## Hilltop Jr./Sr. High School



Principal: Mr. Brent Northcott Email: b

Email: brent.northcott@ngps.ca

Website: hilltophigh.ca

Twitter: @ngpshth

 Website: hilltophigh.ca
 Twitter: @ngpshth

 Facebook: www.facebook.com/hilltophighschool
 Image: Comparison of the second second

## **November 2018 Newsletter** Message from the Administration

Welcome to November! The semester is quickly moving along. With the beginning of November, we can also expect colder weather and snow. With the large number of students that ride the bus to and from school, we ask parents to please encourage your children to dress warmly. Please check out the infographic, "To Run or Not to Run" in the

Telephone: 780.778.2446 Fax 780.778.8818

## Student Art



Canadian soldiers have made to ensure the many freedoms we take for granted. Please join us on November 8 for our annual Remembrance Day assembly at 10:40 AM.

November also gives us time to pause and reflect on the sacrifices our

newsletter for information on bussing in inclement weather.

There is no school for students from November 9-13. This fall break is a good time for parents and students to relax after a couple of busy months of school. Students, enjoy the break.

November 14 is Take Your Kids to Work Day. Grade 9 students will have the opportunity to view what it is like to work for a living as they job shadow a parent, relative or friend for the day. This is a valuable learning opportunity for students who will get a glimpse into their future.



I would also like to invite parents to our parent teacher interviews which are scheduled for the evening of November 15. Please drop by to check in with your teachers on your child's progress. Interviews are from 4-8:30 pm.

We are asking students to keep their backpacks in their lockers while at school. With the influx of students this year, our hallways are a little more congested. We ask that students put their backpacks in their locker upon arrival at school and just take their books to class. There is no need to be carting a backpack around all day. We thank you for your support in this matter.

Enjoy the transition as we move from autumn into winter over the next few weeks. Also, please show your support to our military by wearing a poppy.

Your partner in education, Brent Northcott Principal



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## **Bell Schedule**

Warning Bell	8:55 AM
Block 1	9:00 AM - 10:22 AM
Break	10:22 AM - 10:26 AM
Block 2	10:26 AM - 11:48 AM
Lunch Break	11:48 AM - 12:22 PM
Warning Bell	12:22 PM
Block 3	12:27 PM - 1:49 PM
Break	1:49 - 1:53 PM
Block 4	1:53 PM - 3:15 PM

#### **November Important Dates**

1: Scholarship Meeting 7pm 4: Daylight Savings Time 8: Picture Retakes 8: Remembrance Day Assembly 10:40am 9-13: Fall Break 11: Remembrance Day 14: Gr. 9 Take Kids to Work Day 15: Parent/Teacher Interviews 4-8:30pm 21: FOH Meeting 7pm



#### 2017 - 2018 Annual Academic Awards Ceremony



#### Grade 9

Anderson, Ashley Berube, Dakota Deane, Nevin Dibben, Jaden Doerksen, Summer Durocher, Eden Edmundson, Jada Evenson, Chloe Juengling, Kelsey Locke, Meagan Martell, Maddy Merrifield, Jenna Myung, Irene Nickolson, Mikayla Osborne, Jaron Ottley, Samuel Rhynold, Samantha Stewart, Samantha Wharton, Kaiden Wilde, Aaron Wolfe, Allison Zadderey, Kenneth

### Grade 10

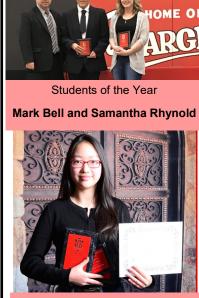
Adams, Noel Augot, Zachary Blain, Kevin Borg, Alyssa Braun, Tyler Davidson, Samia Dickson, Kayla El Sayed, Lina Fast, Areanna Gadke, Kody Greenwood, Jayden Irwin, Damon Jorgensen, Scott Lavallee, Enila LaValley, Ashley Lewis, Gabriel McLean, Thomas Newman, Brady Perrin, Jaxon Rennie, Hannah Schlosser, Emma Sharp, Sydney Taylor, Joshua

#### Grade 11

HONOURS

Bell, Mark Cunningham, Adam Davidson, Jacob Day, Colby Deets, Derek Doerksen, Seth Funk, Teron Hearn, Cameron Long, Stephanie Moore, Freddie Sebo, Emma Warchola, Rachelle Wilde, Carter Cairns, Ashley Carter, Kaley Cone, Nicole Dunstall, Emily Greenwood, Annick Maxwell, Emma Seu, Logan Steinke, Katelyn Woodford, James

Grade 12



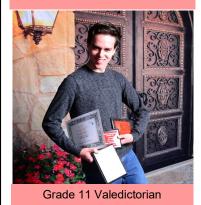
Grade 9 Valedictorian

Irene Myung



Grade 10 Valedictorian

**Emma Schlosser** 



Adam Cunningham

Berube, Shyla Borg, Ryan Daniels, Treydon Dickson, Katie Dixon, Jordan Naslund, Brooke Palmateer, Kayla Shuck, Kendall Smith, Charles Van Der Meer, Landis

Grade 9

Baxter, Orren Beauchamp, Darcy Beck, Kenzie Beuker, Paige

Grade 10

Beck, Kenzie Beuker, Paige Bizeau, Brody Brandt, Jay Butler, Ian Clarke, Hannah Coffee, Lisa Collins, Derrick Coulter, Josie Ellis, Joshua Granley, Lainey Gunsch, Trystan Guthrie, Noah Hodoson, Rianna Hough, Cassie Johns, Keegen Kostyk, Kadence Lindsay, Draydon Lunde, Autumn Lyver, Hannah Mundell, Brook Mytrunec, Ayden Newton, Jacob Paul, Kyra Pham, Mai Roach, Jessica Stewart, Dillan Stoyles, Zachary Tapp, Noel Tobin, Caleb

