



## Principal's Newsletter 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2022

Dear Parents & Guardians,

On Monday is the National Youth Day, a day set aside to recognizing the pivotal role our youth play in the future of our country and to give them a voice which can be heard. Proverbs 20 verse 26 says, 'The glory of young men is their strength.' What are the strengths of our youth? I find the youth are courageous, innovative and resilient. They experiment and express their opinions. They are curious and constantly ask questions, push back boundaries and take risks. At Hillcrest, we provide a safe environment for our youths to do just that. Through the various camps, cultural and sporting activities and even during the lessons, they are allowed to do all the above - to discover who they are, where their particular strengths lie and to develop their voice so that they can make a significant contribution to their society. All this is seamlessly integrated into the holistic approach to education that Hillcrest offers.

### 1. ATHLETICS

We had intended to host an Inter-Schools Relay Meet on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February. Unfortunately this has been postponed due to a lack of commitment from the various other schools invited.

### 2. FEE PASS

There are a number of parents who are sending their children to school and have not received a School Fee Pass from our Accounts Office. Please ensure your child has a Pass both at College and in Prep.

### 3. CAMPS

**Form 2 Camp** – The Form 2 pupils returned from Udu Camp, Nyanga yesterday, 17<sup>th</sup> February. The camp was a success.

**Upper 6 Camp** – The Upper 6 pupils are at camp in Chimanimani at Outward Bound Zimbabwe. They return tomorrow, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February and are expected to be at Sakunda Service Station (Round About) between 12noon and 1.00pm.

**Form 1 & Lower 6 Camps** – The Form 1 & Lower 6 pupils and accompanying staff members will depart Farmcrest Hostel on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00am for Udu Camp in Nyanga and Outward Bound Zimbabwe in Chimanimani respectively. The Form 1 pupils will arrive back at School on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March by 4.00pm. The Lower 6 pupils will arrive back at school on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March between 12noon and 1.00pm. I encourage those parents who have not paid for the camp to make payment for your children as these camps are compulsory school events. Please find accompanying this letter Camp Gear Lists for Udu Camp and OBZ Zimbabwe for your information.

### 4. COLOURS' ASSEMBLY

Colours' Assembly was postponed to next week Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February because some of our pupils were away on camp this week.

### 5. LONG WEEKEND

School closed today at 1.00pm for the long weekend. Monday 21<sup>st</sup> is National Youth Day so school will resume on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Boarders will remain in Hostel over the weekend because they have been at school for two weeks only. Hostel Staff have put together a program to keep the children entertained over the weekend.

### 6. F4 PARENT/TUTOR MEETING

We are bringing back the Parent/Tutor Meetings which had been discontinued because of the Covid-19 restrictions. We will start with the Form 4 Parents, Line Head and Tutors on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March. The meeting will be held at Lighthouse Church and will start at 6.00pm and should end at 7.00pm. We

encourage parents to attend these meetings which serve as a platform to air any burning queries and have them addressed by the school authorities.

## 7. WEEK AHEAD

Please find attached the week ahead for your information.

### OFF MR. RYAN VICKERY'S DESK

Dear Parents & Guardians,

**The Importance of Reading**  
<https://raising2children.com/the-importance-of-reading/>

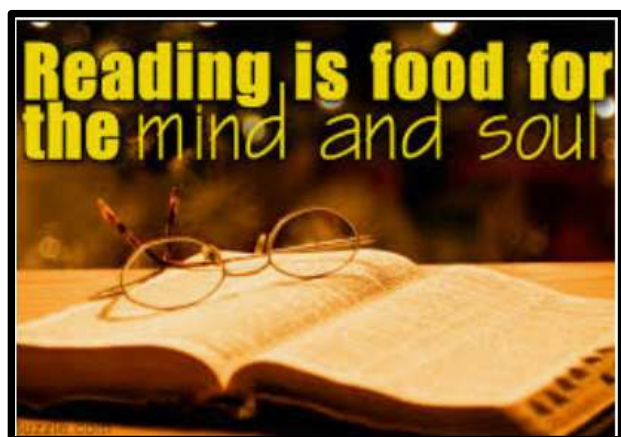
"The more that you read, the more you will know, the more that you know, the more places you will go"  
Dr Seuss

- ◆ **Cognitive Development**  
Supports memory function and processing information.
- ◆ **Boosts Sleep**  
As part of a bedtime routine, encourages relaxation and feel calm
- ◆ **Attention Span**  
Increases concentration and listening skills
- ◆ **Financial Costs**  
Low Levels of literacy costs the UK taxpayer £2.5 billion every year (KPMG, 2009) as it undermines our economic competitiveness.
- ◆ **Language Skills**  
Exposure to words extends vocabulary and literacy
- ◆ **Creativity**  
Supports the imagination through characters, places and aspirations
- ◆ **Mental Health**  
In 2020, children who enjoy reading are 3 times more likely to have good mental health
- ◆ **Books Galore**  
Those who own a book, are 6 times more likely to read above their expected reading level. (2.2% vs 3.6%)

Please read to your children, encourage them to read. Amazing educational benefits result.

