



November 27, 2015

HILLCREST ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

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Hillcrest is a globally aware community that values acceptance, diversity and engaged learning while fostering and celebrating student successes

DATES TO NOTE:

Monday, Nov. 30	Winter Fest ticket orders due
Wednesday, Dec. 2	Star Search 1:00 pm
Friday, Dec. 4	Winter Fest 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Sunday, Dec. 6	Hanukkah begins
Wednesday, Dec.9	Subway Lunch
Friday, Dec. 11	Report Cards go home
Monday Dec. 14	PAC meeting and Winter Fest recap
Wednesday, Dec. 16	Naden Band (grades K,1,2,2/3,5)
Friday, Dec. 18	Last day of classes Year End Assembly - 1:15 Farewell to Ms. Dolan - Coffee and Tea in the MPR



MS. DOLAN'S MESSAGE

I am very pleased to announce that Mrs. Barbara Sapsford will be the Acting Vice-Principal as of January 1, 2016. Mrs. Gauvreau will be the Acting Principal, as Ms. Dolan is retiring.

We would like to extend a warm “thank you” to Rishi and Amy Sharma, parents of Amiyah and Eisha, for your generous donation of two iPad Minis for Hillcrest kindergarten class use! Also, a huge “thank you” Dr. Kam Brar, Hanryk’s father, for kindly helping out with our Division 12 Kindergarten classroom pet, Butterscotch the guinea pig! We are so grateful for such a generous Hillcrest Community.

On December 18th we look forward to the final assembly in 2015. The assembly will begin at 1:15 pm with our very own Strings group performing. Following the assembly, come join us in the Multi Purpose Room for tea, coffee and a sweet to say farewell to Ms. Dolan!



PARKING LOT!



DROP OFF and PICK UP at Hillcrest are becoming exercises in *extreme frustration* for parents, students and our staff. We need your cooperation as your child's safety is of paramount importance to us. We need our parent community to improve the overall safe delivery and pick up of students to and from Hillcrest.

Drop off/Pick up lane

- Please move as far forward as possible in the drop-off/pick up lane so that more vehicles can pull in behind you.
- Ensure your children exit from the sidewalk side of your vehicle.
- Remain in your vehicle when in the drop off/pick up lane. If you need to enter the school, please park in one of the designated spots (by the gym parking lot) or on the street.
- Do note the drop off lane is a NO IDLE ZONE --PLEASE SHUT YOUR CARS OFF WHEN WAITING