#### Grade 11

MERIT

Albaya, Jorden Anderson, Erica Anderson, Savannah Benko, Rebecca Blackstock, Montana Bounds, Sadie Bryant, Indigo Christianson, Sadie Damberger, Renae Fransen, Gabriel Gallant. Sebastian Gano-Murray, Tanisha Granley, Kjell Harder, Colleen Kelly, Layne Lambert, Kailev Lewis, Hannah Mohler, Sarah Motkoski, Courtney Newman, Cody Oliver, Cody Packham, Macynne Pastoor, Chase Pham, Thanh Schneider-Magdiak, Dallas Smith, Carson Spreen, Leigh Tarcon, Alysa Tipler, Mikayla Whatmore, Mackenzie Wise, Zachary Woods, Colby

## <u>Grade 12</u>

Adams, Benjamin Ansay, Shawn-Rey Baranitsky, Ethan Basaraba, Caelyn Boll, Ryan Bryson, Madison Coffee, Samuel Forseille, Alyssa Fromager, Emily Humby, Aaron McKinnon. Pharran Molnar, Kyle Parker, Brooklyn Pratt, Brianna Twach, Christopher Warr. Lance Whitehorse, Elita Woykin, Reyd

#### VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

Support Hilltop High School by saving your receipts from Boston Pizza. Every receipt you submit to us earns us 5% cash back towards student programming.

## EDUCATION

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Operation Education is a co-operative fundraising initiative that partners local schools with Boston Pizza restaurants in your community to earn cash back. Staff, students and families can dine at any Northern Alberta Boston Pizza and help their school earn 5% cash back on the pre-tax total of submitted receipts.\*

- | Eat at Boston Pizza between Septem and December 31, 2018
- 2. Save your receipts
- 3. Submit your receipts to the designated school representative by

It's as simple as eat, save, submit!

**Contact your local** Boston Pizza for more details.

\*Valid for registered schools at participating NAB Boston Pizza locations. Only original receipts are accepted.





## **Hilltop Bistro**



## **Open Daily**

Hilltop Bistro cards are available to purchase from Mrs. Runge in room 503. Accepted payments of Interac, Visa, Mastercard or cash. Bistro cards are punch cards that can be used in place of cash at the cafeteria. These cards are available in \$10.00 and \$20.00 values. Bistro cards make a great gift idea.

Daily Lunch Special \$5.00 Small Chocolate Milk \$1.00 Large Chocolate Milk \$3.50 Milk 2 Go (Vanilla, Banana, Strawberry) \$2.50 Keurig Cup \$1.00 Cookie \$0.50 Loaf \$1.50 Muffin \$1.00

Square or Pastry \$2.00 Veggie Cup or Fruit Cup \$1.00 Jello or Pudding \$1.00 Pretzel & Hummus \$2.75 Sandwiches \$3.50 Yogurt Parfait (Peach, Strawberry, Blueberry) \$1.50 Cheese, Meat & Crackers \$3.50

Hilltop Media student Freddie Moore shot some eerie night pictures of Mr. Schlosser



Gateway Academy celebrates Thanksgiving with good food and good friends.



Congratulations to Emma Schlosser

for winning the Town of Whitecourt's Vitalization Committee's highway banner picture contest and to Hilltop

High School's media program for their assistance. Each received cheques for \$250.00.

Chef Mercers Foods 9 class held a Cake Boss competition last week. Students created

edible masterpieces while following certain criteria. Staff members then judged them on

presentation, taste and design creativity. Amazing job by these talented bakers!







## What is Kidsport?

KidSport Whitecourt is a charity in our community that believes that no kid should be left on the sidelines and that all kids should have the opportunity to experience

WHITECOURT should have the opportunity to experience the positive benefits of organized sport. We are one of 40 locally organized chapters in Alberta that provide grants to families who are facing financial obstacles and require assistance in paying their children's sport registration fees. To apply see the office for an application. If you have questions please contact Mrs. Smith-Tomke. Or The Town Of Whitecourt's, FCSS Program Coordinator at 780-778-3637 ext.417

KidSport Whitecourt is also looking for donations to help us help community youth. To donate contact Mrs. Tomke or The Town Of Whitecourt's, FCSS Program Coordinator at 780-778-3637 ext.417



Fun in French Class

The following students will be heading to Ottawa this year as they participate in various themed weeks with Encounters with Canada.

RUTEUX

Declan Finan: Science & Technology

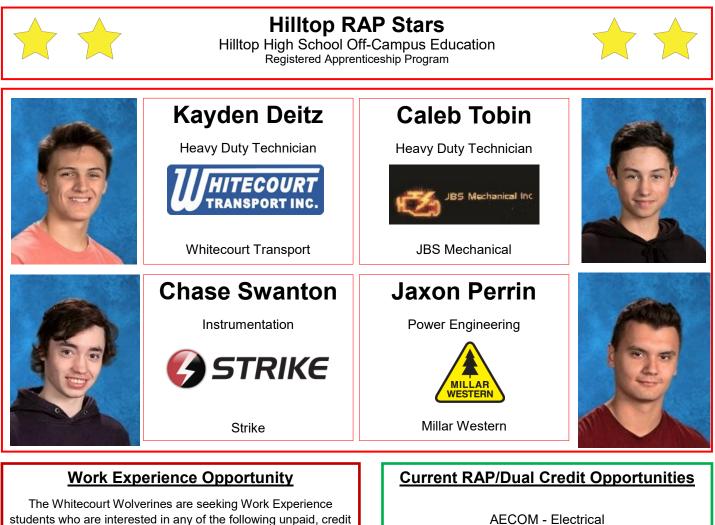
Kenneth Zaddery: Medicine and Health

Ayan Khurram Hudda: Science & Technology

Katie Dixon: Democracy and Youth



Thank you Mama Grays Catering for your continued donations of empty coffee cans supporting our Outdoor Education program



earning job positions

Public Relations Multimedia Content Creator Statistical Recorder Events Management Lighting Technician

For more information please speak to Mrs. Van De Kerckhove

AECOM - Electrical Educational Assistant Program (Dual Credit)

If you are interested in the Registered Apprenticeship Program stop in at the office and schedule a time to speak with Mrs. Van De Kerckhove

Any business interested in taking on a RAP student please contact Mrs. Sarah Van De Kerckhove at 780-778-2446

## RBC donates \$50,000 in support of NGPS Dual Credit & Off Campus programs!!

Over the past four years, NGPS has invested in our students' futures with an increased emphasis on Off Campus and Dual Credit programs, offering students options for personalized learning and skill development, and connections to post-secondary and local businesses. Off Campus education refers to opportunities junior and senior high students have to explore and expand their career interests, skills and knowledge related to work through Work Experience, Registered Apprenticeship, and summer Boot Camp learning opportunities. Dual Credit programs provide the opportunity for high school students to take college or university courses, earning both high school and post-secondary credits for the same course. RBC has created an opportunity for students to be active participants in this changing job market through their investment in **RBC Future Launch**. We are very pleased to partner with RBC as we continue our work to provide innovative and relevant learning opportunities for NGPS students.

