



École Publique Hillcrest Public School

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Secretary: Mme T. Blakey

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

Starting With Gratitude

At École Hillcrest, our hearts swell with gratitude as we reflect on the unwavering support we've received from our incredible community over the past few months. The commitment of parents in facilitating enriching field trips has added immeasurable value to our students' learning experiences. Their dedication has not gone unnoticed, and we are sincerely thankful for their involvement.

The St. Pierre family's remarkable contribution deserves special acknowledgment. Despite facing harsh weather conditions, they selflessly update our school sign each month, demonstrating a commitment to the betterment of our school environment.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Ontario Student Nutrition Program, whose generous contribution of \$1,500 has allowed us to acquire a new industrial refrigerator for our nutrition program. This invaluable support enhances our ability to provide nutritious snacks for our students, fostering a healthy learning environment.

Upcoming Events

February 1

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 – School Colours

February 2

P.A. Day – No school

February 10

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

February 8

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

February 16

Report Cards and Communication of Learning is sent home

School Spirit Wear Day – Super Heros

February 21

Hillcrest Movie Night – 5:00 p.m. (see newsletter for details)

March 1

Staff Appreciation Day

The dedication of parent volunteers in organizing pizza days and volunteering at Jackpot City is commendable, contributing significantly to our school's vibrant community spirit. Additionally, individuals like Judy Baker, a retired teacher, who devotes her time to reading with our students daily, exemplify the profound impact a single person can have on shaping young minds.

While we cannot express our gratitude to everyone individually because a two-hundred-page newsletter would be just too much, please know that every contribution is deeply appreciated. The collective effort of our community members makes École Hillcrest a place where students thrive, and we are immensely thankful for your ongoing support.

Kindergarten Registration

If your family has a child that is turning 4 years old in 2024 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. 1, 2024, from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm, preferably. If that evening does not work, families can visit on Friday, Feb. 2, 2024, 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 Saturday 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!

Vaccinations Suspensions

An important deadline is quickly approaching, which may affect your child. Lambton Public Health is required, by law, to keep a record of all immunizations of children who attend school. Children whose immunization records are not up-to-date will be suspended from school by Order of the Medical Officer of Health, effective March 5, 2024. Even if your child(ren) have received the required immunizations, they may still be suspended from school if the immunization record at your public health unit has not been updated. Doctors and primary care providers are not required to send the immunization record to public health. Per the Immunization of School Pupils Act, it is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to ensure public health has the required information. If your child(ren)'s records are not up-to-date, you will receive (or may have already received) a notification letter from your local public health unit. To avoid suspension, you can easily update your immunization information in the following ways:

- Lambton Public Health:
- Online at [GetTheVaccine.ca](https://www.getthevaccine.ca) using Immunization Connect Ontario (ICON)
- Mail/Drop off a copy: 160 Exmouth Street, Point Edward, ON N7T 7Z6

*If your child does not have the required vaccinations, visit [GetTheVaccine.ca](https://www.getthevaccine.ca) for community and high school clinic options or call the LPH Vaccine Call Centre at 226-254-8222.

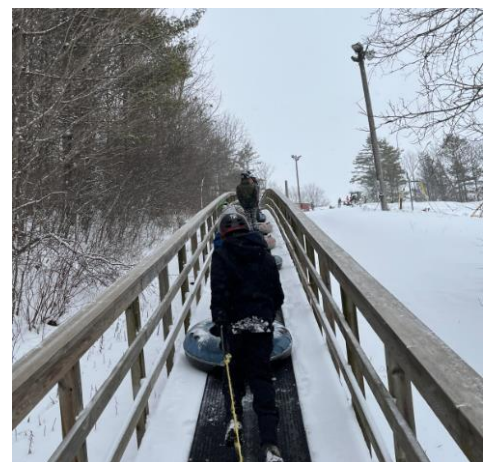
PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT ANYTHING RELATED TO THIS, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT.

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.

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 February 21st. The Movie will start at 5:00 p.m., with doors opening at 4:30 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.

