

Contact Information Telephone: 780.778.2446 Fax: 780.778.8818 Website: hilltophigh.ca Facebook: www.facebook.com/ hilltophighschool Twitter: @ngpshth "A great place to LEARN ... and more!"

Hilltop Jr./Sr. High School

Principal: Mr. Brent Northcott

Email: brent.northcott@ngps.ca



November 2021 Newsletter

Message from the Administration

Welcome to November!

November is a time for reflection at Hilltop High School. We start the month off by recognizing the accomplishments of our students from last year in academics, athletics and citizenship. Congratulations to all student award winners. You are very deserving of your success. We also stop to remember the men and women who fought to keep our country free on Remembrance Day. This year our Remembrance Day ceremony will once again be virtual due to Covid.

Students have an extended break in November as there is no school from November 10 through to November 12. Enjoy your break with your families.

I would like to thank all of the parents who came out for Parent-Teacher Interview Night on October 28. Your thoughts regarding the positive feel in the building and effective communication between students, parents, and staff support our goal to ensure student and parent connectivity to school.

We invite parents to attend our next Friends of Hilltop School Council meeting on November 24 at 7 pm. The meeting will be virtual. The Friends of Hilltop is in need of parents to form an executive. Friends of Hilltop is a very valuable organization. Lots of information is shared at the monthly meetings and there is a great opportunity for parents to give feedback to the school. I hope to see you there.

November also means a change in the school sports seasons. We are winding down our volleyball season with GCAA playoffs and Zones. Basketball will soon be under way.

I would like to remind parents to remind your children to bring masks when they come to school. We keep a supply of masks for emergency use, but we are finding students are coming without masks too regularly to be considered an emergency. Students are expected to arrive with masks of their own. Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated.

We encourage parent communication at Hilltop and use many channels to reach parents and the community. You can sign up for Remind, follow us on Facebook and Twitter and we also send messages using the School Messenger system. Parents can always call or email their children's teachers or administration. We love to hear from you.

Your partner in education, Brent Northcott Principal











~ Inside this Issue ~

1	
News and Events	2
Health and Safety	3
Off Campus Education	4
Athletics	5
Indigenous News	6
Cooking w/ Mercer	7
Learning Commons	8-9
Bistro	10
Grad News	11
Gateway Academy	12
Stay Connected	13
Student Services	14
Encouragement for Parents	15
Calendar	16
Halloween Gallery	17
Gallery	18

Important Dates November 4 Picture Retakes November 7 Daylight Savings Time November 10-12 No School November 16-18 Annual Awards Ceremonies November 24 FOH Meeting 7 pm November 30 Gr 9 Options 3/6 Begins

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



COVID-19 INFORMATION

COVID-19 ALBERTA HEALTH DAILY CHECKLIST (FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18)

Overview

This checklist applies for all children, as well as all students who attend kindergarten through Grade 12, including high school students over 18. Children should be screened every day by completing this checklist before going to school, childcare or other activities. Children may need a parent or guardian to assist them to complete this screening tool.

If your child has traveled outside Canada in the last 14 days, follow the <u>Government of Canada Travel, Testing,</u> <u>Quarantine and Borders</u> instructions, including any requirements for exempt travelers related to attending high-risk environments.

If within the last 10 days, your child has been notified by Public Health that they are a case³ of COVID-19, they are required to isolate as per Public Health instructions.

Screening Questions for Children under 18:

1.	Has your child been a household contact of a case ² of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
	A household contact: a person who lives in the same residence as the case OR who has been in frequent, long-duration, close-range interaction with a case of COVID-19.		
	For example, siblings, someone who slept over, or someone who provided direct physical care to the child.		
• (c	e answer is "YES" AND they are NOT fully immunized ⁴ : Dhild should stay home and NOT attend school, childcare and/or other activities for 14 days f of exposure and monitor for symptoms. If your child has symptoms, proceed to question 2. e answer is "NO" to question 1, proceed to question 2	rom the	last da
2.	Does the child have any new onset (or worsening) of the following core syn	nptom	s:
	Fever Temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or higher	YES	NO
	Cough Continuous, more than usual, not related to other known causes or conditions such as asthma	YES	NO
	Shortness of breath Continuous, unable to breathe deeply, not related to other known causes or conditions such as astima	YES	NO
	Loss of sense of smell or taste Not related to other known causes or conditions like allergies or neurological disorders	YES	NO
	Not related to other known causes of conditions like allergies of neurological disorders		

