

APRIL 2015

Dear Hillcrest Families,
Happy Spring – officially, and I think finally. It is amazing what a little sunshine can do to make things pleasant.

Welcome back from Spring Break! The typical pace for these final months of school goes blindingly fast. If you have looked at our web site you would have seen some of the exciting events that our students have participated in over the past month, making us all very proud!

Four of our fifth graders participated in the “*You Be The Chemist*” Competition. Ashley Harvey, Eduardo Ramirez, Joseph Detres and Gabriel Gamboa. Our 5th Graders (the ONLY 5th Graders in the competition) faced stiff competition from middle schoolers (6th - 8th) throughout Westchester County but absolutely held their own. 2 of our students (Joseph and Gabriel) actually made it through to the next to last elimination round!

Math-A-Thon - Our school participated in the St. Jude Math-A-Thon - an education-based fundraising program supporting St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. We set a goal of \$500 but were happily surprised when our students and families worked together to raise a total of over \$8,000

Hillcrest’s 4th and 5th graders also performed at their first *Instrumental Band Concerts* and did a marvelous job!

Hillcrest students are also busy with plenty of extended school activities offered through our Hillcrest Community School Initiative.

With the rapid progression toward our school year’s end, we all know and realize that State Testing can’t be far behind!. Please see our school district’s Testing Guidelines available on our web site under parent resources.

NYS Testing

Next week we begin our ELA State Testing (April 14 - 16) with Math Testing scheduled for April 22- 24. Please ensure that your child gets to bed early and eats a healthy breakfast. *Most importantly*, please get him/her to school on time!.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Please take note that these dates are new ones and are different from those posted in the original school calendar. These changes were necessitated due to the NYS testing schedule.



The newly revised dates are Thursday, April 30th and Friday May 1st. As always, teachers will be reaching out to schedule appointments with you. Both days are early dismissal for students (11:35 AM) and conferences will begin at 12:30 PM. Please be prompt for your scheduled appointment. If you have any difficulties or questions regarding the scheduling process for conferences, contact the school office during normal operational hours, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. –4:00 p.m.

Hangin' @ Hillcrest

We will be able to let our hair down on April 29th with our Hangin' @ Hillcrest Karaoke Night. If it holds true to form, we will be entertained by our students as they showcase their musical talents!

Finally, as we begin to shed our winter clothing, please be mindful of our Dress Policy for students!. And yes, we do have and *enact* our dress policy. Please check the Parent/Student handbook, page 10, which outlines our school district's policy regarding Dress Code. Please help students remember to dress appropriately for the weather and for all school activities. Students who dress comfortably at school are better able to focus on their school work.

For your easy reference an excerpt from the Code Of Conduct:

The following is prohibited:

PANTS: oversized baggy jeans, or cargo pants, pants worn below the intended waistline or inside out, cut-up pants, rips or holes may be above mid-thigh.

SHORTS/SKIRTS: extremely brief garments such as short skirts or short shorts, cut-off shorts, dresses that have slits above mid-thigh, or shorter than 3 inches above the knees, low riding pants that expose body parts or tattoos

SHIRTS/TOPS: any see-through garments, undershirts, no midriff tops, tube tops, net tops, halter top, oversized tank tops, spaghetti tops, plunging necklines (front and back)

SHOES: bare feet, flip-flops/slippers, cleated shoes, shoe skates, Chinese slippers, footwear that is a safety hazard

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”

Leo Buscaglia

Cordially

Jacqueline Liburd

