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Superintendent:  
Paul Denomme

# Hillcrest School—Newsletter

## From the Principal's desk!

October is upon us and this season of thanks provides us with an opportunity to be grateful for the many gifts we have in our school community. Thank you to our students who have worked hard this month at getting back into routines and applying their skills to show us their very best. Let's keep it going Spartans! Thank you also to our staff who have led this transition and established the groundwork for a great school year.

Our 3-pitch teams enjoyed themselves at their respective tournaments. Congratulations to all of our student athletes, their coaches and supporters who represent our school so well, with sportsmanship and athletic excellence. Cross country season is underway and we look forward to a successful meet for all our competitors.

Volleyball season also is under way. We have four teams competing this fall, and we look forward to more great results on the volleyball court. A big thank you to our volunteer teacher coaches, we are grateful for the time they spend outside of the classroom preparing our student athletes for success on the playing surface.

Your child's safety is of great concern to us. The school parking lot at drop off and pick up presents a great challenge for us in ensuring student safety. Parents are not permitted to drop off or pick up their child from the main parking lot. This presents a significant hazard as the majority of our children leave campus via the front of the building, bus traffic and unauthorized parent vehicles are creating a very unsafe situation for our students. If you must pick up your child from school, we urge you to use Eastwood St. or Melvin Avenue for this purpose. Melvin Avenue is a very light traffic road, adjacent to our playground with limited parking/ stopping restrictions. We ask that parents picking up students with a vehicle meet their child on Melvin Ave. A crossing guard is in place on Melvin to further ensure student safety.

### Subscribe to the School Website

Our school website has the ability for each parent to subscribe for information and updates. Please go to our website at [www.hwdsb.on.ca/hillcrest](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/hillcrest) and click on the **subscribe** button this will allow you to make a request for personal email updates on school closures and other important information regarding our school. As we make any updates to our website such as newsletter or calendar posting you will receive a personal email update informing you of the changes. We are hopeful that this feature will help to make home to school communication a much faster and clearer option for all.

### WE ARE A NUT SENSITIVE SCHOOL

Parents are asked to carefully read labels of all food items that are brought to school to make sure that they have no trace of nuts or nut products. Many products now carry a clearly marked "Nut Free" logo. In an effort to keep all our children safe we ask that if you are sending in treats to school on special occasion days (class parties or birthdays) that they be store purchased labeled "nut Free" products only. Although we really appreciate the home baked goods it is too difficult for us to ensure the safety of these food items for the variety of food allergies present in the school.

We appreciate your cooperation in providing a safe learning/work environment for our students and staff.

This month we are focusing on **RESPONSIBILITY**.

We can be trusted and follow through on all our commitments. We are accountable for all we say and do!

### Upcoming Dates:

Thanksgiving—No School	October 9th	Picture Day	October 13th
School Council	October 23	P.A. Day—No School	November 3rd

**SPARTAN NEWS**



### Procedures for Access & Visitors

1. Require that all visitors (parents/guardians, volunteers, etc.) only access our school through the main doors of the school which will be locked and require visitors to be buzzed in by office staff.
2. Require that all visitors to the school MUST sign in the "Visitor Book" located in the main office.
3. Require that all parents/guardians who are picking up children to leave for an appointment must sign them out at the office so that we have a record of their children going home with them.
4. Require that all volunteers have police checks and wear the Identification Badges that have been provided by the school at all times when on school property functioning as a volunteer.
5. Require that parents/guardians who have notes, homework, supplies, lunches etc. report to the main office. One of the most important learning factors for children is the amount of "time on task" (learning time) that they receive "free from distractions". Thus, we ask that we honour teachers teaching time and students learning time by not interrupting classes during the instructional day. Your child's lunch, etc. will be given to your child by the office staff at the next break in instructional time (nutrition breaks).
6. Require that parents/guardians who are picking up or dropping off children during the day report to the office to sign their children in or out.

### Uniforms

Hillcrest school is a uniform school. All of our students are required to wear a uniform top each day. If you have yet to make arrangements to purchase uniforms from our uniform supplier JML (located at 95 Parkdale Ave) please do so as soon as possible. Students who come to school without uniform are re-directed to the office by the classroom teacher and students are provided with a shirt to borrow for the day. Please make every effort to ensure that your child is in uniform each and everyday. If you should have any questions or concerns regarding the uniform top please feel free to contact the school directly for any assistance.

### Pizza Days!

Every Friday, beginning September 29th. Slices are \$1.50 each available by pre-order only!



### Milk is back!

White and chocolate milk, now available for purchase daily for \$0.75. Grades K-5 pre-order, 6-8 purchase daily in office.

*Online payment is available for both milk & pizza.*

### ATTENDANCE POLICY

If your child is unable to attend school, please contact the office at (905)549-3076 . Please call before 8:30 a.m. if possible. Our answering machine is available any time of the day or night. Please leave the student's name, class, and reason for the absence.

Students arriving after the entrance bell will not be permitted into class without a late slip from the office.