³ A lab-confirmed case OR a probable case as defined in the <u>Alberta COVID-19 Notifiable Disease Guideline</u> ⁴ A person who has received the complete vaccine series for COVID-19 and it has been 14 days after the second dose in a two

3. Does the child have any new onset (or worsening) of the following other symptoms: YES NO Chills Without fever, not related to being outside in cold weather NO YES Sore throat/painful swallowing Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as seasonal allergies or reflux Runny nose/congestion YES NO Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as seasonal allergies or being outside in cold weather Feeling unwell/fatigued YES NO Lack of energy, poor feeding in infants, not related to other known causes or conditions, such as depression, insomnia, thyroid dysfunction or sudden injury Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea YES NO Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as anxiety, medication or irritable bowel syndrome YES NO Unexplained loss of appetite Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as anxiety or medication YES NO Muscle/joint aches Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as arthritis or injury YES NO Headache Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as tension-type headaches or chronic migraines YES NO Conjunctivitis (commonly known as pink eye) If the answer is "YES" to ONE symptom in question 3: Keep your child home and monitor for 24 hours. If their symptom is improving after 24 hours, they can return to school and activities when they feel well enough to go. Testing is not necessary. If the symptom does not improve or worsens after 24 hours (or if additional symptoms emerge), use the AHS Online Assessment Tool or call Health Link 811 to check if testing is recommended.

If the answer is "YES" to TWO OR MORE symptoms in question 3:

Keep your child home.

Use the <u>AHS Online Assessment Tool</u> or call Health Link 811 to determine if testing is recommended. Your child can return to school and activities once their symptoms go away as long as it has been at least 24 hours since their symptoms started.

If the answer is "NO" to all questions:

• Your child may attend school, childcare and/or other activities.

PLEASE STAY HOME WHEN SICK

Please view **NGPS.CA** for the most recent information regarding Covid-19.

There you can find the Back to School Plan which includes documents on Guidance for Respiratory Illness Prevention, the Alberta Government School Year Plan and the Daily Health Checklist.

All staff, students and guests must complete the Daily Health Checklist before entering the building.





OFF- CAMPUS EDUCATION

YOUNG WOMEN IN TRADES & TECHNOLOGIES VIRTUAL MENTORSHIP SERIES



CAREERS is breaking down barriers and paving a path for women in skilled trades and technologies. Learn about opportunities available in a variety of industries and hear from some amazing companies dedicated to inclusion.

INDUSTRIAL TRADES NOVEMBER 30 • 5PM

DOORS

➡ OPEN

YOUTH PROGRAM

AGRICULTURE & COOKING JANUARY 12 * 5PM

4000

Snacks

Provideo

FREE



for more information email or call events@nextgen.org | 1.888.757.7172



WEEKDAYS

3:30-5:30PM

Witecourt





FREE

PROGRAM

Grades 6-12

U



VOLLEYBALI

ZONES

ATHLETICS

HTH YouTube (watch our social media channels for the live feed link)

Hilltop Hosts JV Girls ZONES November 5 & 6



Be a Charger,

Cheer on the Chargers through our Live Stream on our YouTube Channel.



COVID couldn't stop the Cats from having a great season. The Cats, unfortunately, had to forfeit their MPFL games this season due to low numbers. The players who came out, however, did a great job of carrying on the Cats tradition of committing to improve. The team played several exhibition games where they put in spirited performances. The Cats showed tremendous development over the campaign and look forward to continuing the charge through to next season. GO CATS!