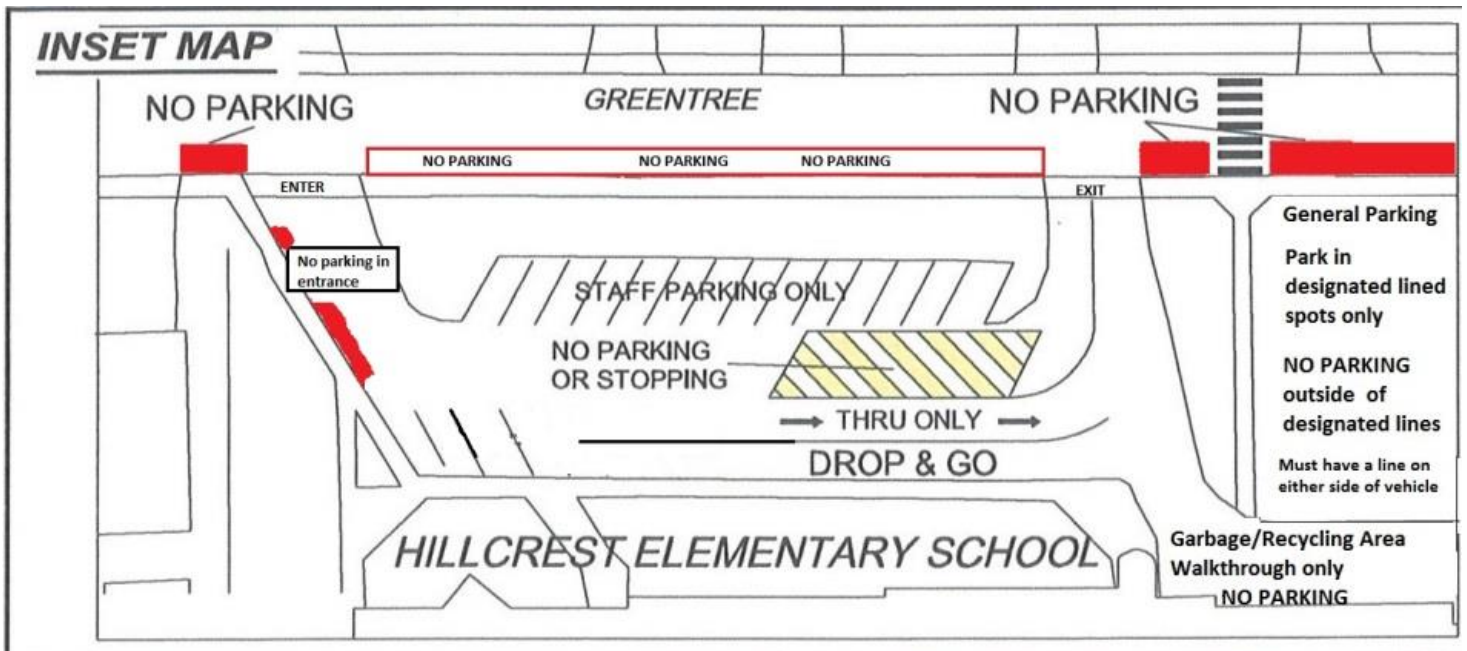
Parking

The parking lot directly in front of the school is for STAFF only.

Parents are welcome to park in the lot closest to the gym; along Greentree Ave., but not along the sidewalk in front of the school, which is a no parking zone.

*** You may have noticed the Saanich Police were patrolling our parking lot this afternoon. They spoke to several drivers, and will be dropping by again over the next weeks. They will be issuing parking tickets at their discretion, which can cost up to \$110 to pay.**

Please see the PDF on the Hillcrest website for Best Walking Routes to Hillcrest Elementary.



November 20, 2015

Dear Parent(s) and/or Guardian(s):

This year, every school district in British Columbia will be starting the process of transitioning to the new Provincial Curriculum Framework. To support the transition, the Ministry of Education will be providing time for educators to become familiar with the new curriculum.

During the 2015-16 school year, two non-instructional days will be designated for educators to work directly with the new curriculum.

The two additional **non-instructional** days for the Greater Victoria School District are:

- Monday, January 11, 2016
- Monday, April 4, 2016

Days in session	184
Minimum number of days of instruction	175
Maximum number of non-instructional days	8
Professional Development Days: (non-instructional days)	Monday, September 21, 2015 Friday, October 23, 2015 Friday, November 20, 2015 Friday, February 19, 2016 Friday, May 20, 2016 To be chosen by each school
Curriculum Implementation Days: (non-instructional days)	January 11, 2016* April 4, 2016*
School Opening Day	Tuesday, September 8, 2015
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 12, 2015
Remembrance Day	Wednesday, November 11, 2015
Last day of school before Winter vacation	Friday, December 18, 2015
Winter Vacation	December 21, 2015 to January 1, 2016
Schools re-open after Winter Vacation	Monday, January 4, 2016
Family Day	Monday, February 8, 2016
Last day of school before Spring Vacation	Friday, March 11, 2016
Spring Vacation	March 14, 2016 to March 28, 2016
Schools re-open after Spring Vacation	Tuesday, March 29, 2016
Good Friday	Friday, March 25, 2016
Easter Monday	Monday, March 28, 2016
Victoria Day	Monday, May 23, 2016
Last day of school for students	Thursday, June 23, 2016
Year-end Administrative Day (& School closing day/year end)	Friday, June 24, 2016

If you have any comments or questions about these two additional non-instructional days, please contact me at plangstraat@sd61.bc.ca

Yours sincerely,



Piet Langstraat
Superintendent of Schools



Star Search!

We are very excited as we look forward to this year's first Star Search! Please join us on Wednesday, December 2 at 1pm to see our talented students perform!



The Food Train is Coming!

From **December 1 - 11** we will be collecting non-perishable items for our food train to support our families in need, and to donate to the 9th annual KOOL FM Food for Families. **Suggested items are** peanut butter, canned fish, canned fruit (applesauce) & vegetables, dry cereal (whole grain), dry pasta & canned sauce, rice, beans, macaroni & cheese, canned soup, juices, soap and diapers.

Please deposit your items in the boxes in the main foyer beginning Tuesday morning. If you know of a family who would benefit from a hamper, or if your family would enjoy receiving a Christmas hamper, please contact Ms. Dolan or Mrs. Gauvreau. Discretion is assured.

Naden Band Holiday Concert

We have 250 seats reserved at Naden Band, so students in grades K,1,2,3, and 5 will attend the Holiday Concert on Wednesday, Dec. 16th beginning at 1:30 pm. Grade 4 students will be attending the Symphony in February.

Thanks to our PAC we will bus students to the event. **We are asking families for a donation of \$2.00 to help with this cost.** Naden also appreciates any \$ donations to donate to families in need.

We would appreciate all donations to be in to teachers by Friday, December 11th.



