**NEWSWORTHY**

**Be Kind!** Mrs. Parrino’s Creative Publications class have been creating Be Kind cards to leave everywhere around the school. They hope to provide a positive impact on the students here at Hillcrest. The Be Kind quotes give the students on campus a happy message to have with them throughout their day. Have you found one? They are in the library, vending machines, on your desk and in many more places. Each of the cards have inspiring and uplifting quotes on them. The cards include quotes such as “Always be kind, even if no one is watching”. Always keep an eye out, because you never know if you’re going to find one!

**Sing your heart out!** Our choir was invited to the D-Backs versus Padres game on Friday, September 8th. Our choir students, and many others from DVUSD got to go down on the field and sing the National Anthem to open the game. “Our students showed a superior level of professionalism and decorum. They gave great dignity and meaning to this important song, and were in every way a credit to their families, teachers and school. Please congratulate them on a marvelous performance!” exclaims Ms. Blank after the students sang. We also noticed her inspiring T-shirt that says, “Some people wait their entire lives to meet their favorite musicians. I’m teaching mine.” This really shows how dedicated Ms. Blank is to her students. They did an amazing job and we can’t wait to see them perform again.

**STUCO!** Do you always wonder what actually happens at student council meetings? Do you think about what they change to make the campus a better place? Well, you’re about to find out. Student council does a lot behind-the-scenes, and little by little it makes the campus a better place for everyone! Aspen Mathis calls the meeting to order as our president! Mrs. Gummelt states that they are trying to “establish a better environment on campus” for the students in the future. Mrs. Miller adds onto that by saying “Student Council is a place to raise money by doing fundraisers and events for Hillcrest Middle School.” Mrs. Biller says she is a part of a program called “Feed my Starving Children” and she tells us that it is where the student body could get together and hand pack meals for hungry kids. Mrs. Miller lets us know that Student Council is working on an activity that involves turkey bowling at all lunches. For the upcoming events, Aspen Mathis had a great idea for the Renaissance assembly, “We could do a screaming contest to help bring the energy level up!” Cole Wnenta thought of a catchy slogan, “It’s not about ideas, it’s about making ideas happen.” Thank you Student Council for making our school and community a better place.

**STUDENT OF THE MONTH**

**Exploratory**- Jasmine Pulver and Jack O’Hare

**Physical Education**- Cooper Neville and Alissa Head

**Merlin Falcons**- Neveah White and Rehan Afzal

**Peregrine Falcons**- Trinity Holley and Austin Bast

**Fox Falcons**- Tyler Garrett and Sophie Singh

**F-16 Falcons**- Trevor Byrd and Ella Holmgren

**Millennium Falcons**- Sean Saikaly and Zoe Giamanco

**Maltese Falcons**- Mia Faust and Garon Peiser
SPORTS

On your mark, get set, GO! We interviewed the cross country coaches and asked them, “What is their inspiration to coach?” Mr. Marsden stated, “I stopped coaching the Ridge swim and dive team and wanted to do something else so I became the cross country coach here at Hillcrest.” Mrs. Kuntz then stated, “I have been coaching cross country since 1997. I enjoy running and the kids, so this is a perfect coaching job.” Both coaches are very involved with the teams and have worked very hard to help the runners succeed. The coaches were asked, what do you love most about this year’s team? Mrs. Kuntz replied, “This year’s team is hardworking and represent themselves with great sportsmanship.” Then we asked Mr. Marsden about his goals for the championship? Mr. Marsden said, “To make sure that we run faster than the other teams and be the very best we can be.” Both coaches are very proud of their runners and hope to bring home another trophy.

Hillcrest falcons, red and black! Two girls from spirit line were interviewed to see what their lives are like. Our spirit line this year is ready to attack their competitions and represent our school at games and competitions. Kiersten Starling stated, “Some of my goals for this upcoming season are that we all work together and have an unbreakable bond.” Bonding and working as a team is a very important aspect in spirit line. “I was nervous on messing up on the cheer and doing the wrong dance moves.” says Marissa McElroy. Tryouts are always nerve-racking. “We were excited to make new friends and have an excellent season!” These girls have incredible talent and are super energetic, making them great cheerleaders for our school. We wish our new spirit line best of luck this year!