ROSTER: Dakoda Adams #17, Carter Bryant #13, Andre Chaisson #62, Korbyn Droesse #64, Samuel Fleet #50, Zachary Fleet #15, Johnny Gibbins #10, Linden Graham #58, Dawson Henault #71, Alex Hiemstra #11, Deakin Lewis #66, Owen Magdiak #16, Connor Mason #35, Gavin Mcllwrick #54, Alexander Marin #36, Nathan Minderlein #69, Thomas Pottinger #68, Taylor Rice #45, Carter Schar #27, Branden Shields #2, Braiden Stone #1, Sean Tapp #8, Trace Tipler #60, Kaden Townsend #6, Grayden Turcotte #22, Kodan Whitehorse #44, Karson Wilson #23



roocunon





Hilltop Alumni Former Chargers Return to Coach!

Jaden Turner

Jaden graduated from Hilltop High in 2018. While she was at Hilltop, Jaden played Jr and Sr Volleyball. She also participated and graduated from the Dual Credit Program as an Educational Assistant.

Jaden is now currently working at Pat Hardy Primary School, here in Whitecourt, as an Educational Assistant and is also back at Hilltop coaching Gr 9 Girls Volleyball.

Maddy Bryson

Maddy graduated from Hilltop High School in 2018. During her time here she was one of the team captains of the Sr Girls Volleyball team.

We would like to thank Maddy for giving back to the Hilltop family by co coaching the Sr Boys volleyball team this year.

Maddy is currently in her last year of a Bachelor of Elementary Education and we want to wish her much success in her future.

Indigenous News

(submitted by Mrs. Smith-Tomke)

Tansi, Abawashded, Hello National Indigenous Veterans Day

National Indigenous Veterans Day was first acknowledged on November 8, 1994. This day was chosen because it was noted that Indigenous Veterans were not recognized on November 11, for their contributions to the First and Second World Wars, and the Korean War. On November 8, we pay our respects to more than 12,000 Indigenous people who volunteered to fight for Canada with cultural skills that proved to be very serviceable. The Indigenous soldiers were known for their patience and marksmanship as their hunting skills were invaluable as snipers. The Cree language was extremely helpful for the code talkers to be successful as they communicated secrets to the Allies.

We will remember the many sacrifices made by First Nations, Inuit and Metis people who served Canada in times of conflict. We will remember their contributions to our military as we securely enjoy our lives of peace.

Lest we forget.

Hiy Hiy, Ish NIsh, Thank you



Special thanks to **MacEwan University** for virtually presenting to our students the many opportunities to explore at their post-secondary institute.





<u>Thank You</u>

Special thanks to **Mr. Alex Konowalchuk** for the generous donation of hand and power tools to our Construction class. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and we will put the tools to good use!

RCMP Presentation

Thank you to Constable Roy and the Whitecourt RCMP for presenting to Gr 10 & 11 students the importance of online safety. Although there are many positives with the internet, such as; connecting with family and friends, learning skills, discovering the world and sharing and creating content. There are also many negatives, such as; privacy concerns, fraud, manipulation, misinformation and harassment. The following is a few of the important topics discussed and ways you can face these issues to best protect yourself.

Privacy: Do not post personal information like date of birth, addresses, school you attend and passwords.

Social Media: Adjust your privacy settings to be more secure, do not accept friend requests from people you don't know, block and report spam or fake accounts.

Sexting/Sextortion: Do not post or share intimate images or sexual messages. As minors it is illegal even if you consent to it. If shared, it can also be considered as possession and/or distribution of child pornography.

Cyberbullying: Do not harass, bully, poke fun or create ways to belittle and/or degrade other people online.

Resources:

cybertip.ca needhelpnow.ca antifraudcentre.ca (1-888-495-8501) Kids Help Phone - 1-800-668-6868



Once a Charger, always a Charger!



