



Monday, September 28, 2020

Back in Action!

I hope that you had a great summer in spite of all the impacts and changes that the COVID-19 virus brought with it. The weather was certainly pleasant for most of the summer. With school back in session, we are all experiencing a lot of upheaval in routines and expectations. For sure, some things have changed, but many things are still the same. Hillview remains a safe place for your child to grow, play, and learn. We will work hard to build a learning environment that reaches the learning needs of every child. I encourage you to work with us; things may be unusual, but, together, we will make this work.

Regardless of the “new normal”, school start-up still brings a mixed bag of emotions for everyone. From the excitement of new “school-stuff” to the nervousness of a new grade, the anticipation of the first days at school is something to which we all can relate. At Hillview, we are excited to be a part of another “beginning” with new challenges, new hopes, and new achievements!

Education is a challenging endeavor...for both you and your child – a cooperative effort between parents and teachers is essential to ensure a positive learning experience. The greatest support that you can give your child is to become **positively involved** in his/her schooling.

The staff of Hillview Academy is committed to providing your child with the best learning opportunities in an inclusive, supportive and caring environment. I would like to introduce our staff:

Peter Wheeler	- Principal; Grade 4-9 Phys. Ed/Health
Wayne West	- Grade 8-9 Homeroom; Grade 6-9 Math, Science, Social Studies, Technology
Jessica LeGrow	- Grade 6-7 Homeroom; Gr 4-9 French; Gr 6-9 ELA
Kim Preston	- Grade 5 Homeroom; Instructional Resource Teacher
Joanne Peckford	- Grade 4 Homeroom; Grade K-3 Phys. Ed.
Gail Power	- Grade 2-3 Homeroom
Kim West	- Grade K-1 Homeroom
Krystle Williams	- Reading Support Specialist; Grade 4-9 Music
Christian MacKinnon	- Guidance Counsellor
Lori Cox	- Administrative Assistant
Todd Gillingham	- Custodian
Dan Penton	- Bus driver
Alvin Manuel	- Bus driver

Enjoy your day,

Mr. P. Wheeler
Principal

Here are some things to keep in mind as we move through this year together:

Home/School Communication

Students in K-6 will receive a **Student Agenda/Planner**. Proper use of planners will help to:

- Increase student responsibility and organization for their assigned work.
- Improve the parent/guardian's knowledge of daily assigned work at the school.
- Provides a communication link between the parent and the teacher.

You should **check and initial** the Student Agenda daily and make sure that your child brings it to school every day.

Some teachers are continuing the use of **Google Classroom** as the mechanism for home communication. Google Classroom became popular during our school shutdown last year; it is an efficient, paperless way of keeping track of student schoolwork, deadlines, and upcoming events. Check with your child's homeroom teacher for details.

Over the course of the year, there will be a number of informational **letters and memos** sent home. This year, we will be continuing the use of electronic communication as the primary means of getting information home. We will be creating a parent email distribution list. **Please make sure that the school has a valid email address on file for you.**

Our school **web-site** will also have recent announcements, school news, memos...check in often at www.hillviewacademy.com. You can also tune into our news on **Twitter.com**; simply type **@hillviewacademy** into the Twitter search bar to find us. Recently, we have also added a Facebook page to help share information. You can request to join the FB group by searching **/Hillview Academy School Community**.

We will be using our **automated calling system** (SchoolMessenger®), our **web-site**, and **Twitter** to notify you of emergency information (i.e. school closures), and other school events. We also use the local radio networks to announce school news (broadcasted on the morning **radio** shows on CBC and VOCM).

The SchoolMessenger® system can also be used to deliver text messages straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more. You can subscribe to this service by sending a text message of "Y" or "Yes" to our district's short code number: **978338**. You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with "Stop".

The **Safe Arrival** of your child to school is very important to us. If your child does not arrive at school for an unknown reason, SchoolMessenger® will contact you by phone asking you to confirm why your child is absent. **To avoid unwanted phone-calls, please call the school before 9:00am to explain your child's absence.**

PowerSchool

PowerSchool will continue to be the student information system for our school. The system allows us to easily access and store important information such as contact information, student grades, and attendance. For grade 7-9 students, the system allows for parent access to student attendance and grades using a password protected account. The school will send home information at a later time with instructions on accessing the system.

