

HILLCREST SCHOOLS



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11th February, 2022

Dear Parents & Guardians,

RE: PRINCIPAL'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

The 14th of February has come to be associated with Valentine's Day. I googled it and here are a few interesting facts about this day.

Valentine's Day was named after its patron saint, St. Valentine — but there's some confusion surrounding *which* St. Valentine the holiday technically honours. According to History.com, there are at least two men named Valentine that could've inspired the holiday, including one Valentine who was a priest in third century Rome. As the story goes, this Valentine defied Emperor Claudius II's ban on marriage (he thought it distracted young soldiers), illegally marrying couples in the spirit of love until he was caught and sentenced to death. Another legend suggests that Valentine was killed for attempting to help Christians escape prison in Rome, and that he sent the first "valentine" message himself while imprisoned, writing a letter signed "From your Valentine." At the end of the 5th century, Roman Pope Gelasius officially declared the date of February 14 "St. Valentine's Day." It wasn't until the Middle Ages, though, that the holiday became associated with love and romance, a tradition that first started from the common belief in France and England that birds started their mating season on February 14.

According to the National Retail Foundation, Americans spent over \$20 billion on Valentine's Day gifts in 2019 and expected to spend a record-breaking \$27.4 billion for 2020 — including \$2.4 billion on candy alone! People also expected to spend an average of approximately \$196 for Valentine's Day, with men spending around \$291 compared to women spending \$106.

1. Transport

This past week we have had one of our school buses breakdown on its way back to Chikanga and Dangamvura after school which resulted in students getting home later than usual. I sincerely apologise for the inconvenience caused. We will provide you with contact numbers for key staff members on each of our school buses for easy communication in future.

2. Outstanding Text-Books

At the end of 3rd Term last year, non-exam class pupils were issued with Textbooks to enable them to study during the December holiday. We kindly ask that these textbook be returned to school so that teachers can account for them and have an equitable distribution of textbooks amongst the pupils.

3. Camps

Form 2 Camp – Pupils depart for Udu Camp in Nyanga on Monday 14th February from School. They will return on Thursday 17th February – we expect them to arrive back by 4.30pm. Whilst travelling, pupils are expected to be in their full school tracksuit, school cap and tackies. Please find attached a gear list for your information. The children will be accompanied by Mr. Mukono, the Form 2 Line Head and Ms. Mandianike.

Upper 6 Camp - The pupils will be attending a Leadership Camp at Outward Bound, Zimbabwe in Chimanimani. We expect them to be in their full tracksuit, school cap and tackies when they travel and will be accompanied by Mr. Mutseriwa, Mr. Musikavanhu, Mrs. Mugabe and Mrs. Saunyama, their Tutors. They will depart from school on Tuesday 15th February and return on Saturday 19th February. Upon their return Day-Scholars will be dropped off at Sakunda Service Station (round about) between 12noon and 1.00pm.

4. Covid-19 Vaccination

The School, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, is organising Covid-19 vaccines targeted at pupils who are 16 years and above. We will advise you when the program will be rolled out. In the meantime, may I ask that you complete the Consent Form accompanying this letter and submit it via email to info@hillcrestcollege.net or your child can hand it in to their Tutor by Tuesday 15th February. If we do not receive a signed consent form for your child we will assume you that you are not in favour of the program.

5. Fixture Free Weekend

The weekend beginning 18 February is our first fixture free weekend and the following Monday, 21st February, will be a public holiday. Please note that, since we opened schools two weeks ago, we will not allow College Boarders to go home for the weekend. They will remain in hostel for the long weekend with entertainment provided and will resume school on Tuesday, 22nd February.

With regards to the Prep Boarders, Mr. Vickery will advise early next week.

6. The Week Ahead

Please find attached the Week Ahead for your information.

OFF MR. RYAN VICKERY'S DESK

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Welcome back parents, teachers and students.

It was a delight to have the school come to life. What a difference, and what a pleasure. Voices have returned to the once dull corridors, while the sporting and cultural elements of our education brought an excitement not seen for a long time.

I would like to thank Ms Madzudzo and her team at Laverock for the smooth transition witnessed for our new boarders, and, those returning. It was very well done.

• MEET THE TEACHERS

Friday	18/2/2022	11:30 G1 2 3 & 7 Parents meet teacher in classroom.
Friday	25/2/2022	11:30 G4 & 5 & 6 Parents meet teacher in classroom.

• NEW STAFF and STAFF MOVEMENTS:

We welcome our new staff to the Hillcrest Prep family and congratulate those promoted.

