



Dear Hillcrest Families,

It is my hope that you thoroughly enjoyed this past week off and enjoyed the holiday season. It is a joy to spend time reflecting on hopes, dreams and aspirations for the New Year and I especially love watching your children flourish with the guidance of the fantastic teachers at Hillcrest Elementary Community School . While visiting classrooms, I witness first hand students who are engaged and excited about their learning and I am very proud of the children and teachers at our school. I look forward to more great things in 2017.

As our students transition back into their academic routines, it is hard to believe that the end of the end of the second marking period is already quickly approaching. The end of the marking period is January 27<sup>th</sup> and report cards will go home on February 3rd. As always, please be sure to contact your child's teacher should you have any questions about their progress.

I would like to emphasize the importance of attendance for our students at this time. My staff and I have been reviewing student attendance and there are too many students who have been chronically absent or tardy. It is **so critically** important for students to arrive to school on time. The homeroom period provides students with a smooth transition to a day of learning. At this time, the students review the day's schedule, copy homework assignments, listen to school announcements, and distribute notes and materials from home to their teachers. To provide your children with a positive start to the day, please plan your morning so your child arrives in homeroom before 8:35 AM. After 8:35 AM, they are considered tardy.

As you know, we are in the middle of winter weather. Please listen carefully to the news on the television or radio for the latest information regarding school closings or delays. Our School website <http://www.peakskillcsd.org/Page/13> also contains this important information. Be sure to provide any changed phone numbers to our office so our automated phone message system can contact you. Adhering to these procedures will ensure that all important weather-related information is provided/available to all families, Please avoid calling the school for information.

This past Holiday Season, our Hillcrest community showed Compassion, Service, Empathy and Giving Back in a myriad of ways! Our school staff and students mobilized to distribute over 500 pounds of foods and other products to help our families in need through the Westchester Mobile Food Pantry. As these children help others, they are learning important character-building lessons about compassion, service, and empathy. Our school staff also donated gifts (Food, toys, and clothing) to many of our school families through our Angel Tree Project. of food and toys for our families. Their generosity made it possible for us to make a positive difference in the lives of many in need. Thank you does not begin to express my gratitude for their support.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Science Fair will be Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. Sign up sheets were sent home in December. We had awesome entries last year and look forward to even more this year. Please call the school office for more information.

Best Regards

Jacqueline Liburd

## Help Me Grow Please...

Be consistent with me, then I can trust your words and actions.

Comfort me when I'm scared, hurt or sad, then I'll know I'm okay even when I'm not feeling strong or happy.

Take responsibility for all your feelings and actions, then I also won't blame others, and I'll take responsibility for my life.

Communicate when you feel hurt or frightened, about when you're angry at me, then I'll feel I'm a good person, and I'll learn how to constructively deal with my feelings.

Tell me clearly and specifically what you want, then I can hear you and I'll also know how to communicate my needs in a positive way.

Express to me that I'm okay even when my words or behavior may not be, then I can learn from my mistakes and have high self-esteem.

Balance your life between work and play, then I can believe that I can grow up, be responsible and still have fun.

Understand and accept me. I may be different from you and I'm okay.

Treat me as an individual, then I'll know that I can be my unique self.

Hug me and tell me that you care about me, then I'll feel lovable and I'll express caring for others.

Thank you for hearing me, I LOVE YOU!

Anonymous