School Bell Schedule

Our bell schedule will remain the same as last year. Remember that students do not have access to the school until 8:30am; students dropped off before 8:30 will be required to wait outside.

Period 1	8:40-9:40	Lunch	11:55-12:35
Period 2	9:40-10:40	Period 4	12:35-1:35
Recess	10:40-10:55	Period 5	1:35-2:30
Period 3	10:55-11:55	Dismissal	2:35

Lunch Time

There is no lunch-time busing, so students stay at school for lunch. With new procedures around COVID-19, there have been some changes to how we do lunch time.

- ➔ Lunch-time period is 40 minutes (11:55-12:35). Parents can pick up their children for lunch, but please be aware of the short time.
- ➔ There are no microwaves for warming lunches. Please pack a “non-warmup” lunch for your child, or use a quality Thermos container for keeping lunches warm.
- ➔ Until further notice, all student must eat recess/lunch in the designated eating areas:
 - K-5 students will eat in their homeroom.
 - 6-9 will split lunch time in the lunch-room. Lunch room tables have been replaced with individual desks.
- ➔ Until further notice, there can be **no drop-off of student lunches**.
- ➔ Please pack eating utensils for your child (if required). We cannot provide forks or spoons.
- ➔ Please make sure that food packaging is easily opened by your child.
- ➔ Student lunches/snacks must comply with allergy-alerts.

Presently, Hillview Academy has a child with **PEANUT** allergies. Students are expected to not to bring any food item that contains, or may contain, allergens to school. Parents will be informed when an allergy-alert has been issued, or changes.

We are aware that preparing healthy, enjoyable lunches for children can be very challenging. Central Health has a brochure which offers great ideas for healthier school lunch choices. Check out this link:

https://eb6b7034-9bb0-4065-b31f-5109efcf9249.filesusr.com/ugd/d55165_210be22284e9464d9033efa6c3fdd405.pdf

School Breakfast Program and Canteen Service

We are very fortunate to have had dedicated group of volunteers run our school breakfast program. In past years, our students have received breakfast items three times a week. We are still working through the details of how to continue with our breakfast program this year; there are some details regarding food items and distribution that need to be ironed out.

For now, our breakfast program is on hold until further notice. We have been working on a plan to get our program up and running very soon.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, our **canteen service will not be operating** this year.

Courtesy Bus Seats and Family Responsibility Zone (1.6km)

As many of you are aware, the busing systems around the province have been greatly impacted by the new COVID restrictions. Things are slowly moving toward last year's busing arrangements. The district has recently permitted Courtesy Seating Requests, and Family Responsibility Zone Stop for ineligible riders. We are pleased to say that all of our students are now being picked up, and dropped off, at bus stops near their home address.

Please note that the school must follow the policy of the NLESD Student Transportation Division when it comes to busing, bus stops, courtesy seat and FRZ guidelines.

Unfortunately, the Boys and Girls Club stop still remains unapproved. The school does not have the authority to approve requests for this stop. We are hoping that things will change soon. When things change, you will be notified.

Walking, Bikes, and Arriving Early



We have been noticing that some students are asking to walk home (or to the BG Club) instead of riding the bus. Walking is a great idea, but please be reminded that students that regularly ride the bus MUST have permission from the school BEFORE they can change the way that they get home. This procedure is necessary for the general safety of students.

If your child wishes to walk home (or to the BG Club), you need to inform the school in writing, or with a phone call, so that we can know how our students are getting home.

If a child rides their bicycle to school, we will assume that you have given permission for your child to return home on their bike. Be reminded, that ATV's and dirt-bikes are not permitted on school property.

Please note that **students are not permitted inside the building until 8:30am and 12:35pm,** or until the arrival of the first bus, whichever occurs first. Students who arrive early must wait outside the building until they are permitted to enter.