NGPS Superintendent Kevin Andrea accepted the cheque from RBC Whitecourt Managers Tammy Collins, Dan Munro and Rachel Bachman, in the CTS Construction lab at Hilltop Jr/Sr High School. Thank you Hilltop High School RAP, Work Experience and Dual Credit students for joining us, for representing all NGPS students and for sharing your learning experiences!

With the support of **RBC Future Launch**, we will be able to enhance our current programs to better serve our students as they learn, grow, and create the business opportunities of tomorrow. Thank you RBC!





### Grad 2019 Remind

Parents/Students please sign up to receive important reminders via text message regarding Grad 2019

Text the message @hthgrad19 to the number (587) 316-7407

Mrs. Keay has begun her one on one meetings with Grade 12 students. Please sign up on the sheet on her classroom door (room 302) to have your individual meeting.

Grad 2019 Parent Volunteer Opportunities:

Senior Supper (over 30 year Hilltop tradition) Winter/Spring Formal Dance Grad Ceremony Decorations Cake Auction Grad Banquet (only possible with many volunteers)

### Important Days to Remember

Hilltop's 52nd Graduation Ceremony June 28, 2019 Time: 1:00 pm

Graduation Scholarship Information Meeting November 1, 2018 7:00 pm

Grad Pictures December 3-6, 2018 Session Booking details TBA at a later date

> Grad Pictures Re-Take Day February 19, 2019

## Grade 12 Academic Advising Update

Greetings!

This month, my update **also applies to grade 11 students**. I am hearing from a lot of post-secondary institutions that their competitive averages are *very* high this year. Particularly in the Bachelor of Science faculty. What does this mean?

Competitive admission average ranges are provided to give students an idea of what they need to be considered competitive. In order to be considered for admission, you need to present a <u>competitive admission average</u> for your faculty/program of choice, based on the required courses for that program. You can check required courses for each program by searching the <u>program listings</u> of the institution you are interested in.

Space in each program is limited. Being within the competitive admission average range does not guarantee admission. No two applicants are alike, and multiple factors, including admission average and requirements, are taken into consideration for admission.

The competitive averages for each program/faculty may change throughout the year, based on the competitiveness of the applicant pool. In addition to presenting a competitive average when you apply, you must also meet the university's <u>minimum admission requirements</u> after receiving an admission offer in order to remain eligible. Those students are receiving *conditional acceptance* <u>must</u> keep up their grades and overall averages to keep their acceptance.

This information really means the following:

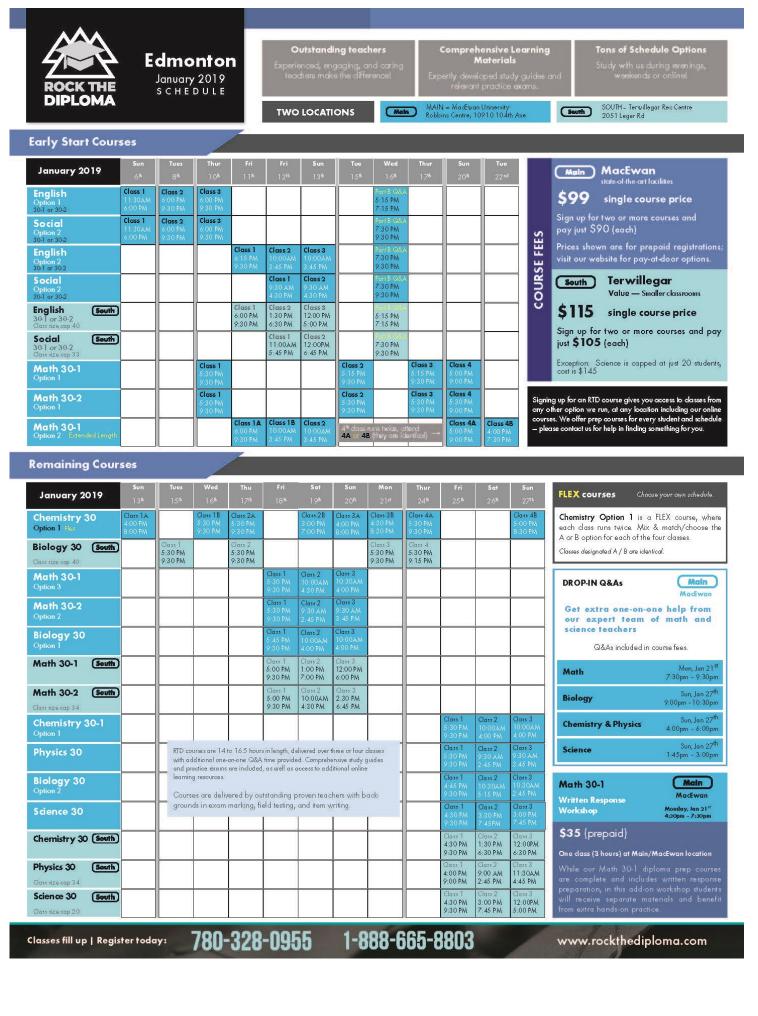
- 1. Students applying to post secondary institutions such as University of Alberta should **have a second program choice.** You may want to choose something like Bachelor of Arts where the initial admission requirements are more flexible.
- 2. You should have a second or even third institution choice. Please do not only apply to one institution.
- 3. **Consider a Transfer Program**. For example, you may choose to start at Red Deer College or Grande Prairie Regional College. You will spend two years working toward your Degree and transfer to University of Alberta or University of Calgary. A transfer program is <u>not</u> a waste of time or money.

