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HILLCREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Newsletter #1

September 13, 2023

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Dear Hillcrest Families,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! I am so thrilled to be the Principal at Hillcrest for my second year. My name is Jodi Garries, and I have lived in Salmon Arm for the past 8 years and lived previously in Sicamous since 1993. Living and working in this amazing Hillcrest neighborhood school feels pretty wonderful! We have had a great start to the school year and we are all very excited to see the children with us once again.

As always, our teachers have been working hard at building safe and inclusive learning environments. Staff continue to teach students about...

- friendship and what our school motto "Where everyone belongs" means.
- how to be positive leaders (ie. being kind, including others, offering to help, getting involved etc.)
- how to show that you care (ie. listening, respecting others belongings, doing your best etc.)
- how to have fun while staying safe.

It is important for students to understand how these beliefs relate to some of our school rules and expectations (ie. sticks are for building, stay in bounds, whole body listening, play by the rules, etc.)

At the end of this newsletter, you will find two important documents that contain instructions with respect to our **School Permission Forms** and **School Fees**. Please follow the instructions provided to complete these tasks by Friday Sept. 22, 2023.

I have a VERY LONG newsletter this month, but in future, school emails and communications should be a less lengthy. This one required paper and lots of detail 😊.

Thank you for being such an important part of our school community – we couldn't do this without you! I hope everyday you can carve out a bit of time to talk to your child about what they are learning and experiencing at school and take advantage of every opportunity you have to involve yourself in their learning journey. Please feel free to contact any of us at school at (250) 832-7195 at any time if you have a question or concern.

Sincerely,

Jodi Garries
Principal



Please let me introduce our fantastic 2023/2024 staff:

Kindergarten: Ms. Devon Corrie
Kindergarten: Mrs. Janice Porter
Grade K and 1: Mrs. Karen Kehl
Grade 1: Mrs. Loree Boyd
Grade 1: Mrs. Sheila Corbett
Grade 2: Mrs. Tammy Meerza
Grade 2: Mrs. Carla Wessely
Grade 2 and 3: Ms. Laurelle Larmand
Grade 3: Mrs. Susan Housden and Mrs. Christine Blacklock
Grade 3: Mrs. Morgen Smith
Grade 4: Mrs. Leanne Gecse
Grade 4: Mr. Craig Smith
Grade 5: Ms. Allie Tyssen and Mrs. Erin Sudbury
Grade 5: Mrs. Tyra Menzies
Music: Mrs. Hannah Carriere and Mr. Zach Power
Library: Ms. Christina McDermott
Learning Resource Teachers: Mrs. Sharon Mitchell, and Mrs. Tracey Sauka
Secretaries: Mrs. Cindy Spottock and Ms. Gillian Rasmuson
Indigenous Education Worker: Ms. Amanda Hewitt
Certified Education Assistants (CEA): Mrs. Sherri Baker, Mrs. Trina Baum, Mrs. Julie Creasy, Ms. Victoria Derby, Mr. Ian Hill, Mrs. Rebecca MacPherson, Mrs. Camilla Serhan, Mrs. Cailey Van Ommen, Ms. Amy Engel, Mrs. Courtney Thomson, Mrs. Erin Warden, Mrs. Lora Eckland, and one more CEA still to be hired
Early Childhood Educator: Mrs. Britney Dalton
Custodians: Mr. Vince Every and Mrs. Tracy Brown
Counsellor: Mrs. Reta Moerike
Speech/Language Pathologist: Mrs. Kara Ritchie
Literacy Support Teacher: Mrs. Christine Blacklock

It's going to be a terrific year! We all look forward to working with you and your children!

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

There is **no school** for students and staff on **Monday Oct. 2**, in lieu of National Truth and Reconciliation Day falling on Saturday Sept 30.

The 2023-2024 PAC Needs You! 😊

The PAC's first meeting date is set for Mon Sept 25 at 7:30 pm in our library. We hope you will feel welcome and encouraged to attend at least one PAC meeting this year. We are looking for more volunteers to help with amazing PAC initiatives this year.

