



Hillcrest Children's Center  
INVOLVEMENT • ACCEPTANCE • QUALITY • DIVERSITY • FAMILY ENVIRONMENT

### Calendar

**April 9**

**Pallet Party**

**Parent Night Out**

**April 13**

**Parent Dinner**

**April 20**

**Parents and Pastries**

**April 20**

**Board Meeting**

**April 30-May 1**

**Clean-Up Weekend**

**Stage 1 Play Yard**

**May 6**

**3:30 Mothers Day Tea**

**Graze to Raise Walk**

**May 12**

**Parent Dinner**

**May 18**

**Parent and Pastries**

**May 18**

**Board Meeting**

**May 27**

**In-Service**

**Early Release 1pm**

**May 30**

**Closed Holiday**

**June 2**

**Parent Dinner**

**June 11**

**Parent Night Out**

**June 15**

**Parents and Pastries**

**June 15**

**Board Meeting**

### **Pallet Party**

To prep for the cleanup weekend, we will have a pallet prep party on Saturday, April 9th at 10am. Here we will be disassembling the pallets and prepping the boards by sanding and sealing. We are needing labor and tools (pry bars, gloves, jib saws, power saws, sander, sand paper). Please sign up in the classroom for childcare and lunch.



### **Clean-Up Weekend:**

**April 30 and May 1**

We will need everyone's help to accomplish this year's to-do list. This year we will focus on replacing the lattice wall between the two Bunny classrooms with a solid surface, installing the infant playground, redoing the entry way board and putting a new roof on the shed in front. These items need to get done to keep the center running. Please let us know when to expect your family so we can have food and childcare available by signing up in the classrooms.

### **Please bring if you have:**

Drills, Tools (Hammers, Saws, ect.)

### **Graze to Raise Fundraiser**

Talk to your family, friends and coworkers about supporting Hillcrest thru the Graze to Raise fundraiser on Friday, May 6th after the Mothers Day tea. For a minimum \$30 donation per adult you can sample several fabulous food villas that dot the 5K course that winds through downtown Anchorage. Finish at the Dena'ina Center for the grand finale- a WOW event featuring yummy deserts, a beer and wine garden, live music, jugglers, clowns, magicians, face and hair painting, massages, carnival games for all ages, toys and prizes for the kids and GREAT door prizes from the tourism industry. Let us know if you will be out in support of Hillcrest!

Register at [https://www.alaskaone.com/\\_ACW/register.cfm](https://www.alaskaone.com/_ACW/register.cfm) and click Hilcrest Children's Center.

## Cloth Diapers

**July 4**

**Closed Holiday**

**July 15**

**Lindsey Farewell Party**

**June 17**

**Annual Picnic**

**August 13**

**Parent Day Out**

**August 17**

**Parent and Pastries Board Meeting**

**September 2**

**In-Service**

**Early Release 1pm**

**September 5**

**Closed Holiday**

**September 21**

**Parent and Pastries**

**September 21**

**Board Meeting**

**October 5**

**Parent Dinner**

**October 10**

**In-Service Closure**

**October 19**

**Parent and Pastries**

**October 19**

**Board Meeting**

**November 11**

**In-Service Closure**

**November 16**

**Parents and Pastries**

**November 16**

**Board**

**November 24 and 25**

**Closed Holiday**

I'm a cloth-diapering father. In fact, I believe my wife and I are the only cloth-diapering parents at Hillcrest. This is surprising because cloth diapers seem to be making a comeback. And I'm not talking about the cloth diapers from generations ago with cloth sheets, safety pins, and dirty soaking buckets, I'm talking about TODAY'S cloth diapers.

They literally come in all shapes, sizes, colors, and everything imaginable from snaps to Velcro. The choices are endless and can be confusing which may deter people from trying them. We chose to use "pocket" diapers which are very similar to a disposables in appearance and use. The difference is: instead of tossing them in the trash, we toss them in the wash.

We chose to cloth diaper our baby for the following reasons (in order of importance):

1) To keep potentially harmful chemicals from his skin. When I researched all the chemicals that are in a disposable diaper, it shocked me enough to make this the primary reason for using cloth. I won't go into detail about it, but there are lots of websites out there that do.

2) To save money. Although the upfront cost can be high (\$350 for 18 diapers, bags, totes, and supplies), over the long run, the savings are INCREDIBLE. After crunching the numbers, a month of disposables can cost around \$90. We spend about \$15 a month for laundering costs with our own machines. Obviously, it would cost more if you use a laundromat.