Scholarship applications are now open for many scholarships. In order to prepare for your applications, I advise that you begin connecting with potential references. Have someone write you a reference letter that can be used for multiple applications. Ask your reference to sign multiple copies of their letter and send you a digital copy. There are many scholarships for Indigenous Students, students who are entering specific programs such as nursing, apprenticeships, or volunteers/leaders. Start by visiting the ALIS website: https://alis.alberta.ca/explore-education-and-training/pay-for-your education/scholarships-and-bursaries/

Please do not hesitate to pop by my classroom if you have questions or send me an email! I am here to help!

Mrs. Keay jennifer.keay@ngps.ca









#### <u>Gateway Academy – Whitecourt Campus News</u> (formerly called Storefront)

Hours of Operation Monday-Thursday 9:00 am – 3:30 pm Phone: 780 - 778 - 5865 Fax: 780-778-5683



November is set up to be a creative, exciting month at Gateway Academy. Amidst getting a fresh coat of paint, fifteen of our current students will be taking part in a two-week Art Intensive; interested students will have the opportunity to sketch, sculpt, paint and create a relief mural for a feature wall at Gateway while earning credits for Art 10.

#### Important Dates:

**November 1st**: Lunch & Learn with Mike Cameron. Mike will be sharing his "Redefining Badass" presentation with us over a delicious pulled pork lunch! Thank you to the Whitecourt Family Violence Initiative for providing us with this opportunity. www.whitecourtfvi for more information about our speaker!

November 15th: Parent Teacher Interviews: Drop in to discuss your child's progress anytime between 4-6:30.

**November 17th:** "Dreams- The Ultimate Tribute to Fleetwood Mac" at Eagle River Casino. We wish to thank Eagle River Casino for their generosity and support in helping fund our fresh coat of paint. Please contact Maureen @ (780) 778-5865 as soon as possible for tickets as we know they'll sell out quickly! Tables are \$100 each and seat four.

November 19th - 30th: Art Intensive with Artist & Teacher Deb Love

November 29th: 12-1:30 Art Show & Luncheon

Please RSVP to Tammy @ (780) 778-5865 by November 26th if you'd like to view our student's art and share in lunch with us.

Gateway Academy is a flexible, alternative school for off campus education designed to meet the unique needs of our grade 9-12 students. Our students come to us for a variety of reasons, including: preference for homeschooling, learning challenges that make focus and learning within the regular classroom setting difficult, anxiety, interest in

courses that are not offered within the regular school programming (such as:

Psychology, Forensics, etc.), upgrading, financial obligations that require them to work full time, medical issues, pregnancy and/or the demands of parenthood, or simply the preference of working independently at their own pace. On an average day, we see

twenty students enter our door and work towards fulfilling their graduation requirements. For inquiries, please contact Outreach Coordinator, Mrs. Maureen Kendall @ (780) 778-5865.





#### Whitecourt Teen Centre

A place where you can be yourself!

The Whitecourt Teen Centre is a free drop-in program for youth in grades 6-12.

The Teen Centre Hours are 3:30 pm to 8:00 pm, Monday- Friday Holiday & PD Days: Please visit our Facebook or Instagram page for current updates including holidays, PD Days and Flex Days, as times and dates are subject to

change. Facebook: Whitecourt Teen Centre Page

#### Instagram: wctteencentre

The Teen Centre will also post the updates on the Teen Centre door.

Our Teen Centre programs and activities include: DIY projects, arts & crafts, cooking & baking, movies, video games, sports & activities, board games, pool & much more! Participation in programs & activities is optional.

Health and wellness at the Teen Centre is important. We believe in the physical and mental wellbeing of our youth and express this importance through various selfesteem building activities as well as forms of self-care such as yoga, fitness, cooking and baking.

We are now doing Flex Days at The Teen Centre from 11:20 am - 1:00 pm!

Come to the Teen Centre on Flex Days for a free hot lunch! The Teen Centre offers homework support, a variety of resources and supplies for school projects, and free wifi!

Thursday Nights are **Open Gym at the Teen Centre**. Register at the Teen Centre to participate in Open Gym in the Field House at the AJMC. Thursdays 6-8 pm

Open Gym Fee: \$4.00 per youth

\*Must Register to participate\*. Contact the Teen Centre for more information.

To find out more about attending Open Gym at no cost, please contact Alicia Smallwood Teen Centre Manager-Youth Development, Coordinator Ph:(780) 778-6696 Email: teenwhitecourtbgc@gmail.com

Upcoming Events: Register for Kickboxing on Fridays.

Classes at the Teen Centre & Anytime Fitness Kickboxing Fee: \$5 per session \* Must Register to participate\*

Contact the Teen Centre for more information

To learn more about joining Kickboxing and other activities at no cost, please contact Alicia Smallwood Teen Centre Manager-Youth Development, Coordinator Ph:(780) 778-6696 Email: teenwhitecourtbgc@gmail.com Classes are filling up fast, don't miss out!!!!



Earn 5% profit grocery shopping at IGA and support Hilltop High School's Friends of Hilltop Parent Council.

EARN MONEY to pay for your student's school fees, grad garb, school sports and even school trips. When you purchase IGA grocery vouchers from the Remax office or at Hilltop's front office, 5% of your purchase is placed in an account just for you. It stays there until you need to access these funds to pay for any variety of school related expenses. Stop by or call the office for more details on how to sign up.



Parent Council Society

Please support our program by donating bottles at the Whitecourt Bottle Depot. Mention they are for Hilltop High School.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

The Breakfast Program is looking for helpers before the start of the school day to help with prep and serving of breakfast. Hilltop High School is not part of Breakfast Clubs of Canada and is run by 100% Parent Council Volunteers. Mrs. Bell has been graciously helping us while she is trying to run the Bistro, but definitely needs extra hands. If you can help at all – even 1 morning a week, please see her at the Bistro. Thank you in advance!!

## **Key Study Guides**

Key Study Guides are an additional resource that students can use to review/study for their exams. The Key Study Guides include practice questions and answers, detailed solutions, and are aligned with the Alberta curriculum. An order sheet will be available at the office during Parent/Teacher Interviews on November 15. Payment accepted via schoolcashonline.com starting November 14.

Thank you Pembina Pipelines for your generous donation of binders to our Learning Commons.



 Friends of Hilltop
 Jobeyr

 Parent Council
 2018-2019 Friends of Hilltop Council Members

 Chairpersons: Tammy Dickson and Avy Fast
 Secretary: Joanne Merrifield Treasurers: Niki Underwood and Judy Watson

Next Meeting - November 21, 2018 at 7:00 pm at Hilltop

## Earn 5% profit on your regular grocery shopping at IGA!!

**EARN MONEY** to pay for your student's school fees, grad garb, school sports and even school trips. Take advantage of the IGA gift cards sold by Friends of Hilltop Parent Council. When you purchase grocery vouchers from the Remax Office or at the school office--**5%** of your purchase is placed in an account just for you. It just stays there until you need to access these funds to pay for any variety of school related expenses.

IGA voucher cards are the **ONLY** fundraiser for Friends of Hilltop, other than bottle recycling to fund our Breakfast Program. Stop by or call the office for more details. Mrs. Trebilcock

Mrs. Smith-Tomke

## Student Services Newsletter

Our Student Services Team works diligently to support our student's social, emotional, career and academic needs. Opportunities for students are communicated through weekly announcements, newsletters and through Hilltop's Social Media. Students are invited to drop into our Student Services area for support or to see Ms. Trebilcock or Mrs. Smith - Tomke for an appointment.

alis.alberta.ca

Are you undecided about a career? One of the best web sites for Career Planning, Education and Employment is www.alis.gov.ab.ca. It also includes information on financial assistance.

#### **Applying for Post-Secondary**

Most schools accept applications from October 1st onward. Do not delay. Receiving an offer of acceptance can take a long time. Remember, once you have applied, you must periodically update the post-secondary institution via your online account.

## **RAP** - Registered Apprenticeship Program

If you are interested in a RAP position and would like to find out more information, please see Mrs. Van De Kerckhove in the front office.

**Work Experience** Are you a student who is currently employed? Have you signed up for work experience? You can earn up to 15 credits towards your high school diploma. Completion of HCS 3000 course modules is mandatory.

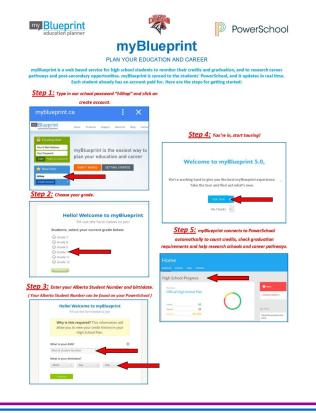
Former Hilltop students looking for transcripts will need to sign up for MyPass. (See instructions below) Students needing their Alberta Student Numbers should contact Alberta Education directly at 310-0000 or online at learnerregistry.ae.alberta.ca.

## Blueprint education planner my

### PLAN YOUR EDUCATION AND CAREER

myBlueprint is a web based service for high school students to monitor their credits and graduation, and to research career pathways and post-secondary opportunities. myBlueprint is synced to the students' PowerSchool, and it updates in real time. Each student already has an account paid for.

For more information: hilltophigh.ca / parents and students tab.





## **MYPASS.ALBERTA.CA**

To access your records after writing a diploma, you will need to have a myPass.alberta.ca account established. **GRADE 12 STUDENTS MUST SIGN UP FOR MyPass** 

\*Alberta Education has decided that Diploma results will only be available via your MyPass account. \*The school cannot create your account on your behalf.

### How to sign-up:

1. Go to mypass.alberta.ca

2. Create a login using "Sign me up, I'm new!" Do not use your @ngps.ca email. A confirmation link will be sent to your personal inbox.

3. Click on the confirmation link in your inbox. Confirm your birthdate and Alberta Student Number. You can find your ASN at https://extranetapp.learning.gov.ab.ca/learnerRegistry/forms/

4. Using a button on the subsequent screen, request that a secure verification code be mailed to your home via post. It should arrive within two weeks.

5. Upon receipt in the mail, login and enter the code. It will expire. Act promptly.

6. You will now have access to all of your academic records.



## Athletics Be a Charger...Take Charge!

Hilltop was proud to once again host the A&W Classic Volleyball tournament in October. We would like to thank all the teams that participated and everyone that helped organize the event. A special thank you to A&W for your decades of sponsorship and continued support. Our Sr. Girls finished the tournament in 4th place, while our Sr. Boys earned silver in a thrilling three set match final game.



Our first Pep Rally of the year and we were thrilled to introduced both the Jr. and Sr. Volleyball teams and the CATS Football team. Students also had the chance to play games and earn prizes.







Congratulations to these CATS players who were honoured by the Mighty Peace Football League.

Outstanding D Lineman - Chase Pastoor Outstanding O Back - Court Mills MVP - Court Mills



## Volleyball

Nov. 2 & 3: Sr. Volleyball tournament Edson (boys/girls)

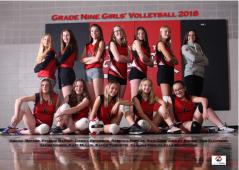
Nov. 16 & 17: Sr. Volleyball Zones Barrhead (boys/girls)

## Basketball

Watch for tryout dates

Nov 30 & Dec 1: Sr. Basketball Edson (girls only)









## Medieval Club

Have you ever wondered how knights fought back in medieval times? Or what arts and crafts people used to make? Perhaps you are into sports and martial arts or maybe you are just curi-

ous about what kind of skills were needed to be a medieval artisan. Hilltop's Medieval Club meets at lunch on Thursdays to learn all there is about the medieval times as well as how to do medieval style combat. Students can learn all about the medieval ways of fighting as well as about honour and chivalry. Students can learn about making medieval crafts like chainmaille and wire weaving, but also about making armour as well as how to engage a foe with cunning skill and accuracy. If you would like to find out what we do in Medieval Club, please come and speak to Miss Mehl in Room 304!

## **Climate Change Video Contest**

The national FOCUS! Climate Change Secondary (Grades 8-12) Video Contest returns for a second year.