Cooking with Chef Mercer

and her fabulous students

Cinnamon Roll Pancakes

Equipment List: Make sure to gather equipment BEFORE you start

- Flat top
- 2 large bowls
- Small sauce pot
- Whisk
- Spatula
- Wooden spoon
- Portion scoop
- Baggie
- Turner

Ingredients

Cinnamon Filling:

- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- ¹/₄ cup + 2 tablespoons packed light brown sugar
- ¹/₂ tablespoon ground cinnamon

Cream Cheese Glaze:

- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2-ounces cream cheese, at room temperature
- ³/₄ cup powdered sugar
- ¹⁄₂ teaspoon vanilla extract

Pancakes:

- 1 cups all purpose | plain flour
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/8 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- ³/₄ cup milk (plus up to 2 tablespoons extra if needed)
- 2 tablespoons butter , melted
- 1 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 1 large egg

Instructions

1. To make the cinnamon filling: Combine brown sugar, melted butter, and cinnamon in a medium size bowl. Scoop into a baggie and set aside.

2. For the glaze: In a small pan melt the butter over low heat. Whisk in the cream cheese, vanilla and powdered sugar. Take off the heat and set aside until ready to use on pancakes.

To make the pancakes: Combine flour, baking powder, sugar and salt. Whisk together the milk, egg, and oil.
 Mix wet into dry ingredients

- 5. Heat flat top to medium low. Once preheated, spray with non-stick spray.
- 6. Add about ½ cup of the batter to the skillet. Wait until bubbles start to form. Snip the corner of the cinnamon filling, and create a swirl pattern.

7. With a wide metal spatula flip the pancake over and continue cooking for an additional 1-2 minutes until golden brown.

- 8. Repeat with the remaining batter.
- 9. Warm the glaze if needed and drizzle over pancakes.









Learning Commons News

New Nonfiction









New Autobiographies, Biographies, Memoirs





Ð





Don't forget to check our library catalogue at https:// ngps.insigniails.com/ library

Sign in with your Google account. If you find a book you want to read you can reserve it. You will be notified when it is ready to pick up.

The Learning Commons is open Mon- Fri 8:30 - 12:00, 1:00-4:00

> I look forward to seeing you!





More Learning Commons News

New Historical Fiction



New Classics



New Graphic Novels



If there is a book you would like to see added to our library please let me know.

Don't forget to check out our online library catalogue at: https://ngps.insigniails.com/library

Log in using your Google username and password.

If you see something you like, click reserve and it will be set aside for you to pick up.







Hilltop Bistro



November Menu

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	* The Breakfast Program will not be
1 Spicy Butter Chicken w/ Quinoa and Cucumber Salad	2 Caesar Salad w/ Chicken and Garlic Toast	3 Hot Dogs w/ Soup or Baked Beans	4 Chicken Stir Fry	5 Hot Beef Sandwich w/ Mashed Potatoes	 operating for the month of November * All vending machines and microwaves are closed at this time.
8 Greek Salad w/ Chicken	9 Pancakes w/ Eggs and Ham	10 BISTRO CLOSED	11 BISTRO CLOSED	12 BISTRO CLOSED	Daily Lunch Special \$5.00 Small Chocolate Milk \$1.00 Large Chocolate Milk \$3.50
15 Sweet and Sour Meatballs w/ Rice	16 Fettucine Alfredo	17 Taco in a Bag	18 Ham and Scalloped Potatoes	19 Grilled Cheese w/ Tomato Soup	Milk 2 Go (Vanilla, Banana, Strawberry) \$2.50 Keurig Cup \$1.00 Cookie \$0.50 Loaf \$1.50
22 Pizza Buns	23 Spaghetti w/ Meatballs	24 Hamburgers and Salad	25 Chicken Stew w/ Dumplings	26 Soft Tacos	Muffin \$1.00 Square or Pastry \$2.00 Veggie Cup or Fruit Cup \$1.00 Jello or Pudding \$1.00
29 Lasagna w/ Meat Sauce and Garlic Toast	30 Ranch Salad w/ Chicken Fingers				Pretzel & Hummus \$2.75 Sandwiches \$3.50 Yogurt Parfait \$1.50 Cheese, Meat & Crackers \$3.50

Friends of Hilltop Parent Council 2021-2022 Friends of Hilltop Council Members

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

To All Parents of Hilltop Students From FRIENDS OF HILLTOP PARENT COUNCIL

NEXT MEETING: November 24, 7:00 pm

**At this time Friends of Hilltop cannot offer a Breakfast Program. Please stay tuned in the future for more information.

