

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!



HILLCREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

September 11, 2025

1180 20th Str SE
Salmon Arm, B.C. V1E 2J4
Phone # 250-832-7195

www.hil.sd83.bc.ca
email: hil@sd83.bc.ca
Fax #: 250-832-5420

Dear Hillcrest Families,

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year! Once again I am so thrilled to be the Principal at Hillcrest, this being my fourth year. My name is Jodi Garries, and I have lived in Salmon Arm for the past 10 years and lived previously in Sicamous since 1993. Living and working in this amazing Hillcrest neighborhood feels pretty wonderful! We have had a busy 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, hands and feet to self, etc.)

Thank you for being such an important part of our school community – we couldn't do this without you!

Sincerely,

Jodi Garries
Principal



Pro-D Day and National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

There is **no school** for students on **Monday Sept. 29** for a Pro-D Day, or on **Tuesday Sept 30** for National Truth and Reconciliation Day (this is a stat holiday). We will see the kids back on Wednesday Oct. 1!

Please let me introduce our fantastic 2025/2026 staff:

Kindergarten: Ms. Devon Corrie
Grade K and 1: Mrs. Erin Sudbury
Grade 1: Mrs. Loree Boyd
Grade 1/2: Mrs. Sheila Corbett
Grade 2: Mrs. Tammy Meerza
Grade 2: Mrs. Carla Wessely
Grade 3: Mrs. Susan Housden and Mrs. Justine MacDonald
Grade 3: Mrs. Morgen Smith
Grade 3 and 4: Mrs. Karen Kehl
Grade 4: Mrs. Leanne Gecse
Grade 4: Mr. Craig Smith
Grade 5: Ms. Allie Tyssen and Ms. Eryn Brown
Grade 5: Mrs. Tyra Menzies
Music: Mrs. Melanie Yakimishyn
Library: Mrs. Leisha Kintzinger (Mrs. Bosch may be back in a while!)
Learning Resource Teachers: Mrs. Tracey Sauka and Mrs. Justine MacDonald
Secretaries: Mrs. Cindy Spottock and Ms. Gillian Rasmuson
Indigenous Education Worker: Ms. Amanda Hewitt
Certified Education Assistants (CEA): Mrs. Sherri Baker, Mrs. Julie Creasy, Mr. Ian Hill, Mrs. Rebecca MacPherson, Mrs. Camilla Serhan, Mrs. Leanne Kujat, and Ms. Gina Leyenhorst, and more CEA staffing TBD
Early Childhood Educator: Mrs. Erin Warden
Custodians: Mr. Mike Allk and Mr. Hussam Alhassan
Counsellor: Ms. Kyla Redekop
Speech/Language Pathologist: Mrs. Kara Unfrau
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!

The 2025-2026 PAC Needs You! 😊

The PAC's first meeting date is set for Wed Sept 18 at 6:45 pm in our library. Please feel welcome and encouraged to attend at least one PAC meeting this year. At last night's AGM, we were unable to fill the position of Treasurer, so if this sounds like something you'd like to try, last year's Treasurer is happy to start you off with a little overview and support. See you all at the next PAC meeting!



BELL SCHEDULE

8:12 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



School Fees

Our school fees have increased \$3 since last year and are due by October 1st. 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, Field Trips, Cultural Performances etc.) for our students.

- School Supplies - \$35
- Agenda Book - \$10
- 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.



Individual Photo Day

Student individual photos will be taken at our school on **Wed. Oct. 1st**. Say cheese! Please note: Photo retake day is Thursday Oct 30.

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, no loose bowels, and can participate fully in the expectations of their day, without frequent interruptions from coughing, sneezing, runny nose, lethargy, diarrhea, etc. and symptoms have improved.

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

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 student handbook which 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 upon request.

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



The “Kiss and Go Lane” is a **quick** drop off and pick up area in which vehicles are not to be stopped for more than 30 seconds. **There is to be NO PARKING and leaving your vehicle unattended in the Kiss and Go Lane.**



There is typically only 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.

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 (written learning updates) and two informal reports.

The first Informal report will be a Student/Teacher/Family Conference Day on Mon Oct 20. Students do not attend school that day unless/until they have their appointment with their teacher and parent/guardian. More info to come on that soon.

The 2nd informal report may be a student led conference, a parent meeting, or a documented phone call, which will be after spring break.

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

Here is the reporting schedule for this year:

Oct 20 – Informal Report #1 – this is a student/parent/teacher conference this year AND it is a **full day off school** for students. **PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF THIS DATE.**

Dec 16 – Written Learning Update #1

Mar 10 – Written Learning Update #2

Apr 27 – May 7 – Informal Report #2 (May take the form of a student led conference)

June 25 – Written Learning Update #3



Meet The Teacher Night & PAC Meeting

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 & show their family their classroom on **Thursday Sept 18**.

5:00 - until the food runs out - every Hillcrest student will get a free slice of pizza (courtesy of the fabulous Hillcrest PAC). Drinks (pop, juice, Bubbly) will be available for purchase. Extra pizza will also be available for purchase. This is a cash only event. We will run this out of our school gym outside doors again this year. Prices TBA, but we make them affordable!

5:30-6:30 - we will open our school and classrooms to visit with staff and tour the 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.)

6:45 - our PAC is holding their first PAC meeting of the year and all parents are invited to attend. This will be held in the library.

Annual Terry Fox Run

Our community will hold the Terry Fox Run on Sunday September 14, and we will be holding a run too! Save the date: Our Terry Fox Run will be on **Friday September 19, with an assembly at 1:15 and the run at 1:30**. Families and caregivers are welcome to join us! If you would like to make a donation to help with cancer research, here is the link to donate online: <https://schools.terryfox.ca/99587>. We also have little donation cans in classrooms if your child wants to bring small cash donations.



School Spiritwear On Sale Now!!

We are pleased to offer Hillcrest t-shirts, hoodies and shorts for purchase. There will be a rack of clothing samples at the front door to help you choose the size you want. Here is the link to order, where you can see the prices and what colours we're offering. Orders are due online on Thurs Sept 24.

<https://hillcrest2025fall.itemorder.com/>

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 **October 1st**.

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.

☐ **Code of Conduct for Bus Students (only complete this if your child takes the school bus to and/or from school)**

School District No. 83 requires families to review and understand the behavioural expectations while their child(ren) ride the school bus.

PAPER FORMS

☐ **Student Information Verification Form**

A paper form was sent home this 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 by **Sept 19**.

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.

Orange Shirt Day

We will be recognizing Orange Shirt Day on Friday Sept 26 this year. If you didn't know, the reason we have Orange Shirt Day is not only an act of reconciliation, but we wear orange to honour those children who were lost, as well as those who survived residential schools in Canada. Phyllis Webstad, a residential school survivor in Secwepemculecw (the land of the Shuswap people) started her first day of residential school in 1973 wearing an orange shirt her granny had bought her for her first day of school. It was taken away from her at residential school which of course was frightening for Phyllis. As an act of reconciliation, we encourage everyone to wear orange to school on Sept 26 this year. Thank you. **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is Tuesday Sept 30 and there is no school that day.**



HILLCREST SCHOOL FEES FOR 2025-2026

As per school district policy and with PAC approval, Hillcrest Elementary School will be collecting four separate school fees this year, which is \$3 more than last school year. **We are sending this page home tomorrow in paper form, so no need to print this yourself!**

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 (\$10)

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. There is a maximum of \$40 per family for the activity fee.

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>) | \$10.00 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 sent to the office.*