Last year more than 400 students from 80 schools across 8 provinces combined their talents and imaginations and submitted over 160 films. Through stop animation, live action, image-driven story-telling, and documentary techniques, Canadian youth produced both haunting and hopeful narratives for our future. The films were simply jawdropping for their creativity and teachings. Winning films from last year, as well as a new resource library of student made films for teachers and students, can be seen on our website.

The contest invites students in Grades 8-12 (individually or in teams of up to 5 members) to make a short video (maximum 5 minutes) about climate change. Full details are available on our website at <a href="https://kimberley-foundation.org/focus-main-page">https://kimberley-foundation.org/focus-main-page</a> .

Fantastic prizes (1 grand prize of \$5,000 + \$2,500 for the school, and 3 additional prizes for best creativity, best technical realization and best science communication each valued at \$2,5000 + \$2,000 for the school) can be won. In addition, the overall prize package includes a trip to Vancouver in May 2019 for a public screening of the winning films.

Our website has a specific section dedicated to new innovations, climate change news, and various other resources to learn about climate change (facts, websites, active organizations) which we hope can also be a useful learning resource.

For your information, the Kimberley Foundation is a charitable not-for -profit organization registered in the Province of British Columbia whose aim to is to support unique, self-directed learning experiences that will help change the world.

The deadline for video entries is March 4, 2019.



## School Reach

School Reach is a club devoted to quiz game shows. Students gather in room 304 at lunch on Fridays to test

their knowledge about pop culture, music, sports, entertainment, history, literature, movies and much more. Come bring your lunch and some friends to try out our amazing game show buzzer system while answering some questions! Everyone is welcome and we have a great time during lunch hour.



Hilltop High School would like to request that all students leave any valuables at home.

We encourage all students to keep their combinations for their hall & gym lockers confidential.

## **Attention Parents**

All students courses, assignments, grades and attendance are available live on Power School and can be viewed at any time. If you have not signed up for Power School, or are having difficulty signing in, please contact the front office and we will help get you started at 780-778-2446. If you have no access to internet you are welcome to stop in to the Learning Commons and access Power School through our internet. Power School is also available as an app for smart phones.

## Parent/Guardian Reminder

\* If a student is going to be late or absent for any reason, a parent or guardian must notify the school at 780.778.2446. Please use our answering machine if you need to call before or after school hours

\* Please remember that ALL students must be signed out by a parent/guardian when leaving the building for any reason, including in the event of an emergency or evacuation. Students can be signed out by a parent/ guardian either in person or by calling the school at 780-778-2446.

 \* If there is no call or notification of a students absence from a parent or guardian then it will be considered <u>unexcused</u> and an automated call will go home that night. Please be advised if our system has rejected your phone number due to a cancelled landline, we will use the next available phone number (ex: cell phone number)

\* Please contact the school to verify your contact information or if you need to make any changes.

We appreciate your cooperation

VOLUME 1. ISSUE 3

20 min x 3 days of the week

exercise

and sleep

help you

achieve

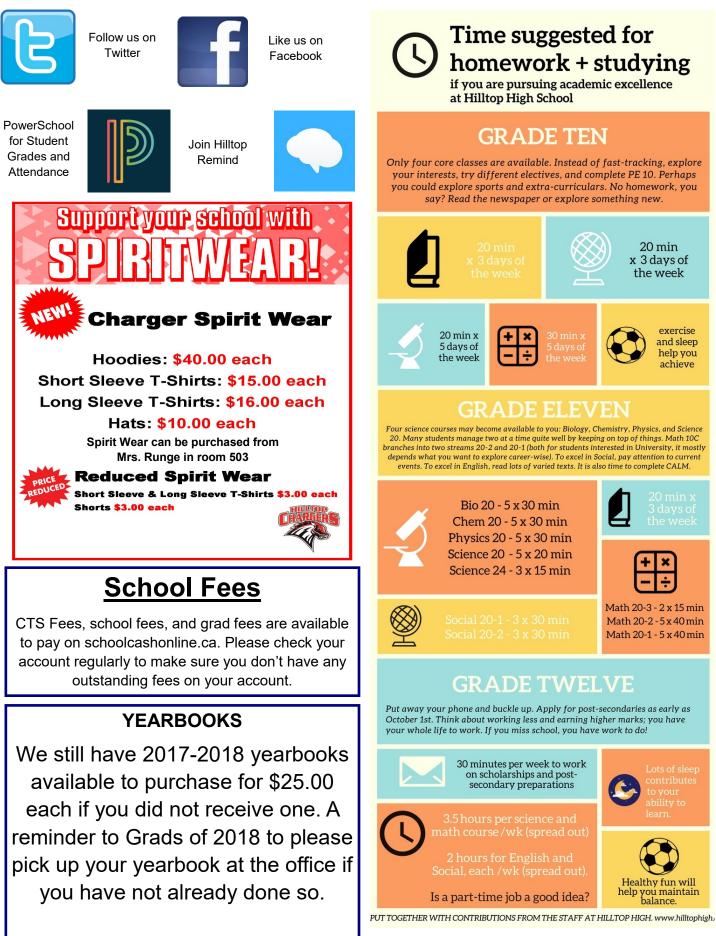
Math 20-3 - 2 x 15 min Math 20-2 - 5 x 40 min

Math 20-1 - 5 x 40 min

Healthy fun will

help you maintain

balance.



If your child misses	That equals	Which is	And over 13 years of schooling that is
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

## **Every Day Counts**

### How about 10 minutes late a day? Surely, that won't affect my child?

He/She is only missing	That equals	Which is	And over 13 years of schooling that is
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1 ½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ a year
20 minutes per day	1 hr 40 min per week	Over 2 ½ weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 minutes per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 1/2 years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years

If you want your child to be successful at school then YES, attendance does matter!