Save the date and see you there! 😊



OUR ACADEMIC SCHOOL GOALS FOR THE YEAR ARE...

Numeracy: "Increase students' proficiency, confidence, and achievement as Mathematicians."

Literacy: "Increase students' proficiency, confidence, and achievement a Writers."

School Fees

Our school fees remain the same as last year and fees are due by October 3rd. Attached to this newsletter is our School Fees Letter which outlines the four different fees we will be collecting this year and how to make payment. The collection of these fees allows us to continue to offer so many great opportunities (ie. Skating, Swimming, Field Trips, Gymnastics, Cultural Performances etc.) for our students.

- School Supplies - \$35
- Agenda Book - \$7
- Cultural Fee - \$10
- Activity Fee - \$20

We believe that no child shall be denied access to a school sponsored program for financial reasons. If circumstances do not permit payment at this point, please contact Ms. Garries at 250-832-7195.

BELL SCHEDULE

8:10 Warning Bell Rings
8:14 Classes Begin
9:45 Recess
10:00 Classes back in session
11:30 Lunch – eating time
11:50 Lunch – playing outside time
12:15 Classes back in session
2:10 Dismissal



Individual Photo Day

Student individual photos will be taken at our school on **Thurs Sept. 28**. Say cheese! Please note: Photo retake day is Friday Oct 27.

If Your Child is Sick...

We ask that students (and staff too) stay home until they feel better. "Better" means that they have no fever and can participate fully in the expectations of their day, without constant interruptions from coughing, sneezing, runny nose, etc. and symptoms have improved.

Thank you for your help in keeping us all healthy and happy!

Pro-D Day Coming Soon

Students do not attend school on **Monday Sept 18**. Teachers will be working together on instructional practices in literacy and some technology that day as well.

Is Your Child Going to Be Late or Away From School?



If so, please call the school (250-832-7195) by 8:00 am. Phone calls are better than emails if possible. Thanks for your help. 😊

STUDENT AGENDAS and HANDBOOK

At the beginning of your child's agenda, you will find our [Hillcrest Student Handbook](#). The insert contains important information about the policies and procedures at Hillcrest. Please take some time to review this information with your child and contact the school if you have any questions or concerns. If your child's class does not use a student agenda, a paper copy of the Hillcrest Student Handbook can be sent home.

PARKING LOT – KISS and GO (30 SECONDS MAX PLEASE)



The “Kiss and Go Lane” is intended to be a **quick** drop off and pick up area in which vehicles are not to be stopped for more than 30 seconds. There is typically room for 4 vehicles to be dropping off at one time. Children should be ready to enter/exit your vehicle quickly if you are using the KISS and GO lane. Please note that the KISS and GO lane is in effect during both drop-off and pick-up. If you arrive early to pick your child up after school, please do not park in the four spaces in front of the school allotted to the KISS and GO lane. We would also like to encourage parents to consider picking up their children (especially older grades) on the field side instead of using the main parking lot.

Fun Sock Fri-Yay!

Our first school spirit day is this **Friday, Sept 15!**

Students and staff are invited to wear a “fun” pair of socks – what makes socks “fun”? Pretty much anything that your child likes, can be silly maybe ... Animals or prints, a sports team, colourful designs, you name it 😊



...and...it's also 'Dot Day' on Friday Sept 15!

“The Dot” has inspired millions of children and adults. It is used by teachers as a method to encourage creativity and instill confidence in students. One teacher in Iowa, Terry Shay, introduced the book to his entire classroom on September 15, 2009. This led to the observance of International Dot Day every year on September 15. The flow of creativity and courage is celebrated by millions of teachers and students around the world. Such is the widespread influence of “The Dot” that it is currently celebrated in 192 countries by more than 19 million people! In short.... We are encouraging our students to “make a mark and see where it takes you!” You may see dots up and all around at school soon!



PARENT VOLUNTEERS

We are happy to have parent volunteers at school! Parent volunteers who may be unsupervised (ie. parent driver, etc.) at any time with students are required to have a **Criminal Record Check** completed. In addition, parents planning on driving students must also submit documents required by the **Private Vehicle Use Policy**.

CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK – Parents requiring a Criminal Record Check can complete the process online at <https://justice.gov.bc.ca/eCRC/home.htm>. You will be asked to enter an access code that is unique to School District No. 83. Please email the school to obtain instructions and the unique SD83 access code required. There is no cost to have the new online Criminal Record Check completed, and they are valid for 5 years.

PRIVATE VEHICLE USE POLICY – Volunteer Drivers must provide the office with a copy of their driver's license, driver's abstract, vehicle registration and insurance, all current within one year. The vehicle being used must be licensed in BC and have a minimum of \$1,000,000 liability insurance (with \$5,000,000 recommended). A Driver's Information Form for each trip must also be completed. Please contact us for more information.

COMMUNICATING STUDENT LEARNING TO PARENTS

Teachers will report on student progress five times during the school year according to the schedule below. There will be three formal reports and two informal reports.

The first Informal report will be a Student/Teacher/Family Conference on Oct 26, and the 2nd informal report may be in a written format, a student led conference, a parent meeting, or a documented phone call.

Formal reports take the form of a traditional report card, also called **Written Learning Updates**.

Here is the reporting schedule for this year:

Oct 26 – Informal Report #1 – this is a parent/teacher conference this year AND it is a **full day off school** for students. **PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF THIS DATE.**

Dec 13 – Report Card #1

Mar 6 – Report Card #2

Apr 30 – May 10 – Informal Report #2

June 27 – Report Card #3

Meet The Teacher Night

We are excited to have the chance to meet our students' families! We invite our students and their families to school, to meet the staff and show their family their classroom on **Wednesday Sept 20**. This is not a time for an in depth talk about your child.



5:30 – 6:00 – every Hillcrest student will get a free slice of pizza (courtesy of the fabulous Hillcrest PAC), but please bring your own water bottle as we are not going to be selling water this year (trying to avoid single use plastic). Extra pizza for families will be available for purchase. We will run this out of our school gym outside doors this year (not the multipurpose room)

6:00 – 7:00 - we will open our school and classrooms to visit with staff and tour classrooms and school

As always, please feel free to arrange a meeting with your child's teacher to discuss their progress at any time during the school year.



School District 83 Permission Forms Information

In an effort to “be green” and to save you time, the following forms have been posted on **Parent Connect** for you to review and authorize. All forms should be reviewed and responded to by your child’s parent/guardian by **September 22**.

To access Parent Connect, go to the Hillcrest website (www.hil.sd83.bc.ca) and choose “Parent Connect” under the “Parents” tab. For those needing additional assistance an instruction document is also located on the sign in site.

Notes:

- You must have an up to date browser in order for Parent Connect to function properly.
- If you cannot remember your password for Parent Connect click on the “Forgot my Password” link and a new password will be emailed to you.
- If you are having trouble logging in it may be because we do not have your current email address. If that is the case, please contact the office for assistance.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Log into Parent Connect**
2. **Click on the “FORMS” tab at the top of the page, read each form and select the appropriate response. (use the “PREVIOUS” “NEXT” links to see all forms)**
3. **CLICK SAVE (located below the “FORMS” box)**

ONLINE FORMS

Parent Personal Information Consent

In accordance with the *BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the Board of Education of School District No. 83 is seeking your consent to collect, retain, use and disclose photographs, videos, images and/or names of students and groups of students in a variety of publications and on the School District’s website(s) for educational purposes (i.e. yearbooks, newsletters, class blogs etc.). This permission is required annually.

Parent Outside Media Consent

Media (including radio, television, newspapers, and other print and online media) are sometimes permitted or invited to come to the school or to school activities and allowed to take photos/video or conduct interviews with students, for the purposes of promoting public understanding of school programs, building public support for public education, and encouraging student achievement. This permission is required annually.

myBluePrint Internet Consent

As we move towards full integration of the Ministry of Education’s New Curriculum, we are looking for tools to better support student learning. The myBluePrint platform has a version called All About Me designed for K-6 students and version for grade 7-12 students called Education Planner. Both versions have planning tools and an e-portfolio in a digital environment. The servers are located in Canada; however, we are still collecting permission from parents to use the program. Alternate activities will be supported if permission is not granted. This permission is required once per school year your child attends.