You can continue to **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 --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. Please call the office for more details.



Grad 2022 Remind

Parents and students please sign up to receive important reminders regarding Grad 2022 via text message.

Text the message @hthgrad22 to the number (587) 316-7407

ONE ON ONE MEETINGS

Mrs. Trebilcock will be in charge of tracking our Grade 12 academics to ensure all Grade 12 students are on track to successfully graduate. She has created a Google Classroom and invited all Grade 12 students to join. A calendar will be created for the grads to sign up and have a one on one meeting with Mrs. Trebilcock.



Important Days to Remember

Hilltop High School's 55th Graduation Ceremony Grad Day 2022 Thursday, June 30, 2022 1:00 pm

Grad Logo, Song and Quote Submissions Due November 3 (see the grad bulletin board for more details)

Grad Pictures December 6, 7, 8 and 9 Photo sessions can be booked online approximately a week before. Communication will be sent out via the Grad Remind with full instructions once online booking is available and open.

> Grad Picture Retakes February 17, 2022



Introducing Grad Council 2022

Ally Ann Romanchuk - President Jencel Diaz - Vice President Dineka Elchyson - Treasurer Kate Mullin - Secretary Eric Davidson - Public Relations Miriam Epp - Yearbook Liaison Rebecca Birtles - Council Member Jorie Johnson - Council Member Micah Ottley - Council Member

Staff Advisors: Mrs. Van De Kerckhove, Mrs. Blain and Mrs. Trebilcock



Grad Logo, Song and Quote

Submissions for grad logo, song and quote will be accepted at the front office

Rules

• All song choices must include a copy of the lyrics. • All logos, songs and quotes must be school appropriate No political quotes, songs or logos will be accepted.

submissions will be disqualified if rules are not followed

Deadline for Submissions November 3

PURDYS FUNDRAISER

Hilltop's Grad Council is starting a Purdy's Chocolates Christmas fundraising campaign to raise money for Graduation decorations.



Ordering is easy, everything is online, including payment. The order deadline is November 27, 2021

Chocolates will be ready for **pick up** at Hilltop High School on Monday, December 13. You MUST use this link to order:

https://fundraising.purdys.com/1386654-88256

(please visit our website for an active link)

*If you don't use this link, we won't get the fundraising money.



Gateway Academy – Whitecourt Campus News (formerly called Storefront) Phone: 780 - 778 - 5865 Fax: 780-778-5683 Text: 780-779-1193

SCHOOL HOURS

(*Breaks: 10-10:15 Lunch 11:30-12:30) Monday: 8:30 am to 3:00 pm Tuesday: 8:30 am to 3:00 pm Wednesday: 8:30 am to 7:00 pm Thursday: 8:30 am to 3:00 pm Friday: No School

What is Gateway Academy?

Gateway Academy is Hilltop High School's Outreach program. Our alternative educational setting is designed for students that are unable to, or do not wish to, attend a traditional high school program. We offer programming for Grades 9 through 12. The program is based on Alberta Education's curriculum and students receive credit towards their high school diploma as they would in the regular program.

We offer a nurturing environment that supports not only academic development but emotional, social and intellectual growth. We offer:

- A flexible schedule where students can drop in to receive individualized tutorials;
- A quiet, welcoming learning environment;
- Individualized independent learning;
- In person and/or online one on one tutorials with the subject teacher;
- Personal Support (including access to counselling with a psychologist from Canniff & Associates);
- Staff mentorship to aid in planning high school courses and school-career transitions.