## **FORTNITE BATTLES**

I was sitting in my front room the other day reading. The house was quiet and peaceful, other than my 11 year old son's conversation with a friend on his headset while playing Fortnite on the computer nearby. He was saying things like "epic" "tilted towers", "launching", "and shield pop" and it was rather entertaining to listen to him. Then I heard it: shrill, joyous laughter of children outside. I quickly jumped from the comfort of my recliner and peered out the window. What a foreign sight and sound! There were 4 children, 8 or 9 years old, running down the street, laughing, chasing one another. It was a beautiful vision to my eyes and music to my soul. How long has it been since I heard children play outside? It was a disturbing realization considering we live on a street with many families. Even my son stopped playing and said "what is that sound?" Why are there so few children outdoors playing? Looking at my son, as he quickly turned his attention back to his game, I realized that therein lies the problem.

Nearly every parent has heard about Fortnite. Nearly every family with school aged children (particularly boys) have had a battle or two about the game, whether playing it, talking about it or watching YouTube videos about it. In my numerous conversations with parents throughout Northern Gateway Public Schools, I have learned that it is a concern in many homes. Children and young adults are obsessed with this game!

I have done extensive research, reading, observing and engaged in numerous conversations with kids and parents about this particular video game. Here is what I learned:

Fortnite is a survival game against a zombie apocalypse in which players can play solo or team up to be the last contestant standing. The game begins when you parachute onto an island as storms clouds gather. Armed with a pickaxe, you begin rounding up weapons and supplies to build fortifications to try and fend off the zombies. To make the game harder, the area in which you play is shrinking and you must remain in that area to survive, set traps, scavenge weapons and build defenses. As the map shrinks, it pushes players together as time goes on, forcing confrontation. Each game typically lasts about 20 minutes.

Fortnite is rated "T" for Teen, and though it is violent, there is very little blood and gore. The game can be downloaded for free with a PS4. You will have to pay for Xbox Live Gold with an Xbox One to play online. You can also buy a "Battle Pass" to get new outfits, gliders, and other items, which ranges in price.

According to www.statista.com/statistics, Fortnite had 1 million players in August 2017 and exploded to 125 million players by June 2018.

While there have been other games that are exciting and enticing such NHL2K, Call of Duty, Mario, Zelda, to name a few. **But what is it about Fortnite?** One day it was just a spark of interest as the latest video game and the next it had fanned into an out of control wildfire that is consuming youth and young adults! What exactly is the attraction? This is what I was learned in my research:

- There is no way to pause in the middle of a game.
- The game is a little different each time you play so there are always new places to explore.
- You lose only by a hair, meaning, you are only a move or two away from winning: "I was so close! Next time I'll win for sure!" Epic Studios, the makers of Fortnite make sure that gun fights are almost always the result of one player winning only "by the skin of their teeth" (www.byrslf.co)
- When you win, it is AMAZING! A few more levels and you're on a hot streak! After one gun battle, you can climb between 10-30 ranks. Overall winners of the entire game averages only 5 kills. So even just 2 bullets is the difference between coming in 70th or 1st. Practically every gamer believes those 2 bullets are going to work in their favor next game.
- When playing in a team or duo mode, collaboration matters. Communities and alliances form to survive. If one player suddenly quits, it can mean the death of another player. There is peer pressure of letting your friends down.

There is a feeling of being part of a larger mission, giving a player a sense of purpose.

When your character gets shot at or is engaged in a battle, real life instincts kick in and your adrenaline spikes, your heartbeat races and your stress hormones flood your body. This heightened sense of stress is actually fun – and addicting.

The Nightingale Hospital in London, UK, which founded the UK's first internet rehab service for kids as young as 12, lists the following "warning signs of technology addiction":

Spend increasing amounts of time on the computer, electronics and/or gaming

Fail to limit time spent on the computer, electronics or internet

Neglecting family, friends and other responsibilities

Becoming angry when others criticize the amount of time spent online/phone/computer/gaming

Withdraw from other pleasurable activities

Gaming or other use of electronics interferes with studying or work

Restless, anxious, irritable or even aggressive when not gaming or on phone or electronics

Willing to forgo necessary sleep, eating or hygiene to continue to game or go on electronics

While Fortnite can have clear positive impacts, if you have noticed some of the above behaviors in your child, here is a summary suggestions that other parents have tried with various success:

Kick the habit cold turkey. Remove ALL access to any electronics completely: iPad, iPod, cell phones, tablets, computer, etc until you notice your child returning "to normal".

Have all devices set up with passwords that only you know, so your child needs to ASK before they have access. It is the UNLIMITED ACCESS that causes the problem.

- After a period of detoxing, slowly allow brief, supervised and limited amounts of time on the game, with practicing safety protocols of PERMISSION, RE-QUESTING and GRANTING.
- Talk with your gamer about how best to keep Fortnite in check. Bring them on board with setting limits.

Position yourself as not being AGAINST Fortnite but FOR other activities: sleep, homework, exercise, etc.

- Earn minutes to play Fortnite: every minute of play/chores/homework = minutes played on the game.
- Install an app called Circle. It hooks it up to your router and then you register all of the devices in your house. You go through and assign each device to a person in the house, and there's a scrolling wheel where you can see a headshot of everybody. You can just click "pause" on any device that your child has and the Wi-Fi is immediately turned off.
- Another app for handheld devices is "Our Pact" which works in similar fashion.
- Ensure that your family is engaging is fun activities TOGETHER, so your child feels connected to REAL LIFE PEOPLE.

Talk to other parents and work with one another. Share ideas and strategies.

This article was submitted by Tammy Charko BA, BSW, RSW. Tammy is Northern Gateway Public School's Student Support Facilitator. She is a support for schools, students, parents and caregivers to encourage success in school. Tammy advocates for students and provides a link between the student and other supports within the community. Tammy has been a social worker for nearly 20 years and is a mother to 4 children, 3 of whom are teenagers.

# MAYOR & DAY

## WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Let us know what you would do if you were MAYOR FOR A DAY and what improvements you would like to see made.

Applications are available at whitecourt.ca.

Submissions must include a completed application form and an essay attachment.

Applications will be accepted until noon on MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2018, and can be emailed, faxed, mailed or dropped off at the Allan & Jean Millar Centre.

Two winners will be selected by Town Council based on a panel recommendation. One in middle school (Grades 6-8) and one in high school (Grades 9-12).

Winners will be awarded a prize and will be declared "MAYOR FOR A DAY" on a specified date.