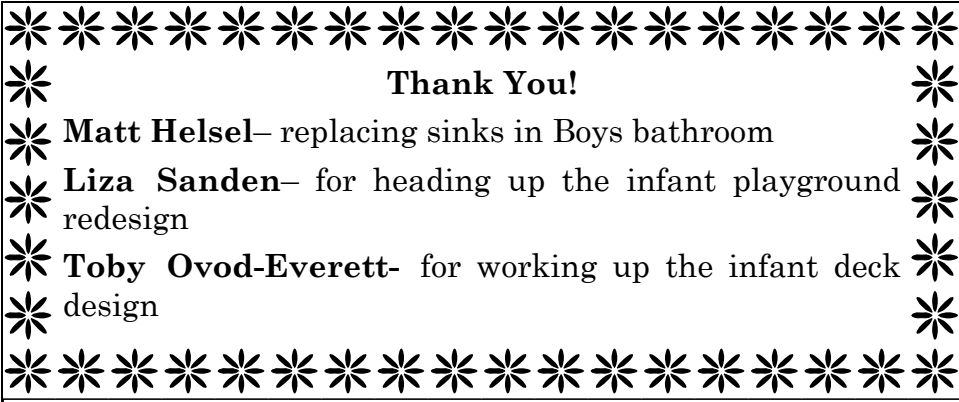
3) To create less waste. If you've ever seen shows or statistics about how much diaper waste the average child goes through, it's unbelievable. Don't get me wrong, I'm not an Earth-daddy on a mission to save the planet or anything. But it does feel good to contribute less waste in our landfills and possibly make a bit of a difference.

There are many other benefits to cloth such as comfort, appearance, reusability with future children, and the list goes on. Ultimately, it's been a great decision for our family and I think it can be beneficial to ALL families. There's a ton of information out there for anyone interested. There are online cloth diapering communities that share their love for cloth and are as passionate about it as one could possibly be.

Cloth diapering is making a comeback and the number of cloth diapering parents is increasing every day. It's fun to actually be part of the "movement."

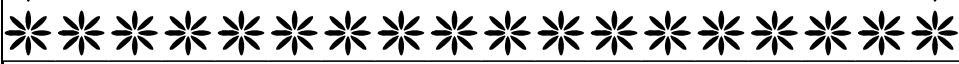
If you have any questions about cloth diapering, feel free to email me at [gbruesch@gmail.com](mailto:gbruesch@gmail.com).

-Garrett (Dad of Kalen in Big Butterflies)



**Thank You!**

- \* **Matt Helsel**– replacing sinks in Boys bathroom
- \* **Liza Sanden**– for heading up the infant playground redesign
- \* **Toby Ovod-Everett**- for working up the infant deck design



**Guaranteed Start**

Hillcrest has moved to a guaranteed start for future enrollments versus a waitlist. This eliminates the uncertainty for families regarding if they will have a spot at Hillcrest or not.

We have projected enrollment out a year and are able to tell families when, if at all, we are able to guarantee an enrollment spot for their child. At that time the family can choose to pay a two week deposit and registration fee for that space. If the space opens up before then, the family can choose to accept it or stay with their original date.

We have been using this strategy for the past three months and have found it to be very successful. **Currently, we have two infant (born 9/10 to today) openings in September.**

**If you are planning on adding to your family and will want the baby to attend Hillcrest please give Ms. Christina an immediate heads up so we can work to ensure a space.**

**Hillcrest Board**

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Denee Zah  
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**Member At Large**  
Could this be you?

**Facebook**

If you haven't been by in a while, check out the Facebook page. Our events for the year have been posted under the events tab. You can even RSVP on the page.

**Mission**

Hillcrest Children's Center provides quality care for every child in an environment that focus on developing a foundation for a lifelong love of learning and respect for self and others. Hillcrest is a non-profit, parent-cooperative that believes quality care comes from a partnership between the home and school.

- December 3**  
**Parent Day Out**
- December 9**  
**Holiday Party**
- Kim Farewell Party**
- December 26**  
**Closed Holiday**

**Philosophy**

Children are cared for in a loving, safe environment surrounded by positive interactions where they develop feelings of self-esteem based on individual strengths and accomplishments. Learning is best achieved through play and activities that are designed to offer experiences in a variety of situations geared to the developmental needs of the child.

# Preschool Press

## Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 9

Pallet Party

Parent Night Out

Wednesday, April 13

Parent Dinner

Ms. Lindsey will present on Pre-literacy development.

Wednesday, April 20

Parent and Pastries

Board Meeting

Monday April 25

Room on the Broom

Older Preschool's Field Trip.

Children need to be here by 8:30 am to participate.

Sat and Sun, April 30 & May 1

Clean-Up Weekend

Friday, May 6

Mother's Day Tea

Graise to Raise Fundraiser

## Preschool plants seedlings for our garden



### Needs

Each child needs to bring in a pair of old shoes (any size and style) for a planting project. (It will not be returned in a usable condition.)

Looking for seeds of the sensitive plant. (*Mimosa pudica*)



### Curriculum Updates

Reduce

Reuse

Recycle

We have been inspired from our field trip to ScrapArtsMusic. We are working on sorting and gathering items to recycle as we explore Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

Ways to be involved:

- Bring items that we can reuse
- Bring in recyclables to be sorted
- Volunteer your family to bring a load to be recycled

## Measuring our plants

