



THE HAWK EYE

HILL CREST COMMUNITY SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I often get the question, "Soooo how is school going?" from parents at the school and also from individuals outside of Hill Crest Community School. It is always my pleasure to answer with "school is actually amazing, for both staff and students, if we had our parents, we would be complete!" The reality is that when I walk around school, I see so many normal activities happening. I also see many normal, happy students and staff. Things have not been normal and yet we consistently find the positives in the situation we are in. We adapt and we make it our Hill Crest own. Finding a balance between common sense and safety has been paramount and the reasons why we have had so much success!

Your kids are happy. They are safe. They are learning! I am pleased to report that although much learning was sacrificed in the time away from school in our recent past, our staff have worked tirelessly, jumping over hurdle after hurdle and ever-changing circumstance to support students where they most need it. I am proud of staff for their commitment and ridiculously proud of students for their efforts.

I missed each one of our parents when I was forced to cancel our Town Hall meeting. I am grateful for parents that called in to add items to the agenda. I can honestly say that I value the voice you have at these meetings and in the creation of the items to be discussed. We are blessed at Hill Crest.

Mr. Ben Giesbrecht

NEW HAWKS TO THE FLOCK

MRS. VICKI PITRE

I am so excited to be returning from my maternity leave! I have been teaching grade four at Hill Crest for five amazing years. I am from Moncton, New Brunswick, but currently live in La Crete. I

have an amazing son, Oliver (we call him Ollie) and a very supportive husband, Peter! We also have an adorable pug named Gix. I love being part of the Hill Crest community and seeing the happy students smiling faces every day!



MRS. CHRISSY VANCE



My name is Chrissy Vance, and I'm honored to be joining the Hillcrest team as one of the secretaries. I grew up in small, rural, Hartland, New Brunswick. Hartland is home to just 900 people, potato fields galore, and The World's Longest Covered Bridge. I absolutely loved my small knit school and university experience and have always wanted to work at a school. Upon completing my communications degree at Crandall University I got married and moved to Ottawa. It was there that five awesome kids were added to our family and I spent about 13 years juggling the kids with a variety of jobs including reception and secretary work, and operating my own home daycare. I love kids and I

love to keep busy!

Some of my personal passions include music, tea, all things arts and crafts, organizing EVERYTHING, and keeping healthy through running, dancing, and eating all the weird vegetables. I'm very much looking forward to getting to know more of the families that have already been so warm and welcoming to my husband, David, and kids who joined the Hillcrest crest team last year.

MISS. KIMBERLY DYCK



I am very excited to work at the school that I went to for 10yrs in the community that I grew up in! I look forward to being a part of the Hill Crest Staff because it is an awesome place to be.

PRE- KINDER TO BEGIN SOON!!

After much petitioning, we have been approved to begin pre-ECS after the Easter break! We are extremely excited about this and will inform parents of exactly what this will look like in the near future. Should you or someone you know be interested in the program, please let the school know. If you had already registered earlier, office staff will contact you.

FOCUS ON WRITING

HCCS has jumped in on a school wide initiative in writing! Using the Lucy Calkins program we are spending a great deal of effort in teaching students how to come up with their own idea and then to write about them with guidance from the teacher. The program focuses more on the process of writing rather than what to write about. All of our students are authors and it's time they realize that they can write like one too!

2021-22 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

In an attempt to be as accurate as possible for class sizes in September, it is very important for parents to register their child if they are eligible for the coming school year.

We are asking parents to call the school at 780-927-3203 to register their child as soon as possible. At this time we need your phone number, box number, and your child's name and birthdate.

More details regarding registration will be mailed home to ECS parents in April.

As per Provincial regulations, **to be eligible to register, students should be five years old on or before December 31st**, although certain exceptions to this age limit are allowed.

We also hope you'll spread the word for us. If you know of anyone with an eligible child, please encourage them to phone the school as well, especially those who may not receive this notice.

Thank you Parents!!

So many treats were dropped off at the school for Staff Appreciation Week! Thank you Parent Council for organizing this incredible event.



SCHOOL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE MEETING January 13, 2021

Called to order at 7:05 pm

Members present: Ben Giesbrecht, Peter Goertzen, Elizabeth Wiebe, Joanne Dyck, Henry Goertzen, Bill Wiens, David Doerksen

1. Welcome by Parent Chair – Peter Goertzen
2. Trustee Announcements – Henry Goertzen
- Welcome community rep – Elizabeth Wiebe

- Look at options for a sign beside the Highway in the future
- Possibly look at funding from division
- 2.4 million for the division to spend on improvements
- 90% spent locally
 - o Waterline at Hillcrest
 - o New roof tiles at Ridgeview
- 3. Town Hall Meeting Executive Roles and Speaking Points
 - Divide speaking points between committee members; gives more purpose to the group
- 4. Possibility of Lunch 2 days a week
 - Order in lunch from Subway, Friesen's, or Pizza Place
 - Only allowed to use 'School Cash Online'
 - Make a monthly payment by cheque for food orders
 - Lunch once a week
 - Probably Wednesday, ECS on Thursday
- 5. Gym Rentals
 - Wait and see for January 21st announcement
- 6. Grade 4 Position
 - Mrs. Pitre is back from mat leave
 - o There will be some leaves because of her sons medical condition
 - o Subs will be covered internally or by Kat Smith
- 7. Evaluations of New Staff
 - Tina, Brittany, Tyrone, Kat, Dave, Brad, Amanda, Chrissy
 - All are doing very well
- 8. Secretarial Mat Leave and Replacement
 - Sheri Friesen is going on Mat leave in February
 - Replacement position will be 3 days/week
 - Finance secretary position
 - Advertising locally
- 9. Part time Custodial Position
 - Advertising for part-time custodial position
 - 4 hours – flexible hours
 - Annie Krahn and Caryn Janzen are covering temporarily
- 10. Budget
 - Needs
 - Fundraising
 - Grade 9 bottle drive deadline Jan 31st
- 11.
 - Insurance jumped from \$400,000 to 2 million
 - Because of wildfire and flooding
 - 5% grade on sliding hill and other activities no longer covered
 - Effective September 2021
- 12. Plan for Numeracy, Literacy, and Connectivity
 - Data presented to staff-staff members are on board
 - Staff is divided into groups to champion one aspect
 - Groups meet once a month
 - Come up with plan to move forward
- 13. Lights, Camera, Catch 'em! – Our vandalism solution
 - Baseball diamond bench got wrecked by a vehicle
 - Motion sensor couldn't pick up the vehicle in the dark
 - Setting up a large LED light to light up the field
 - Get power in the gazebo and another camera on the roof
- 14. School Pictures
 - See if we can get Lifetouch after January 21
 - If not, we will do photos ourselves
 - Looking at a local photographer to do class photos
 - Check contract with Lifetouch first

15. Pre ECS Postponed
 - Options:
 - Looking at a 4 week program in May or June
 - 2-3 days a week for students, alternating days
 - Ideally start in March and run like previous years
16. HS Options at Hill Crest
 - Looking at options for High School classes run at Hill Crest
 - Remote learning in a separate classroom
 - Hope to have in place by next year
 - Survey students and parents
17. Goodie bags
 - Thanks to parent council for organizing and packing goodie bags
 - Look at fundraising for goodie bag budget next year
 - Spend less, downsize bags for next year
18. Other
 - Parent Survey
 - Council comes up with a survey for parents to gain insight on opinions of parents on different topics

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 8 – First day of Teacher’s Convention break

February 15 – Family day

February 16 – First day back

February 24 – Pink shirt day

February 26 – 100th day