1000X5

1000 Books by Age Five

Children's Book Recycling Project Greater Victoria

Recently I received another story of the power of the books you give to 1000X5:

"A Mom of a past preschooler approached me to let me know just how 1000x5 and our preschool had helped her and her son through a difficult time. 1000x5 gave them the books needed to bond. The books came as a gift from the heart with no strings attached. They found some sense of solace in being able to share the stories together, often taking them to a land of fantasy and better times. Mom and son looked forward to the evenings of sharing and some points of laughter. She told me books are expensive and with thanks to 1000x5 and our preschool program they are in a better place with goals to move ahead - loving and learning from the gift of books."

Take your books for babies and preschoolers to the pink bin in the school's office.
Check out our website at 1000x5.ca. We are the Victoria project.



One more week until Winter Fest and the Elves are hard at work! Don't forget to send in your order forms. **Re-Gift Bazaar:** It's time to clean out your cupboards to make way for the holiday whirlwind. We are collecting items for the Winter Fest Re-Gift Bazaar, items such as small toys, books, candles, picture frames, or anything that would make a suitable gift. There is a bin in the front foyer for all your goodies!

We also need items for the market place, in particular gifts for Mums and Dads. Also we need a large amount of volunteers so everyone gets a chance to enjoy the evening. As always with these events the more the merrier!



Please let us know where you can help: The options are in the market place, crafts, the cafe, the dance hall or the movies. Please send an email to the hillcrestpac@sd61.bc.ca address or write a note on your child's passport order form. Thanks so much...it's going to be fun!

Entertainment Book Winners!!

The winners of the Entertainment Book prizes are as follows:

- Tickets to Victoria Royals Game and Royals baseball cap: Laike George, Div 6
- Tickets to the Victoria Bug Zoo: Anika Huang, Div 9
- Most books sold -- family pass to Winter Fest: Mikayla So, Div 10
- Principal for a Day and Lunch with Ms. Dolan: Rachel Yee, Div 3
- The most books sold per Division: Division 2

And The Raffle Prize Winners Are....

A big thank-you to all our families for supporting our Playground Fundraising efforts by participating in the Raffle draw! Together we raised a net of \$3,165.63! As well a huge thank-you Harbor Air Seaplanes, Adrenaline Zip-line Adventures, The Victoria Royals, The Glass Smith Glass Shop, The Bee-Hive Wool Shop, Heirloom Linens, Broadmead Pharmasave, Saanich Recreation and The Fireside Grill for generously donating all the prizes.

Last Wednesday morning Ms. Dolan helped us pull the winning tickets out of the box. And those winners are:

- 1st prize: Christina Thompson (Harbor Air tickets)
- 2nd prize: Lisa Eve-Liudzius (Adrenaline Zipline passes)
- 3rd prize: Hiroe Akita (Royals Family pack)
- 4th prize: Kiki Winarnita (Glass Fusing class and Bee Hive gift card)
- 5th prize: Ted Stallard (R/C Helicopter)
- 6th prize: Andrea Baulne (Home Decor piece)
- 7th prize: Livia Pratt (Saanich Rec x10 pass)
- 8th prize: Charles Goodmanson (Fireside Grill \$50 gift card)

Congratulations to all of our Raffle winners and thank-you for your support! And congratulations to all the Hillcrest Stars who are helping bring us closer to our fundraising goal! Please note: to comply with BC Gaming regulations, please return any unsold ticket books you may still have to the school. Thank-you!

A Few More Things...

- The PAC is looking for a PAC Secretary to take minutes at our monthly meetings. If you are looking for a way to get more involved with Hillcrest, this is a great opportunity. Email us at hillcrestpac@gmail.com if this is something that you would like to help out with.
- We are also still looking for another Hot Lunch Helper. Two wonderful parents have already volunteered, but we need one other person to help on the actual Hot Lunch days. Contact hillcrestpac@gmail.com.
- PAC Meeting Change. January's PAC meeting has been moved from January 11 to Jan 25.

Community News



On behalf of Saanich Mayor and Council and the Saanich Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee, I would like to invite you, your staff and students to the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Saanich Municipal Hall Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at 7 p.m.

The evening's events will include guided tours of the building, a special Council Meeting featuring a presentation on the history of the Municipal Hall and the unveiling of a commemorative sign. An informal reception with Mayor and Council and members of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee will follow.

This would be an informative opportunity for students and teachers interested in civic government and engagement, architecture, and local history.

In addition to the December 1st celebration, self-guided tours of the Municipal Hall will be available 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. on December 2nd and 3rd, as well as a presentation on the history of Saanich mayors and a guided tour has been scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday, December 2nd.

Mayor and Council and the Arts Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee, look forward to celebrating this significant heritage milestone with residents of all ages.

Yours truly,

Kelli-Ann Armstrong
Staff Liaison – Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee