

## PAC Meeting - Principals' Report June 2025

### 1. Staff Changes:

Retiring this Year: Mrs. Chapman, Mrs. Porter

Resigning: Ms. Beairsto

Leaving to go to other schools: Mrs. Stregger, Ms. Aikema, Mrs. Bedi, Mrs. Sturn

Many of our IESWs do not own positions at our school but may be posting back in – we won't know until June 27<sup>th</sup> and afterwards about their positions.

Returning to Hillcrest: Mrs. N. Sandu, who is returning from a maternity leave

Still on leave: Mrs. P. Sandhu, who is on maternity until the end of next year

New to Hillcrest: Mrs. Peloquin, our new counsellor, Ms. Paccagnan, our new Gr. 6/7 teacher who is taking over Mrs. Leeks' position, as she is going to be our new Librarian, we should know who our new VP will be by tomorrow.

Other than these changes, staff should remain as is, except for a few last-minute additions in September (Mrs. Senaratne's job share partner, our VP job share partner, and Mrs. P. Sandhu's TTOC)

### 2. School Update: we are projected for 20 divisions, one less division than this year. Our projected enrolment is for 453 students, 17 less than today. We are in a position of taking some registrations from Don Christian as they are now a closed school - meaning they are at capacity for their building. This may or may not affect our enrolment and staffing in the fall.

Due to our decreased projection, our counsellor time has decreased by half a day a week, our LST time has decreased by one day a week, and both our music and library times have decreased by half a day a week. These will be re-evaluated in September should our enrolment require it. Luckily, our French has increased slightly (due to the number of intermediate children requiring French programming) and our Child Care Worker time has remained stable at 2 days a week.

Our VP time has gone down by half a day a week as well.

Here are some statistics:

- 15% of our students are supported by our 2 IST teachers, Mrs. van Niekirk and Mrs. Hope. Mrs. Hough also provides some support for these students about one day a week.
- About 25% of our students are English Language learners requiring a range of support from the classroom teacher, the LST or both. We have 2 full time LST teachers and one LST teacher working 2 days a week.
- About 5% of our students also require more intensive academic or behavioural IEPs. These students are supported by classroom teachers, the LST, the counsellor, the Child Care Worker and the administration.

Good news! Our school will host the Deaf and Hard of Hearing program next year, as we do have several students requiring this support. This means we will have a specialist in the building one day a week next year to support our students.

Additionally, the Alex Hope daycare will be expanding their before and after school care by 12 seats next year due to the anticipated room created by going down a division.

3. Feeding Futures/Breakfast & Lunch Club

- generous donation to subsidize food for school in Surrey
- free to families who need the support
- about 25 kids on the program right now
- 2025-26, FF will open it up to other families who wish to partake at a discount rate for convenience sake only- about \$4 a meal
- FF will also cover up to \$6 per meal for students fully subsidized to order the PAC Hot Lunches. The attendant will work with PAC next year to organize this.

4. Track Meet went very well, had about 50 students compete and we did have several parent volunteers – thank you to those parents! We can't do these events without you!

5. Sports Day is this Friday – The Amazing Race is the theme! We look forward to a really fun day. It is not an early dismissal day, so students will be dismissed at the

usual time. Parents will need to come to the office to sign their children out early as is the usual process. Intermediate students will not be dismissed early. They must also be signed out at the office. Sports Day is a usual school day and teachers are expected to teach all day. It is very difficult to teach a class when a large number of students are missing.

6. Our Parent Appreciation Tea is in the library on Sports Day from 8:45-11:30 am. We are so honored to have the parent support we do in this community!
7. Playground: many parents and staff have expressed questions regarding whether or not Hillcrest actually NEEDS another playground, and whether the fundraising could support outside play in another way. We have had some suggestions made to us, and we will be sending out a parent and staff survey next week to gain more insight into what the community thinks the students need. The issues appear to be:
  - There was no survey to gain a community mandate for the playground initially;
  - The project, over the past at least 3 years, has managed to raise about \$11000, and thanks to the PAC for supporting. We have been unsuccessful in the grant applications. We are trying to find out why our applications have been declined.
  - Many staff and parents believe that there are other things the children could use outside as opposed to another playground.

We want to thank the folks on the playground committee for their work thus far and their willingness to work with us to create the survey and to plot our next courses of action. Many hands make light work!

8. Grade 7 Farewell is planned and being put together as we speak for June 25<sup>th</sup>. We have a very keen group of Gr. 7 parents who have been meeting and planning since January. They have done an amazing job fundraising as well! I'm sure the kids will enjoy their special day.
9. Pedal Heads will be running their program on our site again this summer. Watch for details to come.

10. We have been having some issues recently with students' online safety when they are using apps at home. Many of the issues we see are occurring outside of school time, but the issues are creating problems and conflicts in the classrooms. We think it might be a good time to revisit having a presenter or two to connect with parents about this. I think many parents think kids know how to be safe, and that apps aimed at kids are automatically safe. We have recently been working with a Constable at the RCMP and they confirmed that one of the most nefarious is Roblox. Within this app, there are a multitude of sub-apps and chatrooms that promote connection with players with NO GUARANTEE that the players are safe or even children. Some major issues around victimization, and predation are coming out of apps such as these – and parents are largely unaware. The internet is useful but it is not a safe place to allow children to be unsupervised. We are more protective of our children at the mall, at parks and in the neighbourhood than we are of them online – and their vulnerability to harm online is exponentially greater!

We are looking into possible presenters, such as White Hatter, who would be able to present and inform parents and students about this issue at a more in-depth level than Safe Schools can provide. We hope to partner with PAC next year to make this happen for our community.

11. Last Day of School is June 26. Students will have time in their classrooms to finish things up, to clean up and we will have a farewell assembly. Dismissal is at 1: 28 pm and parents, again, will need to sign their children out at the office if they need to pick them up early. We are unable to hand out report cards early for a number of reasons – students who leave early may pick up their report cards on June 27<sup>th</sup> or in August when the office opens on August 25.

We want to thank the PAC for all their support of our school this year! We appreciate everything you do for us! On behalf of the Hillcrest Staff, we wish our families and students a restful and relaxing summer!