Staff members for the 2021/2022 School Year are:

Maureen Kendall - Outreach Coordinator/English & Options Teacher Contact: maureen.kendall@ngps.ca

Petra Lewis - Math/Science Teacher

Contact: petra.lewis@ngps.ca

Kevin Babiuk - Social/Learning Strategies

Contact: kevin.babiuk@ngps.ca

Tammy Johnson - Administration Assistant Contact: tammy.johnson@ngps.ca

Candace Halvorson - Educational Assistant

Contact: candace.halvorson@ngps.ca

November Important Dates:

November 10: No School- Staff Planning Day November 11: No School- Remembrance Day November 23: @ 10:30 am Registered Apprenticeship Program Information Session & Hot Lunch (Meal Provided for ALL Students at 11:30)







	With the second seco
STA	Y CONNECTED
PowerSchool	Access student schedules, attendance and grades online at any time with PowerSchool. * <i>Also available as an app for smart phones.</i> To create an account, please contact us to receive your individual username and password.
→ remind	Receive important reminders from Hilltop High School by text message through Remind. <i>*Also available as an app for smart phones.</i> To sign up text @hilltophig to (587) 316-7407.
f facebook.	Like our page on Facebook @hilltophighschool.
twitter 🎔	Follow us on Twitter @ngpshth.
<u>Visit Our Websile</u>	View our website at hilltophigh.ca.
Monthly Newsletter	Read our monthly newsletters online at hilltophigh.ca or pick up a copy at the front office.
SchoolCash Online	Pay for school fees, sports activities and more at schoolcashonline.com. For more information visit our website at hilltophigh.ca.
CONTACT US	Contact us directly at (780) 778-2446 or email hilltop@ngps.ca.

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 <u>www.alis.gov.ab.ca</u>. It also includes information on **financial assistance**.

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.

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.

Presentations

Nov 1 & 8: Grade 9 Saffron Centre Health Presentation

This presentation is part of the Health Curriculum and topics include:

Internet Safety

Healthy Relationships

Learning about Trauma and Sexual Harassment

Exploring Masculinity



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 postsecondary institution via your online account.

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.



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.



Encouragement for Weary Parents

Have you ever sat down at the end of a long day feeling exhausted and drained, maybe like you are failing as a parent? As you reflect on your day, do you sometimes replay in your mind the mistakes you may have made with your children that day? Please tell me I am not the only one!

Raising little people is tough business, and the older they become, the more complicated and demanding it can be. As a seasoned mom and experienced social worker, I have had my personal share of difficulties and walked alongside other parents, through extremely painful challenges.

I have learned though there are no perfect parents, every parent does the best they can with what they have. I still have a long way to go in my journey as a mom, but here is what I have observed so far.

1. "I did then what I knew how to do. Now that I know better, I do better." These words shared by Maya Angelou are healing for when you feel overwhelmed with guilt at the times you feel as though you have messed up. You cannot repeat yesterday (or this morning), but you can learn from it and do better tomorrow.

2. Practice self care. This is not just bubble baths and candles. Looking after yourself involves many aspects. I often rely on teachings from a wise Cree friend when she explained to me the Medicine Wheel. To be in balance, you need to be sure you are caring for your whole being: <u>Physical</u>: Having a balanced diet, exercise, ensuring a safe home environment, following through with medical appointments such as dentist, doctor, or optometrist. <u>Emotional</u>: Talking about what hurts you or angers you. Seeking out professional help if necessary. Learning how to share your feelings in a respectful manner. <u>Spiritual</u>: This is not necessarily religion. It is about knowing you are part of something bigger than yourself. It is being connected to nature, your culture and your history. It is knowing there is a purpose for your life. <u>Mental</u>: Stimulating and challenging your mind, learning something new, reading, games, or keeping an open mind to different ideas and views.

3. You do not have the right to ruin someone else's day. My dad was the only male in our very tiny home and his message to my sister and I was this: regardless of how moody/ cranky/impatient etc we were feeling, it was never OK to take it out on someone else and ruin their day. For the times I snap at my kids or unintentionally hurt their feelings, I refer back to #1 for forgiveness for myself and #2 to see where I am out of balance.

4. Read to your children every day, even when they are older. My parents were only in their teens when they started their family and my mom was a sponge when it came to learning how to be a great mother. A smart person told her to read to her babies all the time. She instilled a love of reading and learning in my sister and I at very young ages. Sit with your children daily, when you can, and read to them out loud. Read interesting and age appropriate articles and stories to them as they get older. Listen to books while you drive. This will encourage their imagination and curiosity.

