



November 11
In-Service Closure

November 16
Parents and Pastries

November 16
Board

November 24 and 25
Closed Holiday

December 3
Parent Day Out

December 26
Closed Holiday

Jan 2
Closed Holiday

Feb 2-3*
In-Service Closure

February 20
Closed Holiday

March 26*
In-Service Closure

May 25*
Half-Day In-Service Closure

May 28
Closed Holiday

July 4
Closed Holiday

August 31*
Half-Day In-Service Closure

September 3
Closed Holiday

October 8*
In-Service Closure

November 12*
In-Service Closure

November 22, 23
Closed Holiday

December 25
Closed Holiday

I would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to fill out the annual survey. This information helps the Leads and I see in what areas you, the parents, feel we are doing well and what areas you would like to see improvement in. The information received was shared with the staff during our last in-service. Specifically, I consolidated the answers to the questions "Why did you choose Hillcrest" and "Why do you stay at Hillcrest" into a word cloud. It made a great visual to show that for the huge majority the staff is the reason you chose Hillcrest and continue to stay.

The Leads and I have created some goals to guide program going into this school-year. I will be working to implement ASQ Developmental Screening, continue to work on increasing quality through utilization of the Program Administrators Scale, and implementing the Procure software. The Leads are focusing on increasing communication among staff and staff to families, organizing classroom materials, and holding staff accountable to classroom procedures, as well as mentoring future Lead Teachers.

Healthy Life Choices

Hillcrest has received the Alaska Wellness in Child Care Mini-grant. This grant will allow us to purchase materials to implement *Active Play!*, *More Than Mud Pies*, and *Healthy Mealtimes for Happy Kids* activities in our classroom. Materials will consist of, but are not limited to, the following: items to make physical activity games, cooking utensils and materials, active play music, and books about cooking and meals, etc. The balls and Frisbees that were at the Annual B-B-Q were purchased with some of the grant money.

Ms. Cheryl and Ms. Sandy received training on these programs and is excited to get going! You will periodically receive updates, activity suggestions, recipe ideas, etc. as we incorporate these activities throughout the year.

As we wrap up the grant project next year, you will receive a post-completion evaluation to complete. This documentation will help the Project Coordinator to assess the impact of the grant on our program (and the other programs that received the grant). At that point, we will also host a Parent Night/Group Social to share the lessons learned and highlights from the program.

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

Thank you to all the families that purchased items from Small Hands. We will receive a percentage back in credit for classroom materials this winter.

Northern Lights Coupon Books:

ON SALE NOW THROUGH DECEMBER

Thank you to the families that have already sent in your preorders. If we sell 100 or more we will receive back \$20 for every book, earning Hillcrest over \$2000! We have confirmed 37 books sold. So keep it up! To make the goal every family just needs to sell 2 books. Checks can be made out to "Hillcrest" or "Northern Lights Entertainment".

See's Candy: ORDERS DUE NOV 18th

Each winter and spring Hillcrest participates in the See's Candy fundraiser. As well as a good way to support Hillcrest, See's Candy is a great, quick holiday gift for family, friends and coworkers. We expect orders to be delivered the week of December 5th.

eScrip

eScrip is proven to be a fantastic resource for fundraising where participating business partners contribute a percentage of your grocery loyalty cards, credit card, and debit/ATM card purchases to Hillcrest Children's Center. You can register online at www.escrip.com.

Frontier Natural Products Buying Club

Have you heard of Hillcrest's newest fundraiser? A Buying Club from Frontier Natural Products. This is the same wholesaler that supplies stores like Natural Pantry and Fred Meyers. We can buy at wholesale rates and get free shipping if our order is \$400+. Hillcrest is adding 20% to your total cost as the fundraiser side of things – but costs are frequently less than local in-store sales. Sometimes the stores can offer bigger discounts, but by purchasing through our buying club, you can avoid the stores and support Hillcrest. If you want further clarification, please speak with Ms. Christina or Liza Sanden.

Hillcrest Board

President

Larry Johns

ljohns@campfireak.org

Vice President

Willow Peyton

willow@alaskacoin.com

Treasurer

Alana Helsel

Alana.L.Helsel@usace.army.mil

Secretary

Shannon Guthrie

sguthrie@gci.com

Member At Large– EC

Meg'n Gall

megrgall@yahoo.com

Member At Large

Maureen DeZeeuw

akmaureen@gci.net

Member At Large

Denee Zah

Denee.Zah@gmail.com

Member At Large

Liza Sanden

liza-s@rocketmail.com

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 child development center that believes quality care comes from a partnership between the home and school.

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.



Green Hillcrest Update

This year Hillcrest qualified for a grant from Alaska Energy Authority to be reimbursed for the cost of an energy audit.

The audit occurred in September. We have the auditor's report. We are thrilled that it includes some specific recommendations for cost-effective steps we can take to improve energy efficiency at the Center.

We need to replacing Hillcrest's aging boiler before it gives out. The audit confirms that we do get that done, it will go a long way toward big savings in our gas bill. We have also gotten a reasonable bid for insulating the crawl space below the Preschool to reduce energy costs and improve temperature control in that room.

Happily, the report also recommends some basic low-tech low-cost steps that we can take right away in order to reap the financial benefit of a lower gas bill this winter!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Participate in a work day to accomplish some of the weatherization recommended by the audit.

**Saturday 11/5 9-3
9AM—3PM**

Questions?

Contact

Miss Christina

or Liza Sanden

liza-s@rocketmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS MS. CHERYL

Ms. Cheryl made several goals for herself two years ago. She wanted to travel with her three boys, move to a better home, and obtain her Child Development Associate Credential (CDA). Since then she has taken a trip to New York City with her boys, seeing the sites. Last month she moved to a new home. This month she not only received her CDA but also her National Administrator's Credential.

The CDA is the most widely recognized credential in early childhood education (ECE) and is a key stepping stone on the path of career advancement in ECE. The CDA credential is based on a core set of competency standards, which guide early care professionals as they work toward becoming qualified teachers of young children. Teachers who earn their CDA have demonstrated how to put the CDA Competency Standards into practice and understanding of why those standards help children move with success from one developmental stage to another. Put simply, these teachers know how to nurture the emotional, physical, intellectual, and social development of children.

The National Director's Credential is a training program designed to enhance the effectiveness of early childhood professionals. Covering fiscal management, human resources, family partnerships, and programmatic development the Director's Credential is geared specifically to early childhood programs.