

Letter from Head of School

April 21, 2020

Important Updates

Dear Hillcrest Families,

This morning the news broadcast that calls to Distress-Help Centers throughout the nation increased by over 8,001% in the last 30 days; I am more resolved than ever before, our only hope is in Christ. During these times of uncertainty, where the world is sheltered in place, **our trust can only be on Christ our Lord**. Yet, during these unprecedented times, we can be encouraged by the Word. The Apostle Paul, while locked down from the world, virtually chained in prison, facing potential death each day, wrote my favorite book of the Bible in his letter to Phillippi.

Philippians is a book of joy and gladness that reminds us that our hope and joy do not come from our circumstances; it comes from our trust and faith in our Redeemer, Christ the Lord! Paul, despite his afflictions, beatings, and uncertainty for his life, writes a letter of encouragement, peace, and joy that can bring comfort to all of us.

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” Philippians 1:2-6

In this time of quarantine, distance learning, working from home, and uncertainties about the “New Normal,” **we can be assured each day of His promises**. He can take our anxiety and fear of the unknown and bring us comfort. I encourage you to use this extra time at home with the kids to make special memories, new projects, things you never imagined you would ever accomplish! John Bunyan, wrote a most famous Christian book, that has lasted through the decades, Pilgrims Progress, while serving time in prison. Imagine what you could do together with your family, to accomplish great things for Christ, during this season.

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say rejoice!” Philippians 4:4

Hillcrest Updates

1. We are prayerful, we will be able to open school soon and we will keep you posted. Our last prayerful day to reopen was May 5, but this could change at any time, pending official recommendations. It is our privilege to continue to partner with you through distance-learning. We are here to support you, with your child's Christian education in any way we can.
2. It is our prayerful goal to maintain as many of our traditional year and celebrations as possible. Although the events such as graduation for Pre-K, 6th Grade, 8th Grade, and our Seniors may be **in a different format; we are working on plans of how to make each of these events memorable and available to the community at large. We will share more details of how we will carry on our HCS great traditions and celebrations in the coming weeks.**

In order to make these events special; we will need volunteer parents available, that can film and help put together our memorable videos as well as slideshows for all levels. Please email me if you are available to help make these events special for our kids.

3. In an effort to help families during these new waters of at home sheltering, I have attached several resources that may be helpful.

We are praying for you and miss you more than you imagine!

Much Love and Prayers,

Karen Winter

Karen Winter

HCS Head of School

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Dobsons - [COVIDAdvice for Families, Kids, and Marriage](https://www.focusonthefamily.com/family-time-during-the-coronavirus-quarantine/)
<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/family-time-during-the-coronavirus-quarantine/>

California Department of Education - [Help for Students in Crisis](https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/cg/mh/studentcrisishelp.asp)
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/cg/mh/studentcrisishelp.asp>

Teen Truth - [Free Virtual Assemblies to Help Support Schools During the COVID-19 Crisis](https://teentruth.net/free-virtual-school-assemblies)
teentruth.net/free-virtual-school-assemblies
Contact Teen Truth directly at: teentruth.net/365

National Association of School Psychologists - [Talking to Children about COVID-19](https://helping-children-cope-with-changes-resulting-from-covid-19)
<https://helping-children-cope-with-changes-resulting-from-covid-19>

National Public Radio - [How to be Alone, but not Lonely](https://how-to-be-alone-but-not-lonely-despite-the-coronavirus)
<https://how-to-be-alone-but-not-lonely-despite-the-coronavirus>

Rosen Classroom - [COVID-19 Share Your Story Project](https://rosenshareyourstory.com)
rosenshareyourstory.com