



Dear Hillcrest Families,

I enjoyed the opportunity to visit with many of you at our recent *Welcome Back To School BBQ*. I know your children are more important than anything in your lives, but it is always a good reminder for me to see children with their families – to see the smiles and the love and the care. I left school on Friday evening with a renewed sense of the great importance of the work we do with and for children. Your kindness and warmth to me as we stopped to visit and chat also meant a great deal – so thank you, and please continue to check in with me throughout the year. I’m always interested in what’s going on with you and your family.

In school we emphasize a monthly character trait - this month that trait is “Empathy”. If you see your child performing a good deed demonstrating empathy and you would like your son or daughter recognized, please call or stop by and fill out one of our “Shout Out” forms located in the office. I love to recognize students for helping others and putting into action all of our character traits and lifelong guidelines that we discuss here. I welcome you to be apart of this!

We encourage our students here at Hillcrest to advocate for themselves in a non-violent manner. Here's what we tell them – please help us with this so that we have a consistent approach.

- **STAND UP FOR YOURSELF AND OTHERS** - (let the other person know what’s bothering you in a respectful way) “Calling me names hurts my feelings. Please stop.”
“I feel frustrated when you hum while I’m reading.”
- **WALK AWAY/IGNORE/AVOID** – sometimes people who tease you or bug you are just trying to get you to react. If you don’t react, they can’t bug you. Walking away, ignoring or avoiding is a good second step if you’ve already asked them to stop.
- **GET HELP** – go to a trusted adult right away if someone or something is unsafe, dangerous, or if you are scared. Threats and aggression to our bodies, belongings, or school property need to be reported to an adult immediately. Also, it’s OK to go to an adult for help if you’ve tried to solve your problem with another person and can’t. **THIS**

IS NOT TATTLING.

Using these three approaches will help create a respectful and safe environment not only in our school but also in our community.

Please know that my door is always open for you. Send an email, give me a call or stop in for conversation anytime.

I wish you and yours a beautiful fall season and an October filled with; a little bit of candy, some good books, warm fires and memories to treasure.

The link below provides access to the District's calendar. We also send hope a monthly calendar to keep you updated! Please stay involved – We need you.

http://www.peakskillcsd.org/cms/lib07/NY01913880/Centricity/Domain/4/calendar_081916-2.pdf

IMPORTANT DATES:

Oct. 14 – **Pink Out Day** for Breast Cancer – **Everybody wears PINK!**

Oct. 15 - 2nd Annual Superintendent Fun Run

Oct. 19 – PTO General Meeting @ PHS

Oct. 24 – Summer Reading Awards Assembly @ 6:00 PM – Cafeteria

Oct. 28 – Early Dismissal @ 11:35 for studnets

Educationally Yours

Jacqueline Liburd

