. We will also be accepting non-perishable food and new, unwrapped toys, and gift cards. We appreciate everyone's efforts for this worthy cause. Please call us at the office here at Hillcrest if you have any questions about this campaign.

Thanks

Thank you for investing your time in perusing our November Newsletter. Just a reminder, this edition, alongside others from the year, will be available for access on the School's Website. Collaborating with you to foster student success is something we deeply appreciate. We take pride in our role within the community and cherish the opportunity to work with your child(ren). Should you require any clarification or support, please don't hesitate to contact us at the school. We're always here, just a phone call away. Wishing you all a fantastic month ahead!

