



# THE HAWK EYE

## HILL CREST COMMUNITY SCHOOL

### THINGS TO KEEP YOUR EYE ON FOR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

- October 5** – Hot lunch
- October 9** – Thanksgiving Day
- October 11** – Fire Drill
- October 12** – Hot Lunch
- October 17** – Class and individual photo day
- October 19** – Early Dismissal, Hot lunch
- October 26** – Hot Lunch
- October 28** – Iron Chef @ LCPS
- November 1** – Hot Lunch
- November 3** – Classroom Newsletter
- November 5** – Daylight Saving Time Ends (Back one hour)
- November 7** – Fire Drill
- November 8** – Remembrance Day Ceremony, Hot Lunch, Early dismissal
- November 9** – PD Day
- November 10** – School closed
- November 11** – Remembrance Day
- November 14** – Lock down drill
- November 15** – Retakes and Kindergarten grad pictures, Hot Lunch
- November 17** – Report cards
- November 21** – Parent Teacher interviews 4-7
- November 22** – Hot Lunch
- November 29** – Hot Lunch

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone had a fun and relaxing summer and I'd like to welcome everyone back to school! As you know, this is my second year at Hill Crest Community School and I'm very excited for another great school year. It's hard to believe that September is already over but the school year has been off to an excellent start! Both staff and students are working hard and I'm very impressed with how well everyone is working together to create a safe and caring learning environment. The staff at Hill Crest are amazing and we're very lucky to have them in the lives of our students. You, as parents send us keen and excited children every day and the staff couldn't ask for better parents to work with.

Last year I made a conscious effort to clearly communicate school happenings with the community because I strongly believe it's important that the school and community are on the same page regarding our students. Therefore, I want to outline our school goals for the 2017-2018 school year which can also be found in our Education Plan. After consulting with parents, students, and staff and analyzing various types of school data (PAT, CAT, Parent Surveys, Student Engagement Surveys, Accountability Pillar data, etc.), the areas of greatest need for our students became evident and those areas became our school goals. Please note that while we prioritize our efforts on three school goals per year, countless other aspects of a successful school continue to occur each and every day. Below are the Hill Crest Community school goals for the upcoming school year.

***School Goal 1: Improve students' reading comprehension by 3% as measured by the Canadian Achievement Tests (CAT) (comparative to 2016-2017 results).***

Reading continues to be at the forefront of our efforts. Many of our students are very good technical readers; however, they struggle when asked questions about the text they've read.

As a staff, we have a list of comprehension strategies that allow students to deeply understand the text they're reading; however, your help to accomplish this goal would be greatly appreciated. Through the course of the year, you can expect to receive some strategies from us that you can use when reading with your child. In addition to reading which your child, one of the most important strategies is to question your child on the stories they read; that way you can tell if they're understanding the text.

***School Goal 2: Improve students' writing abilities by 5% from the beginning of the year, as measured by the FVSD division writing samples using the division created rubric.***

Writing is another area where our students can improve. This is a long term goal and improving a student's writing ability doesn't happen overnight. Just like reading, staff have identified strategies that they will implement to improve student writing. As a school, we saw some growth in writing last year and we're hoping to continue this trend.

***School Goal 3: Increase student engagement levels as measured by the "Interested and Motivated" category of the Our School Survey from 16% to 27%.***

At Hill Crest, we want all students to value their education and we want them to be curious, to think critically, and to make informed decisions. To instill the value of education in our students we need to ensure they see a purpose in what they do.

This goal will be emphasized primarily in Junior High due to low engagement scores in the past; however, it's important that our younger students genuinely value their learning as well. We will continue to focus on engagement practices in class and offer a variety of extracurricular activities for all students.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me at the school.

## **STUDENT MARKS AVAILABLE TO PARENTS**

Parents are able to view their child's marks by accessing a specific website. After teachers have entered marks for a particular assignment or test, parents have the ability to see how their child did by accessing the parent portal. If this is something that interests you as a parent, you will need to sign up in the office for any of your children attending HCCS. This is available for grades 4-12 students. Students attending LCPS will have to sign up at the LCPS office.