Our office staff must contact the home of each and every student marked absent as part of our safe school policy and we thank you for your continued co-operation in helping to minimize the number of calls we must make.

### **BE ON TIME!!! BE AT SCHOOL EACH DAY!!!**

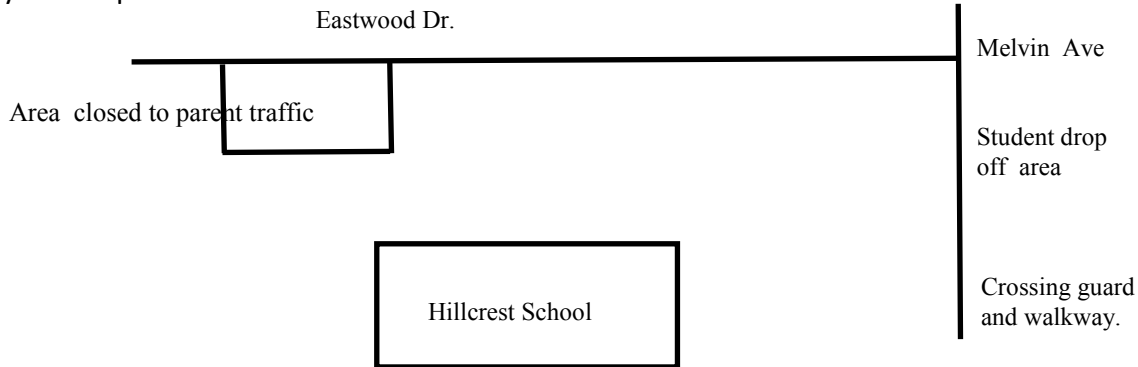
Regular attendance and punctuality are essential for student success. All students are expected to be at school, on time each day. Our school day begins promptly at 9:00 am and we dismiss at 3:20 p.m.

### **School Council**

The next council meeting will be held on **October 23 at 6:30pm** in the library.

## Parking

In order to keep our students safe while on Campus we ask that families who drop students off **use only Melvin Ave or Eastwood St.** as the drop zone. Not the school parking lot' Only staff vehicles and buses should enter the parking lot between the hours of 8:45– 9:15am and again between 3:00 pm and 3:45pm as these are the times when our students are exiting campus, many of them down the front walkways of the school adjacent to the parking lot and driveways. Our students safety is our number one priority and we thank you for your cooperation.



### **New Parent Reach Out Sessions**

We are excited to announce new Parent Engagement sessions for Hillcrest families this year. Our first session will be held October 18th. Laura Laverty our School Nurse will be with us to assist parents and caregivers with creating healthy lunches and nutrition options on a budget. We will be providing child care for those families who require child minding as well we will be starting our evening off with a light dinner for all attendees as well as the supplies to make lunches for the following day. We hope to provide a monthly session for families with dinner and child minding provided each session. Please look for the flyer and RSVP, as we require this for planning purposes.

#### **Healthy Lunches Parent Session**

**Wednesday October 18th**

**4:30-5:00pm Dinner**

**5:00pm-6:00pm Session with nurse Laura**





***Next Session: November 22nd—Helping with homework***

### **Supervision Before and After School**

Please be aware that the school play ground is not supervised in the morning until 8:45 am. This means that children who arrive before this time are unfortunately not supervised by a school official and therefore we are not able to ensure your child's safety before this time. We have had many students of all ages arriving before 8:45 and this has presented challenges, as sometimes conflict occurs before supervision is present making it difficult for us to intervene and problem solve in a timely fashion. Additionally the school is not open to all parents before bell times. Should you have the need to speak with your child's teacher please come into the office to make an appointment at a time convenient to you and the staff will make every effort to accommodate your request. Please do not walk to classrooms as this presents a safety concern to all students and staff.

Afternoon dismissal also presents some growing concerns for us. The bell goes at 3:20 and therefore all students walking home must be picked up by 3:20. We do provide supervision until 3:35 outside if you are running late. Please make arrangements to be at the school on time as we cannot be housing students in the office while we search for a parent or caregiver. Some students are being directed by parents to wait in the office until they arrive and we are not always available to supervise students. Please make every effort to have a caregiver get your child on time.

# October 2017

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2—Day 4  Milk Orders Due	3—Day 5	4—Day 1	5—Day 2	6—Day 3  
9 <b>THANKSGIVING DAY</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	10— Day 4  Pizza Orders Due	11—Day 5	12—Day 1	13—Day 2  <b>Picture Day</b>  
16—Day 3  Milk Orders Due	17—Day 4	18—Day 5 Bus Driver Appreciation Day  Healthy Lunches Parent session 4:30- 6pm	19—Day 1	20—Day 2  
23—Day 3  School Council Meeting 6:30pm	24—Day 4	25—Day 5  <i>Dental Screening</i>  ECE Appreciation Day	26—Day 1  Community Kitchen 9am w/ Nurse Laura	27—Day 2  
30—Day 3  Milk Orders Due	31—Day 5  