Parent Network Permission (WiFi Access for Personal Devices)

Schools are now equipped with wireless networks to facilitate more flexible access to learning resources. Students must agree to the terms and conditions of the “Digital Citizenship” regulation #3000 before being granted permission at the school level. This permission is required annually.

Walking Field Trips Permission

During the school year, teachers may take students for excursions in and around our neighborhood. The teacher will provide supervision on these neighborhood trips, with the assistance of parent volunteers, as required. When longer trips involving travel

outside our local area are planned, you will be informed in writing and will be asked to sign a separate permission slip for each trip. This permission is required once per school your child attends.

District Cloud Services Consent (Office 365/G Suite)

School District No. 83 is always looking for ways to support learning in the classroom. As we move through the information age Internet-based tools are being developed and used to create and share learning and to build a lifelong digital portfolio. The District has identified two tools (Office365 and Gsuite) that will require a personal account to be created for your child using their first name, last name, birth year and the school that they are attending. Your consent to your child's use of Office365 and Gsuite is required by British Columbia's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA). This permission is required once per school your child attends.

PAPER FORMS

Student Information Verification Form

A paper form was sent home last week asking parents to update and verify the information we have for each child. Thank you to those families who have already returned this form. Please sign, date, and return this form to the office.

If you are not receiving school emails (ie. Newsletters, Hot Lunch info, etc.) and would like to receive them please contact the office to ensure your email address on file is correct.

LOST AND FOUND

Missing a shoe, sock, hat, jacket? Our Lost and Found box is located right inside our front door. All items remaining in the lost and found before a major school break (ie. Christmas, Spring Break, Summer) will be taken to a local thrift store for donation. We will also post a video of lost and found items a few times a year on our Hillcrest Facebook page. Be sure to "like us" on Facebook and tell your friends and family too!



Hot Lunch and PAC Fundraisers 2023-2024

Hot lunch menus will be available online. They are not quite ready to be launched but stay tuned! When we are ready, here is how you go about ordering online:

Instructions:

1. Go to: <http://hillcrest.school lunchorders.net>
2. Select: "**Click here to register**" (Due to staff and class changes ALL students must register. ALL last year's accounts have been deleted to ensure each student is assigned to their correct new class)
3. Complete your (parent/caregiver) account information. **Access code: HCHL**
4. Select "**Students**" then "**Add New**" and enter each student separately being sure to assign them to their correct class.
5. Once all students have been added, return to the "**Home**" page and then select "**Manage Orders**". Here is where you can place orders for students (or parents if you plan to volunteer and would like to order)

Payment Options:

1. Online using Bambora or credit card.
2. Print remittance form and return to school with cash or cheque. If you don't have access to a printer: please write – Hot Lunch payment: including students name, class, amount paid – on a piece of paper and return with payment to school. **Please make cheques payable to "Hillcrest PAC".**

PAC Apple Fundraiser is now open!

This is an important fundraiser our PAC does every year which helps support initiatives for all of our students. If you are interested, simply order through our hot lunch link:

<http://hillcrest.school lunchorders.net/>

Hillcrest Elementary School Apple Fundraiser

with Apples from Davison Orchards



Picked by hand, packed by hand & delivered fresh from our farm!

This is no ordinary fundraiser! Support your community and enjoy premium BC apples.

Order Deadline: 10/4/2023	Variety	Price
Pick-up Date: TBD, approximately October 18-23rd	Davison Honeycrisp	\$42
Contact: Kayla	Ambrosia	\$32
E-mail: kaylavann88@gmail.com	Gala	\$32

Online order:
<http://hillcrest.school lunchorders.net/admin/?sid=&un=0>



All apples are hand packed into a 15 lb. box



Davison Orchards is a family farm and the Okanagan's favourite family destination. Specializing in apples, our farm is nestled in the hills of the beautiful Okanagan valley. We offer fresh & high quality fruit and vegetables in a safe & sustainable way.



Orange Shirt Day and Secwepemc Flag Raising

We are so pleased to be recognizing Orange Shirt Day on Friday Sept 29 this year. In addition, we are thrilled to have our brand-new Secwepemc flag flying now, and will be having a flag raising gathering on Sept 29. Students and staff will be assembling in the gym at 1:15, hopefully we will have a special guest or two, and then we will all gather outside around our flag poles to raise the Secwepemc flag officially. Families are welcome to join us. We encourage everyone to wear orange on this special day. Thank you.



Hillcrest School Spirit Wear!

On sale now! The sample rack of t-shirts and hoodies is located at the front entrance to our school. Order deadline is Sept 28, and orders should arrive the week of Oct 23. If you wish to order, just click on the link:



<https://hillcrest2023.itemorder.com/>



Hillcrest Elementary School 2023
You can now purchase your items online in 3 easy steps:

1. Scan the QR code or go online to <https://hillcrest2023.itemorder.com/>
2. Choose your items and add them to your cart
3. Securely checkout with your credit card

Online Store Deadline: **Thursday September 28th, 2023 (11:59pm PDT)**

<p>Youth Fleece Hooded Sweatshirt</p>  <p>2 Colors</p>	<p>Adult Fleece Hooded Sweatshirt</p>  <p>2 Colors</p>	<p>Youth Cotton T-Shirt</p>  <p>2 Colors</p>	<p>Adult/Unisex Pro Spun Tee</p>  <p>2 Colors</p>
<p>Ladies Pro Spun T-Shirt</p>  <p>2 Colors</p>	<p>Ladies Vintage Pullover Hooded Sweatshirt</p>  <p>3 Colors</p>	<p>Adult/Unisex Vintage Hooded Sweatshirt</p>  <p>3 Colors</p>	

But wait! There's more! See our school fees form on next page...

HILLCREST SCHOOL FEES FOR 2023-2024

As per school district policy and with PAC approval, Hillcrest Elementary School will be collecting four separate school fees this year.

1. School Purchased Supply Fee (\$35)

This is **mandatory** fee for each student. The school purchases student supplies in bulk so parents do not have to purchase them.

2. Agenda Book Fee (\$7)

This is **mandatory** fee for each student whose teacher utilizes an Agenda Book as part of their regular classroom routines.

3. Student Activity Fee (\$20)

This is an **optional** fee that allows Hillcrest to provide special programs and activities for our students. The student activity fee will be used to support school activities (ie. Swimming, Skating, Gymnastics, Art Fair, etc.) and help offset the costs of class field trips.

4. Cultural Performance Fee (\$10)

This is an **optional** fee that allows Hillcrest to provide cultural performances for our students (ie. theatre and musical performances, special events, etc.)

Optional vs. Mandatory Fees

Provincial legislation requires schools make the Student Activity Fee and the Cultural Performance Fee optional, however, our ability to offer these types of programs/activities depends on the money generated by the fees collected. Both our PAC and staff feel the programs supported by these fees are extremely important for our students.

Financial Hardship

We believe that no child shall be denied access to a school sponsored program for financial reasons. If circumstances do not permit payment at this point, please contact Ms. Garries at 250-832-7195.

Please complete and include the form below if you are paying by cash or cheque.

Name of Student(s)

Grade	Teacher
Grade	Teacher
Grade	Teacher

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. School Purchased Supplies Fee – All Grades | \$35.00 x _____ = |
| 2. Agenda Book Fee (<u>Mrs. Boyd’s class does not use</u>) | \$7.00 x _____ = |
| 3. Student Activity Fee (all students - Max \$40 per family) | \$20.00 x _____ = |
| 4. Cultural Performance/Special Event Fee (all students) | \$10.00 x _____ = |

TOTAL:

Payment can be made...

- by **Credit Card** through Parent Connect (<http://parentconnect.sd83.bc.ca/>)
- by **eTransfer** to hil@sd83.bc.ca. Please include your child’s name in the description.
- by **Cash or Cheque payable to HILLCREST SCHOOL**. Please fill out the form above and include it, with payment, in an envelope with your child’s/children’s name(s) on it. *Envelopes can be given to your child’s teacher or the office.*