## **STUDENT MEDICINES IN SCHOOL**

Although the Fort Vermilion School Division believes that the responsibility for the administration of medicine does not lie with the school system, it also recognizes that from time to time there may be times that school staff need to administer medication. Parents, it is extremely important that you advise the school of any medical issues your child has. A written request, using the appropriate FVSD form, must note the specific time the medication is to be administered, the exact dosage, and the duration of the treatment. All medication provided must be in the original container. The safety of all students is one of our highest priorities and prescription medicine will not be administered to students unless the above noted conditions are met.

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

Our school council executive members for this year are:

Chair – David Doerksen

Vice Chair – Peter Goertzen

Secretary – Carol Fehr

Parent Rep – David Dyck

Teacher Rep: Megan MacKnight & Jenn Perry

## **SCHOOL AUTOMATED CALL OUT (SCHOOL MESSENGER)**

Our school will once again be using the automated school messenger program as one of the forms of communicating with parents. Paper notices will still go home as usual. School messenger is also used for our Safe Arrival Program, where if your child is absent and the school doesn't know why before 9:30 you will receive a phone call.

## **SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM**

As a means of keeping students safe & cared for, the school has established a "Safe Arrival" program. In essence, the purpose of this program is to ensure that when you send your students out the door in the morning that they arrive safely at school.

This will be accomplished by having parents notify us of student absences in advance. We request that parents notify the school with a brief phone call or note in your child's agenda whenever a child is going to be absent from school. We have voice mail so you can leave a message even if it's early in the morning or late at night. If we don't receive notification from you and your child is absent, school messenger will call you at 9:30am so you are aware of your child's absence. When parents receive this phone call they should call the school and let the office know that their children are not in school. We need to know if they are out sick or if they will be away for several days. Knowing why students are absent will help us understand trends and respond better to situations of communicable illnesses.

## **HOT LUNCH PROGRAM**

There will be a hot lunch available at school every week this year. We are making every effort to provide healthy lunch choices that our students will enjoy. If you would like to volunteer to assist with hot lunch, please contact the school or fill out the volunteer form attached to this newsletter.

Students who have ordered but are absent on hot lunch day will be reimbursed. Parents will order hot lunch one month at a time. All orders for children in one family will be made on one order form. Payment for the month will be due before the first hot lunch of that month. Hot lunch items are also set up in <http://schoolcashionline.com> if you prefer to pay online. Please contact the school if you have questions.

## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

Hill Crest Community School is once again participating in the Operation Christmas Child campaign, sponsored by Samaritan's Purse. Thanks so much for your involvement in the past. This program is a unique project where you and your family have the opportunity to reach out to needy children in desperate situations around the world, and help share the real "reason for the season".

If you would like to take part, simply pack a shoebox with various items such as little toys, books, school supplies, and hygiene items. Once the boxes are collected, they will be shipped to Calgary. Collection date for boxes has not yet been set. Please include \$7 cash or cheque per shoe box to pay for the shipping. If you are sending more than one shoebox you may put all the money in one box. Shoeboxes are available at the school and can be picked up at any time and dropped off when you have them ready.

A note will be sent home when we have the deadline date.

## **YEARBOOKS**

The 2016-2017 yearbooks have arrived. We have a few extras, if you did not pre order one and would still like to purchase one stop by the office or call the school. Yearbooks are \$20.

## THE NEWEST HAWKS TO OUR FLOCK



My name is Chris Fehr and I will be your child's Physical Education teacher this year. I have spent the past 30 years in the La Crete area and approximately 20 years as a classroom teacher or school principal. I enjoy being active and interacting with students so Physical Education is something I look forward to! In my spare time I enjoy camping, fishing, all sports, and spending time with family.

This year at Hill Crest I will also be coaching golf, shinny hockey and helping Mr. Hache with basketball. I will also be working with Mrs. Krahn to lead our junior high track and field. Intramurals for all grades will be a focus area and the intention will be to provide a fun opportunity for students in this area. I will be helping with student council, house team challenges, hockey card trading, and the Terry Fox run this year. If you have any questions about any of these school events, feel free to contact me!

I am really excited to be part of the Hill Crest school community this year and look forward to getting to know parents as the year progresses.