Contact Fay Arcand at fayarcand@whitecourt.ca or 780.778.3637 ext 417 for more details.

## Whitecourt's YOUTH ADVISORY Committee

To be a member of Whitecourt's Youth Advisory Committee you must be between 13-18 years of age as of December 31 of the current year. The objective of this committee is to work collectively to ensure the needs of youth are met.

As a member, you will advocate for youth issues, and provide recommendations to Council regarding important issues concerning Whitecourt youth. Students who fulfill their year commitment to the Committee will be awarded a bursary upon graduation (and proof of post-secondary studies).

## The bursary will be awarded as follows:

\$100.00 will be awarded for the attendance at a minimum of 5 Youth Advisory Committee meetings.

\$400.00 will be awarded for successful completion of the following:

- Mandatory participation in the coordination and implementation of a Town Hall Meeting at the respective school of the Committee Member;
- Attendance of a Council Meeting (followed by a verbal report on the meeting);
- Participation in a minimum of four of the following community events listed below:

Youth Recognition Event Seniors' Activities Canada Day Festivities Other events sanctioned by Town Council

Party In The Park Run 4 Fun Children's Festival Trade Fair



## The Committee consists of up to 14 members:

- Mayor of the Town of Whitecourt;
- 1 Town Council Representative;
- Up to 12 Student Representatives from Percy Baxter Middle School, Hilltop High School, École St. Joseph School and the community at large.

For more information, application form and policy please visit:

## www.whitecourt.ca

taken a lead role as there is a direct Catholic School Division #42 have application to the health and safety to creating and maintaining school Education partners are committed safe. Northern Gateway Regional environments in which students. Division #10 and Living Waters staff, parents and others feel of the school environment

Alberta Health Services, Probation, young person. Children's Services, Government agency partners play key to determining the level of risk an active role in a comprehensive Parole and RCMP personnel are intervention plan to support the a young person may pose.

plans. Town of Whitecourt, Town of ncluded as part of the intervention and Lac Ste. Anne County support provide services that are regularly Mayerthorpe, Woodlands County, this coordinated response to any violence or threats of violence. Community Agency partners

Assessment and Trauma Response in youth and school violence. Kevin has completed extensive research trained partner local personnel in Cameron, ECO of CCTATR, has The Canadian Centre for Threat the use of the protocol

# What is a Threat?

their information will be acted upon promptly; and their concern will be A threat is an expression of intent believed when they confide: their drawn, posted on the internet, or and responded to. in a culture of need to believe that they will be be taken seriously, investigated against someone or something made by gesture. Threats must responsible reporting, students identity will be kept confidential; Threats may be verbal, written, to do harm or act out violently investigated thoroughly

# **Duty to Report**

esponsibility and it is everybody's escalation from thought to action duty to report. Under-reaction is epidemic and a chief factor of vouth violence is a community not responding. Prevention of There is zero tolerance for





## What is the main purpose of a Threat Assessment

The purpose of a Student Threat Assessment is to:

- students, staff, parents, and To ensure the safety of others; A
- Ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat; A
- factors that contribute to the threat maker's behaviour; Begin to understand the A
- of intervention rather than to View the student as in need be disciplined; A
- developing and using positive supports to aid the student in but will include appropriate Be proactive in developing include disciplinary action addresses the emotional an intervention plan that the threat maker. It may and physical safety of strategies; A
- Promotes the emotional and physical safety of all; A
- with a common understanding Ensure all school and agency partners are working together and protocol. A

# Who is on the Threat Assessment Team

include school staff, psychologists. health staff, hospitals, probation community addiction and mental parole and other professionals. Each threat assessment team is multi-agency. The team may police, child intervention staff

## What happens in a Student Threat

Assessment?

developed and shared with parents staff, and students as required and Once the team has been activated incident. Intervention plans will be the Principal who will activate the a student(s) shall be reported to protocol for the initial response. an appropriate response to the All threat making behaviour by parents and staff to determine students, the threat maker(s) the level of risk and develop interviews may be held with as appropriate.

Violence Threat Risk

Assessment Community Protocol : Whitecourt and Surrounding Area

# Can | Refuse?

the threat assessment will continue engage in the process. If for some participate in the process, by the hreat maker or parent/guardian reason there is a reluctance to It is important for all parties to in order to ensure a safe and caring learning environment.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Ň	Novembe	er 2018	18	On Remembrance Day, take the time their lives to achieve freedom for us all. CATS Awards Banquet	On Remembrance Day, take the time to remember those who sacrificed their lives to achieve freedom for us all. CATS Awards Banquet	er those who sacrificed
				1 Day 2	2 Day 1	3
				Family Violence Initiative Presentation 10:00 am	Sr Volleyball Tournament Edson (boys/girls)	Sr Volleyball Tournament Edson (boys/girls)
				Graduation Scholarship Information Meeting 7:00pm		
4 Daylight Savings Time	<b>5</b> Day 2	<b>G</b> Day 1	7 FLEX Day 2 English/Science/Other Tutorial	8 Day 2 Picture Dav Retakes	<b>9</b> Day in Lieu of PTI	10
					No School	
	12	13	14 Day 1	<b>15</b> Day 2	<b>16</b> Day 1	17
Remembrance Day	No School	Professional Development Day No Classes	Take Our Kids to Work Day – Grade 9	Parent Teacher Interviews 4:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Sr Volleyball Zones Barrhead (boys/girls)	Sr Volleyball Zones Barrhead (boys/girls)
	<b>19</b> Day 2	20 Day 1	21 Day 2	22 Day 1	23 Day 2	24
	26 Day 1	<b>27</b> Day 2	28 FLEX Day 1 Math/Social/Other Tutorial	29 Day 1	<b>30</b> Day 2 Last Day Grade 9 Options 2/6 Sr. Basketball Holy Redeemer Edson (girls only)	Sr. Basketball Holy Redeemer Edson (girls only)



## **Staff News**

Please join us in welcoming Mr. Blaine Woodall to the Hilltop Family. Mr. Woodall joins the Math and Science Department. We would also like to welcome back Mr. Vince Mireau who will be teaching Biology 20 and 30 for semester one.