Spirit Wear Order

As was the case last year, Hillcrest is offering Spirit Wear through an online store. Our Spirit Wear Store is open from January 31st, and will remain This is not a fundraising event but is geared toward creating school pride and a sense of belonging. [To visit the site, visit this link](#). Items are sold at cost by the vendor. For the shipping - customers will be given 3 options:



For your information, there are different options you can select when checking out on the Online Store, but we highly recommend using the first option, "Pickup at School" which is free:

- "Pickup at School" - **FREE** - each individual order will be bagged and labeled with the customer's name. These will all be sent to the school for pickup, and we will place the items in your child's backpack (unless you reach out to us in advance to inform us that the item is a gift, etc. and we can make other arrangements)
- "Pickup at Teamworks" - FREE - the customer will pick up the product upon completion at Source Teamworks located at 418 Wharncliffe Rd. in London.
- "Ship to Home" - charged based on location - normally around \$12 - these orders will be shipped directly to the customer's home.



Make sure that you select the option that works best for you. If you have any questions about these options or are unable to locate the options on the site, please reach out to Source Teamworks directly, the contact information is on the site.

Bus & Fire Lane

Please help us keep students safe. The circle drive out front of our school is a fire lane and a bus lane. Part of our Safe School's plan is striving to keep vehicles out of the circle drive. We do this by putting up cones and blocking the entrance of the drive. Before school and at the end of the day we must remove the cones to make way for bus entrance and departure from our schoolyard. We also remove the cones at times for the arrival of field trip busses and deliveries in the middle of the day. This is not an invitation to then use the circle drive for parents dropping off or picking up their child(ren). We kindly ask that all parents help us keep students safe by not entering or parking in this circle drive. I know this requires everyone to take a few more steps. If you or your family need accessibility accommodations for a variety of reasons, please reach out to us at the school and we will make this accommodation for you. If you can walk the extra thirty steps, we kindly ask that you do so. We also ask parents who are dropping kids off for the before- and after-school programs to follow these same safety procedures. Our school entrance door is very close to the circle drive, so we adjust accordingly.

We also kindly remind parents and guardians to safely park in our school parking lot. We have seen an increase in the number of vehicles parking by dumpsters, in undesignated parking spots, etc. Please only park in designated spots.

Thanks for your support in our efforts to keep your children, and our students, safe.

Final Thoughts

For parents of Grade 8 students, Our Graduation is scheduled on June 26th, at 6:00 p.m. at New Life Assembly Church in Petrolia (for the additional seating capacity). More information will be shared with involved families in the coming months.

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. 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 promptly. Have a great month, everyone!



SCHOOL BUS ETIQUETTE

Parents/guardians share a role in reinforcing school bus safety and acceptable behaviour of students while riding the school bus. The expectations of students on the school bus is the same as in the classroom.

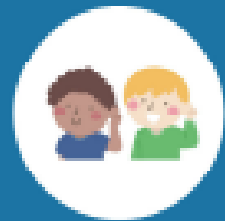
Sit in your assigned seat

Find your assigned seat immediately, if you are unsure of your seat number, ask your driver. Always remain seated and face forward. Students who do not sit properly can be seriously injured



Listen to your Bus Driver

Always follow the driver's instructions the first time they ask. They are responsible for your safety.



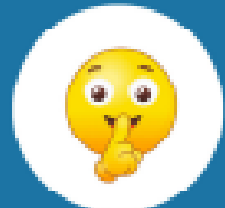
Keep your hands and feet to yourself

Disruptive behaviour is a distraction to other students and to the driver. The same rules apply on the school bus as in the classroom.



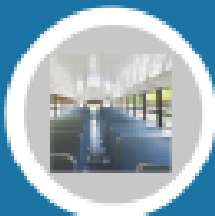
Speak Quietly

Use your inside voice. Excessive noise can be a distraction to the driver and the safe operation of the school bus.



Keep Aisles Clear

Backpacks and other large items are to stay on your lap or under the seat. Items in the aisle may be a tripping hazard and do not allow for a safe evacuation if required.



No eating or drinking

Save snacks for snack time at school or till you get home. They may spill or you may choke if the bus goes over a big bump.



BE KIND. BE NICE. TREAT YOUR DRIVER AND OTHER STUDENTS WITH THE RESPECT THEY DESERVE!