My Father and Grandparents **forced** me to read! I had no idea why but I am grateful to this day for their input.

I am sure that every family has a Bible. The English therein is excellent. Reading a verse a day in the evening and explaining the contents thereof to them, works wonders for reading. The moral education of our children is an added benefit.



- **MEET THE TEACHERS**

We appreciate those parents who were able to make this meeting and established "face to face " contact with the teacher. Class group chats, still remain an effective tool of choice.

Our next one will be as shown below.

<b>Friday</b>	<b>25/2/2022</b>	<b>11:30 G4 &amp; 5 &amp; 6 Parents meet teacher in classroom.</b>
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- **SICK PUPILS**

Rest and recuperation is best at home. Please avoid sending any sick child to school. Instead of learning and having fun, they are miserable.

- **LOST & FOUND**

Parents are encouraged to please mark all items brought to school. **Lost & Found** items are handed into the office and can be collected by children during **BREAK TIME**, Monday to Friday.

However, our Parents are welcome at *any time during school hours to identify their children's clothing.*

Items not labeled will cost **ZWL 250 cash only, no Ecocash accepted and there is no swipe facility.** **ALL items labeled are returned FREE of charge.**

- **PAINTING**

We are making pleasing progress with the painting of areas within the school, maintenance in on-going and helps encourage pride and respect.

If parents would like to offer help in any form, please contact either our Head, Estate Manager or the School Secretary at the Prep School Office.

**Before**



**After**



- **END OF TERM ASSESSMENT CARDS**

These will be issued for every learner at the end of this term. Please keep the motivation torch burning and encourage your children to be the best they can be in aiming for perfection.

Do assist them where you are able to. A positive word of encouragement can work wonders.

- **S. D. C ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Parent support and involvement in the school is a great sacrifice, yet valued and appreciated. Please diarize **1<sup>st</sup> April 2022**, and every parent is encouraged to make an effort to attend and be a part of the "team".

- **CALA**

Pleasing progress continues to be noted with effort and presentation. Thank you parents for your assistance.

- **SCHOOL FEES**

We complement those who have enabled the school to run its programmers through timeous payment of fees. I appeal to ALL parents who have not furnished their class teachers with a FEES PASS to please do so by Tuesday. On Tuesday, please expect a call from our offices if no fees pass has been handed in.

- **GRADE 7 CAMP – OUTWARD BOUND**

**A note received from OUTWARD BOUND**

Dear Our Most Valued Client

I hope you are keeping well.

We apologize for the bad state of our road from the crossing point to Outward Bound center (approximately 3km). In order for a group to make it to the site, we recommend 4 x 4 vehicles and small busses. We are working very hard in order to put the road back to shape.

Don't stress about the state of the road and how the Outward Bound Team is going to handle it.

We will wait for you by the crossing point and everything will be quite organized since we have been doing it with other courses. We will collect all the luggage with our trucks from the crossing point to the site.

Transport for participants can be arranged from that point as well.

We have highly experienced instructors who are fully equipped to handle the situation.

All those who are coming to this side must complete a medical form (indemnity form)

Participants must bring the following items:

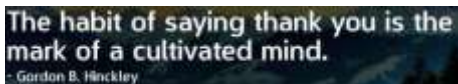
1	Strong pair of shoes ( trainers)	1	Water bottle
2	Swim suit	2	Bathing soap
3	Sun hat	3	Drying towel
4	Beanie	4	Body lotion
5	Track suit ( warm clothing)	5	mosquito repellent
6	Rain coat	6	Sunblock
7	3 shorts	7	Notebook( journal) & pen
8	3 t-shirts	8	Torches ( for expedition)
9	Sleeping bag	9	Slippers
10	3 pairs of socks	10	Toothpaste & toothbrush
11	Personal own medication ( only to those under treatment)	11	Face towel
		12	Face masks

Outward Bound Zimbabwe will provide Food, accommodation, bedding, Rucksacks (For expedition), refreshments & emergency first Aid.

**Do not** bring skirts, cellphones and many other expensive gadgets and jewelry.

Reminder; Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022 is RGM National Youth Day, declared a public holiday and no school. Please remain safe if you are travelling, and have a wonderful restful, weekend.

We pray for rain and thank God for his many blessings.



Kind regards,



*O. Fernandes.*  
**ORLANDO FERNANDES**  
**PRINCIPAL – HILLCREST SCHOOLS**