5. "Listen earnestly to anything your children want to tell you, no matter what. If you don't listen eagerly to the little stuff when they are little, they won't tell the big stuff when they are big, because to them all of it has always been big stuff." Poet and author Catherine M. Wallace shared this advice 20 years ago and it continues to be relevant. There will always be distractions, but when your little ones are trying to tell you something, it is crucial to your relationship with them to put down your phone or mute the TV or whatever for a few moments and give them your attention. It builds a safe foundational relationship so they will come to you with their big concerns when they are older.

6. Be honest...but discerning when talking with your child about yourself. If you have had a bad day it's ok to say it, then balance it with sharing what healthy self care activities you will do to make yourself feel better such as going for a walk, cuddling the dog or phoning a friend. Kids are great imitators, give them something great to imitate.

7. Learn how to speak your child's love language. Dr. Gary Chapman and Dr. Ross Campbell explain in their book "The 5 Love Languages of Children" the incredible gift of discovering how to communicate your love to your child so they genuinely feel loved by you. Children are all unique, learn about what makes your child feel adored.

8. Comparison is the root of unhappiness and this is especially true if you compare your child with others. Just as you, your children and your family are imperfect, so are others. What you see on social media or the image others portray in public is not always accurate. Embrace the uniqueness of your child and your family.

My home is becoming more quiet these days, with one child playing hockey 12 hours away and another attending university 7 hours away. I am realizing that time truly passes in a blink and I miss the chaos of the younger years. Parents, don't forget to look for the good in yourself and your child each and every day. Parenting is complicated, wild, fun and hard. Enjoy the journey, laugh and love as much as you can.



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 promote success in school. Tammy advocates for students and families. Tammy has been a Registered Social Worker for more than 20 years and is a mother to 3 teenagers and 1 young adult.

Sunday	Monday	esc	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	November	er 2021	21	On remembrance Day, take the time time their lives to achieve freedom for us all.	On remembrance Day, take the time to remember those who sachineed their lives to achieve freedom for us all.	r mose who saciniced
	1 Day 2	2 Day 1 Diploma Exams Eng 30-1 Part A 9:00am Eng 30-2 Part A 9:00 am	3 FLEX Day 2 English/Science/Other Diploma Exams Social 30-1 Part A 9:00am Social 30-2 Part A 9:00am	4 Day 2 Diploma Exams Math 30-1 9:00 am Math 30-2 9:00 am Picture Day Retakes(pm)	5 Day 1 Diploma Exams Eng 30-1 Part B 9:00am Eng 30-2 Part B 9:00am	ω
7 Daylight Savings Time (Fall Back 1 Hour)	8 Day 2 Diploma Exams Social 30-1 Part B 9:00am Social 30-2 Part B 9:00am Science 30 1:00pm	9 Day 1 Diploma Exams Physics 30 9:00 am Biology 30 1:00 pm	10 Staff Planning and Development Day – No Classes Diploma Exams Chem 30 1:00 pm	11 Remembrance Day No School	12 Day in Lieu of Parent Teacher Interviews – No School	13
	15 Day 2	16 Day 1	17 FLEX Day 1 Math/Social/Other Friends of Hilltop School Council Meeting 7:00 pm	18 Day 2 2020-2021 Annual Academic & Athletic Awards Ceremony	19 Day 1	20
	22 Day 2	23 Day 1	24 Day 2	25 Day 1	26 Day 2	27
	29 Day 1 Gr 9 Option 2/6 Ends	30 Day 2 Gr 9 Option 3/6 Begins				

alendar GOOGIC For our most up-to-date calendar please view our Google Calendar on our website at hilltophigh.ca

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 3

It was a howling good time for Halloween at Hilltop High!











Whitecourt RCMP bring Carson for a visit.



Woodfords wonderful mathematicians





Last year of High School Volleyball for these besties!



Jr Girls play volleyball in tu-tus...because they can!



JV Boys take on Swan Hills







Making sliders in Foods class!



Grad Council collects recycling for their bottle drive fundraiser! Support the Class of 2022!



Getting competitive in gym class



Thank you U of C for the special presentation



When you love Cosmetology this much!