

# Hillcrest School Council



**"Encouraging Participation, Supporting Achievement, Promoting Community"**

**Parent Open House** - Wednesday the 20th of September, Hillcrest hosted an Open House for parents. The structure of this year's event was a departure from last year, with parents (and teachers) invited to participate in a *Thought Exchange*. Attendees were asked to respond to the question: **"What are your top priorities for your child's education this year?"**

114 attendees participated, sharing their own ideas and/or "rating" ideas posted by others. Thoughts ranked the highest included:

- 1. Ensuring they are prepared for the future.** Preparing students for what comes next, scholastically and socially, provides them with a solid foundation for success in life.
- 2. Develop strong work & study habits (learning strategies and methodologies).** Our kids are not taught this anymore. Such as basics on how to write an essay. They are ill-prepared for post-secondary education.
- 3. Ensuring that my son has the necessary support in place to help him succeed in school and enjoy learning again.** A little support in the right places means he won't be left behind and can share his knowledge with others.
- 4. To meet enthusiastic teachers and role models.** So that he feels motivated by positive role models.
- 5. To have a safe and challenging learning environment.** To achieve academic excellence and strive for success.

These and other responses are the start of a conversation. These views will serve to focus further and more in-depth discussion between school officials, with students, and with parents.



## Upcoming Events

### Hillcrest

Friday, October 13 - Progress reports go home

Thursday, October 19 - Parent/Teacher Night (**details later in newsletter**)

Wednesday, October 25 - School Council Meeting

Friday, November 3 - Awards Day (**details later in newsletter**)

### OCDSB

Tuesday, October 3 - Committee of the Whole

Tuesday, October 17 - Committee of the Whole

Wednesday, October 18 - Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)

Thursday, October 19 - OSASC Secondary School Committee

Thursday, October 26, Advisory Committee on Equity

**Further OCDSB events later in newsletter**

### Other

Friday, October 13 & Saturday, October 14 - **Vincent Massey** Boot Sale

## Highlight on : Black History Club

Hillcrest's Black History Club may be unique within Ontario schools in its commitment to explore on a continuing basis the history of anti-black racism and its relationship to the present. Such commitment has led the club to develop strong connections with the local Black community and its leaders.

The club is entering its seventh year, with student interest having sparked its formation in 2011. Within only a year of start-up, member engagement had attracted city wide attention, leading the club to being awarded the 2012 City of Ottawa's Black History Month Community Development Award.

The club is active throughout the school year. It meets every Wednesday at noon in a history classroom, with meetings co-led by students themselves. Club members are multi-racial and meetings present an opportunity for students to speak freely, share stories, and discuss both race issues and other current events along with their historical context. Club members also engage in readings, such as the Book of Negroes. They have also experienced leadership development at Macskimming.

Each year club members broaden and enrich their own experiences through discussion with guest speakers.

These have included Shane Brock, an Ottawa native, who was short-listed in 2015 for the Griffin Poetry Prize. Jacqueline Lawrence, OCDSB's Coordinator of Equity and Diversity, has on her visits also read some of her writing to our club.

Last year, speakers included Prufrock Shadowrunner, an Ottawa based poet, spoken word artist, rapper, DJ and actor. While at Hillcrest he worked with a lunchtime literacy group, English classes, and attended club meetings.

Also visiting the school was Adrian Harewood of the CBC. Adrian comes to Hillcrest at least once annually. Last year he was accompanied and introduced to club members by Nichelle Smith, Features Editor at USA Today



Additional guest speakers last year included Jacqueline Lawrence, the Diversity & Equity Coordinator at the OCDSB, Mahamud Elmi, Lila Shibley and Floyd Hutchison of the Ottawa Police, as well as Chelby Daigle a community outreach leader for the Ottawa Police.

In February, as part of Black History month, the club put on a school-wide assembly based on the theme "Taking A Stand", which was coincidentally 2017's theme for National Capital History Day.



And as the year drew to a close, graduating club members participated in Ottawa's first [Walk with Excellence](#), an event which was covered by the CBC. Participants wore t-shirts inscribed with a poem written by Jamaal Jackson Rogers, who, in March, had been appointed Ottawa's poet laureate.



Other activities the Club partakes in are community potlucks and field trips when opportunities arise.

# Hillcrest Clubs

With the school year well underway, clubs have begun to form and initiate activities. Below is a list of (at least some) clubs & organized activities students can choose from this year:

Anti-Bullying	Dance	Link	Tech Crew
Best Buddies	Drama	Muslim Students	Year Book
Black History	Fitness	Peer Helpers	
Breakfast	Gender-Sexuality Alliance	Prayer Room	
Cancer Drive	Global Citizens	Sources of Strength	
Concert & Jazz Bands	IMPACT (Social Justice)	Student Council	

## Highlight on: Athletics

*Hillcrest's FIFA 2-star rated (top-class international standard) soccer pitch*



As Mona Le Blanc, Head of the Physical Education Department has said to incoming students, "I like to think that at Hillcrest there is something for everyone, and that we are small enough to know you, but big enough to serve you. Whatever your interests are, we have something for every student".

These are more than words, they are the voice of experience. Last year one-third of all Hillcrest students took advantage of the opportunity to participate in an official school athletic team. Moreover, last year more than half of all students joined intramural sport activities during lunch or after school.

Hillcrest is able to offer such a wealth of opportunities in large measure due to possessing some of the best athletic facilities in the city: 2 multi-purpose fields (including the one shown above), 2 gymnasiums including one with bleachers (uncommon in OCDSB high schools), a fully equipped weight room with 11 new spin bikes, 4 tennis courts, as well as access to nearby fields.