Ms.	W	BAJILLA	Appointed as Senior Mistress
Mr.	L	MAKANYA	Appointed as Senior Master
Mrs.	A	DANI	3D
Mr.	C	DZOMBA	6D and Soccer
Mr.	S	RUDHU	6R and Tennis. He is well known in Zimbabwe tennis circles as both a coach and an Umpire. He has coached several players who have earned scholarships to the United States of America.
Ms.	P	TSAMPHWAYI	Junior Shona and ECD PE Boys and Girls Rugby coach. She is well known throughout Zimbabwe as a Rugby Referee and a successful Senior woman's Rugby coach.
Mrs.	H	VICKERY	Librarian
Mr.	E	SAMUNETSI	Promoted to Assistant Administrator and he is our Cricket Coach.
Mr.	N	BWANYA	Junior Master, Manicaland Swimming Captain. Assisting with PE classes and Swimming Coaching.
Mr.	W	KWENDA	Junior Master on Attachment to ICT and is coaching Sport.
Mr.	T	MUKOMBACHOTO	Junior Master on Attachment to ICT and is coaching Sport.

- **COVID-19 PROTOCOLS (Masks Please)**

There are too many students arriving at school without masks and expecting the front office to supply them with one. Please ensure that they arrive at school wearing a mask, and perhaps a spare mask in their bag would be a great idea.

- **TUCK SHOP**

The SDC would like to apologise for the late opening of the tuck shop. It will be open on Monday 14th February. Any inconvenience is regretted.

- **FEES PASSES**

There are still many students who have not handed their school fee passes to their class teachers. If you have lost yours please contact accounts at the college for a replacement and hand it in.

Please, **only** drop your son or daughter off once you have been to the college office to collect their fees pass, or, if it is already in the possession of the class teacher.

- **HOT LUNCHESES**

Hot lunches become available from Monday 14th February 2022.

- **CLOTHING AND SPORTS-EQUIPMENT**

Please ensure that all items of clothing and sporting equipment are clearly and sensibly marked.

- **HOMEWORK NOTEBOOK**

Please check your child's homework notebook for messages from their class teacher on a daily basis.

- **EXCUSE NOTES**

These are very important. Every child is expected to take part in an activity during every allotted time slot. Where there is a choice, they must let their teacher know what it is on Monday. Please ensure that there may be no room in a particular club or sport (the choice ones) so please select three options in order.

If your child is unwell, please keep them at home.

- **AFTERNOON TIMETABLE**

Attendance at all three afternoon sessions beginning at 13:45, 14:45, 15:45 respectively, is compulsory for Grades 3 to 7.

Afternoon activities are only for Grades 3 to 7, from Monday to Thursday inclusive.

There was a smooth and keen start to this program by all students and staff alike.

- **ZIMSEC RESULTS**

ZIMSEC pass rates by subject 2015 - 2021								
Year	Total Students	English	Maths	Shona	General Paper	Agriculture	n/a	AVERAGE
2015	42	100%	97%	81%	100%	-	n/a	94.50%
2016	32	100%	97%	87%	100%	-	n/a	96.00%
2017	34	100%	100%	83%	100%	97%	n/a	96.00%
2018	48	100%	100%	82%	100%	100%	n/a	96.33%
2019	31	100%	100%	70%	100%	100%	n/a	94.00%
2020	32	100%	100%	88%	100%	100%	n/a	97.50%
New Syllabus & CALA	Total Students	English	Maths	Shona	Physical Education Arts Music	Agriculture Science Technology	Social Science	AVERAGE
2021	26	100.00%	96.15%	92.31%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	97.69%

Congratulations to all our teachers who taught this year group from ECD to Grade 7 in many cases, and who all contributed to these scores.

There is one young student who struggled all the way through the lower grades but still scored the requisite points required to be considered as "passed" by Ministry.

For me, this student is a CHAMPION!

All our 2021 Grade 7 students easily met the point's criteria to be deemed as "passed" by the Mutasa District Ministry of Education. Therefore, based on units, Hillcrest enjoyed a 100% pass rate.

The top ZIMSEC Student at Hillcrest Preparatory was Mthokozisi Mashavave. We applaud this excellent overall result from a good student.

- **JUNIOR LEADERSHIP AT OUTWARD BOUND**

Our Grade 7 classes will be going to Outward Bound in Chimanimani for their annual leadership analysis and training camp. This will hopefully help us to determine more easily the Leaders we will elect for the Prep school for 2022.

The dates are: Leave Early Friday Morning 25th February and return on Tuesday 1st March 2022.

- **WEEKEND READING**

Please insist that your child reads to you at weekends. It is a vital cog in the gear to success with all academic matters.

- **CALA ASSISTANCE**

Please assist your sons and daughters by encouraging them to finish their projects and not to put them off. They are a wonderful opportunity to score 30 of the 100 marks required to pass the examination for each subject.

- **WATER BOTTLES**

Please ensure that your children have a water bottle to replenish lost fluids during the day.

“Simba Mate”

‘The Energy to serve which is inexhaustible’

Kind regards,

Rickery
Ryan Vickery
Headmaster  HILLCREST
PREPARATORY



ORLANDO FERNANDES
PRINCIPAL – HILLCREST SCHOOLS