Hello Everyone! My name is Roseanne Banman and I am the new Educational Assistant in the grade four classroom. I was born and raised in the La Crete area, and really appreciate the wonderful people we have in our community. Some of my favorite past times are enjoying Gods creation, doing art work, singing/music, and hanging out with family and friends! I love working with children of any age, and so far am really enjoying my new job!

I feel privileged to be part of Hill Crest Community School and am anticipating a fantastic year of learning!



Hello, my name is Chantelle Peters and I'm the new ECS Special Needs Assistant! I grew up in Blumenort and attended Hill Crest from K-9 and graduated from La Crete Public School in 2016. I am currently enrolled in my second year of university at Northern Lakes College studying to become a teacher. This past August, I was privileged to volunteer at an orphanage in Haiti. In my spare time I enjoy reading and being outdoors.

I'm excited to be back at Hill Crest and am looking forward to an excellent year.



Hi! I'm Sheri Friesen, the new secretary at Hill Crest School. I grew up in La Crete and have lived there my whole life. I graduated at La Crete Public School in 2010. For the last 6 years I have been working as a secretary for a construction/logging company. I am really enjoying this change!

In July of 2014 I married Seth Friesen and we have a cozy little home in town. When not at work, I enjoy the outdoors (swimming, hiking, quading), playing piano, and doing anything artsy.

I am loving getting to know the students and look forward to meeting more of you as well!



Hello! My name is Mrs. Karen McGean and I am the new grade one teacher at Hill Crest Community School. This is my 12th year of teaching and my 10th year in grade one. I am excited to get to know the students that attend Hill Crest, as well as their families!

I grew up in Blumenort and attended Hill Crest as a child. After graduating from La Crete Public School, I moved to Grande Prairie to complete my Bachelor of Education. I started my career in Fort Vermilion, teaching grade one at St. Mary's. After four years, I caught the travel bug, and moved to Thailand to teach English as a Second Language. When I returned to Alberta, I taught in Bonnyville, and Medicine Hat.

I met my husband Steve while teaching in Bonnyville. We moved back to the area five years ago to raise our family. We live in Fort Vermilion with our two children, Rowan and Cara, and our yellow lab, Bailey.

I am looking forward to a great year working with all of your children!



Hello, my name is Ms. Jenna Lambert and I am an intern in Miss Megan MacKnight's grade six class! So far, I have had a fantastic time at Hill Crest Community School and am looking forward to the rest of my placement.

I am from Newfoundland, Canada and went to Memorial University of Newfoundland. I only have one semester left of my Education degree and I finish in April 2018.

I am very excited to continue my internship, and learn all there is to learn from all the great staff and students at Hill Crest!



Hello! My name is Sarah Forbes and I am the new grade 7 teacher at HCCS. Although I am new to the school, I am not new to the division, I have been working within the division since September of 2014 when I did my teaching internship at High Level Public School. I have been teaching grade 7 the last 2 years at Fort Vermilion Public School and am thrilled to be starting a 3rd year in the grade I love! I am from Fredericton, New Brunswick where I did my Bachelor of Arts in English and Psychology at Saint Thomas University. I then moved to Moncton, New Brunswick to complete my bachelor of Education at Crandall University.

I'm an avid runner, hiker, and enjoy the outdoors with my little dog Scout. I'm really excited for my year at Hill Crest. I am looking forward to working with students both in the classroom and outside the classroom in various clubs and activities such as; cross country, literacy gala, quilting club and whatever else might arise as an opportunity!



My name is Ms. Olivia Sturge and I am the new Grade 8 homeroom teacher at Hill Crest Community School. This year I will also be teaching the Grade 8 and Grade 9 students their math, science, and health courses. This is my first year teaching and I am very excited to get started. I am from Mount Pearl, Newfoundland where I have lived my whole life and have just graduated from Memorial University with my education degree. I have always had a love for math and science but my love for teaching came when I was in high school. I was a tutor to my fellow students and it made me realize that I loved to help people learn and share my passion for math and science.