But while facilities present opportunity, it is the commitment to athletics demonstrated by teachers, volunteers, and students alike that spreads enthusiasm. It is that commitment that permits Hillcrest to offer such a wide variety of athletic options. The **fall** sports program is getting underway with teams now being formed. Depending upon level of interest sports this fall may include Varsity Girls Basketball, Rugby 7s (boys & girls), Varsity Girls Field Hockey, Golf (girls & boys), Junior Boys Soccer, Senior Boys Soccer, Tennis (boys & girls), Senior Boys Volleyball, and Cross-country running (boys & girls). With the change of seasons and as we move into **winter**, students will have an opportunity to join Junior & Senior Boys Basketball, Girls Hockey, Boys Hockey, Nordic skiing (girls & boys), Senior Girls Volleyball, Wrestling (boys & girls), Swimming (girls & boys), Badminton (boys & girls), plus Junior Boys & Junior Girls Volleyball. And there is more to come in **spring** with Baseball, Junior Boys/ Senior Boys/ Girls Rugby, Junior & Senior Girls Soccer, Girls Varsity Touch football, and Track & Field (boys & girls).

Although a participation fee is charged for a team sport, efforts are made to keep the fee as low as possible, with the fee per sport typically in the \$60-120 range.

As mentioned earlier, the school also offers intramural sports which include volleyball, 3 on 3 basketball, soccer (fall and spring), dodge ball, 5 on 5 basketball, and open gym. Students may join an intramural sport either as an individual or enter as part of a team. Additionally, a unique feature of the athletic program is that students train for and participate in a 5 or 10 K run with options to run a community based race, or a school organized fun run. Students may also join in community based activities such as: Army run & NCM Race weekend as volunteers, CIS Ultimate Frisbee Championships, City Elementary School Touch Football Championships, City grades 4-6 Borden ball Championships, as well as assisting when Hillcrest hosts NCSSAA Championships and tournaments.

Academically, the Physical Education Department presents course options including healthy active living courses, outdoor education, and fitness. For students working towards a bilingual certificate, PE is offered in French in grade 11. At the senior level, the school also offers an Introduction to Kinesiology course.

As we all know, opportunity, participation, and practice builds both skills and enthusiasm. Such enthusiasm often carries forward into life beyond high school. Hillcrest is proud of its many alumni who have continued their love of sport, earning significant athletic accomplishments. Some of these include: NHL -Nick Boynton, Logan Couture, Stewart Gavin, Derek Joslin, Corey Locke, Mark Mancari, Grant Marshall, Jamie McGinn, Bryan McSheffrey, CFL -David Azzi, Mike Murphy, Dale Potter, Tom Schultz, rugby - Al Charron and Olympic athletes Glenda Reiser & Michael Woods.

There is often a tendency to see school sports as an activity separate from learning. However, school sport participation not only helps complete a student's high school experience, an OFSAA study shows that school sport participation aids in building self-esteem and social development. Beginner or skilled, athletics brings benefits. At Hillcrest sport is open to all. It benefits all.

## 2017/18 Student Council Representatives

Congratulations to this year's student council representatives:

**Co-Presidents:** Danyaal Ansari & Hibaq Mohamed

**Student Senate:** Erfan Ghani

### Details on Upcoming Events

Parent/Teacher Interviews - In advance of interview day, students will bring home a formatted letter identifying their classes and teacher names. Parents may indicate on the form which teachers they wish to meet. Once the form is returned to school, teachers will mark down interview times and return the form to the student for conveyance to their parents.

Awards Day - The Fall Awards recognize the following from the previous academic year:

- Students with 90% and above receive Gold Crest Certificates (best of 8 courses in grades 9 and 10 and best of 7 for grade 11)
- Students with 80% and above receive Hillcrest Honour Society (best of 8 courses in grades 9 and 10 and best of 7 for grade 11)
- Each course has a Subject Proficiency Award winner too - the top student in every course from 9 to 11 is recognized
- There are also Special Awards as listed below (selected by the School Awards Committee - comprised of teaching staff)

1. Hillcrest High School Citizenship Award

2. John Bethune Award for the student with the highest average in grade 10

3. Amanda LaRose Memorial Award for a grade 11 student who has maintained high scholastic standing, and has contributed to the extra-curricular life of Hillcrest High School

4. Robert Nuttall Award for a grade 11 student who has maintained high scholastic standing and has contributed to the extra-curricular life of Hillcrest High School

5. School Council Award for two undergraduate students who have maintained satisfactory academic achievement as well as having made a significant contribution to the running of the school's extra-curricular activities or have been involved in community work.

## OCDSB Committees

The Ottawa Carleton District School Board and related organizations operate several committees which may be of interest to parents and whose meetings are open to the public:

[Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils](#) - click on the link for detailed committee information

[Parent Involvement Committee](#) - click on the link for detailed committee information. Note that the committee is accepting applications for membership until 12 October

[Advisory Committee on Equity](#) - meets monthly, usually from 6:00-8:30 pm at Greenbank. Committee members include individuals drawn from the public.

## OCDSB Events & Information (continued from page 1)

### [OCDSB Speaker Series:](#)

Thursday, October 5, 2017 - Paul Davis on Social Networking & Online Safety

Thursday, November 30, 2017 - Susan Hopkins of The MEHRIT Centre - using Self-Regulation to respond to your child's stress, energy and tension

[OCDSB 2017/18 Secondary School Calendar](#) - click on the link for access

## Useful Links

Hillcrest School - <https://hillcresths.ocdsb.ca/Pages/home.aspx>

OCDSB - <http://www.ocdsb.ca/>

School Board Trustee Chris Ellis - <http://schoolzone6.org/>

## Contact US

Suggestions for, or comments about, this newsletter can be submitted at any time to [hillcrestcouncilnews@gmail.com](mailto:hillcrestcouncilnews@gmail.com).