Hello everyone, my name is Miss Chelsea Cameron and I am a first year teacher at Hill Crest Community School. For the 2017—2018 academic year I will be working with the grade 8 and 9 students in their English Language Arts and Social Studies courses, and will be responsible for grade 9 homeroom. I am from a small town in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. I completed both my Bachelor of Arts (2015) and Bachelor of Education (2017) degrees at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia. I moved west for an adventure and to experience a different part of Canada. Although the culture is different than home, I have been happy to notice some similarities between the two. The friendliness and hospitality in the communities is just like home.

I have enjoyed meeting and getting to know a lot of the students at Hill Crest. I am hoping to lend a hand with some of the extra-curricular activities offered at the school in order to get to know students outside of the classroom.

With the cooperation from both the community and the students I believe this year can be successful for the students.

## OUR SCHOOL WEB PAGE

If you have internet access either at home or on your phone take time to browse our web page. On the web page you will find a link to School Cash Online for paying school fees and hot lunches. Also the link to the FVSD Parent Portal site where you have access to see your children's marks and attendance if they are in grades 4-12. You will notice there is also a bus status update. If busses are on time, delayed or cancelled you can check for regular updates. These are updated directly from the School Division Bus Garage.

## Parent Programs Happening in La Crete

### Creating Routine & Structure in Your Home

**October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 7pm – 9pm**

**Ridgeview Central School (All Schools Welcome)**

Attention All Parents in the La Crete Area! Come and join us at Ridgeview Central School as we discuss the building blocks of structure, basic routines and creating a family plan designed for your family. This program is flexible for all parents of all child age groups! The session is free however; if you wish to attend please register by calling Carlene Doerksen, the Child Circle Worker for the La Crete area at (780) 926-1181. Please arrange your own childcare as none will be provided. Snacks and coffee will be available along with a door prize.

### Triple P Discussion Groups

**November 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 7pm-9pm**

**Sandhills Elementary School (All Schools Welcome)**

Triple P Discussion Groups are geared for parents of kids ages 2-12 with specific concerns about their child's behavior. Discussion Groups are single 2 hour sessions for each topic. Parents can take one session or all of them.

November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 –Developing Good Bedtime Routines

November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 –Managing Fighting & Aggression

November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 – Dealing With Disobedience

November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 –Hassle Free Shopping

In order to participate in one or all discussion groups you must register in advance. You can register by calling Kendra Peters at Parent Link (780)-841-5969 or Carlene Doerksen the Child Circle Worker for the La Crete area schools at (780) -926-1181. Please arrange your own childcare as none will be provided. Snacks & Coffee will be provided.

# CREATING ROUTINE & STRUCTURE IN YOUR HOME

## WHEN

October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
7pm – 9pm

## WHERE

Ridgeview Central  
School

**We Will Be Discussing** · What You Are Already Doing Right ·  
Parenting Styles · Building Blocks of Structure · Basic  
Routines · Creating a Family Plan

COME OUT FOR A  
ONE DAY ONLY  
SESSION ON  
CREATING  
ROUTINE AND  
STRUCTURE IN  
YOUR HOME

SNACKS &  
COFFEE  
PROVIDED

EVENT IS FREE  
BUT PLEASE CALL  
CARLENE  
DOERKSEN AT  
(780) 926-1181  
TO REGISTER.

NO CHILDCARE  
PROVIDE. PLEASE  
MAKE ALTERNATE  
ARRANGEMENTS



# Volunteers!



## PARENT VOLUNTEERS

We would like to extend a sincere invitation to all Hill Crest Community School parents to get involved in the school by volunteering. We would love to have you in the school and helping educate young minds.

There are a wide range of activities and tasks that you could perform. Many teachers like to have parents helping out in the classroom; we often have special events where volunteers are essential to success; and there are always new books coming into the library that need to be proofread prior to being placed on the shelves.

If you would like to volunteer in the school, please fill out and return the form below. You can choose to volunteer in a specific manner or wherever you are needed. Whatever you choose, we will be happy to have you!

**Yes, I am available for volunteering at Hill Crest this year.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the appropriate boxes:

- Helping school council (staff appreciation week)
- During special events
- Wherever needed
- Hot Lunch
- Proofreading new library books/resources
- In my child's classroom (list children)

\_\_\_\_\_ grade \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ grade \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ grade \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ grade \_\_\_\_\_