Welcoming the newbies! Our new 7th grade Hillcrest volleyball team is had an excellent season! We interviewed Hailey Wade and Nathan Rosinski and asked them, what made you try out for the Hillcrest volleyball team? Hailey stated, “I’ve played club volleyball in the summer to prepare for playing on the school’s volleyball team.” Canyon Cockrell plays on a club volleyball team and shared with us the many differences. She states, “In club volleyball there are more competitive teams and you have a year-round season.” The two said, “Volleyball is a great sport with many learning points.” They sure had a great season!
STUDENT LIFE

Do you like to travel? Have you ever wanted to travel across our country? Well, one of our very own students here at Hillcrest has! If you need to ask anyone about traveling, Amethyst Baek would be a great option. Amethyst has traveled across the United States to Boston, Massachusetts. She decided to go to Boston because she received an invitation for a leadership program. Enrolling in this program led her to meeting plenty of new friends, learning more about leadership itself, and learning all about community service! “I would travel across the country again if I had an option because it’s a once in a lifetime opportunity, so why not do it again?” Amethyst had an amazing time and encourages people to travel more often.

Girl scouts rule! Who would’ve thought that our very own 8th grade students Emma Guy, Natalia Nortz, and Angelina Shut are part of the same Girl Scout Troop, Troop 1128. All three girls are agreeing that camp is the best part of Girl Scouts. Did you know if you continue Girl Scouts until your senior year of high school, you can win a Golden Award which gives you a college scholarship? Although you have to do a project, it’s pretty cool and for this reason, the three girls plan on going further with Girl Scouts, as well as getting to grow with their troop. As you know, Girl Scouts can get badges based on what activity they did and how well they did it. Three badges that are favored by the girls are the Amazing Race Badge, the Building Badge, and the Cookie Rally badge. Believe it or not, Emma has been in Girl Scouts for 8 years, Natalia has been in for 6 years, and Angelina has been in for 5 years. These girls are amazing and are surely a great addition to their troop.

Time to show off those dance moves! Guess who was back for another school dance? That’s right, it’s DJ Special K with your favorite songs and dance moves. Aden McKinney, Tia Henry, and Peyton Schneider all agree that this was a fun night to spend dancing with your friends. There was plenty of exciting activities, including a selfie station. Everyone had a great time and we owe it all to our PTSA. If you think the last dance was amazing, then you should definitely come to the next one which is “Game Night”. To start off, the tickets are only ten dollars and that includes a Rita’s Ice. There will also be a DJ booth and selfie station. The dance will have plenty of contests and games, including many minute to win it activities and an exciting life size game of Jenga! “I’d come to the next dance because I like to spent time with my friends and have fun!” states Aden McKinney.
AFTER SCHOOL

This year’s cooking class is busy in the kitchen whipping up delicious recipes. On the first day of class, the students got to make their very own aprons out of old T-shirts. They decorated them with their names and a bit of their own creativity. How cool is that? Mrs. Peck taught all of the students in the class how to safely work in Hillcrest’s very own cooking room. So far they have made pasta salad, pumpkin brownies, and Italian cheeseburger pie. All of these dishes are homemade and the cooking students learned how to make all of this within a limited amount of time. The students went above and beyond with all of these recipes and we can’t wait to see what they make next.

Look at the view! Coach M and her Fitness and Conditioning club hiked Thunderbird Mountain. They hiked all the way to the top and were rewarded with an amazing view. Alissa Head states, “It’s very nice as you go up the mountain. The weather gets cooler and you feel more accomplished as you get closer to the peak of the mountain.” The Fitness and Conditioning club focuses on getting fit all while having fun and gaining great experiences. The club meets every Tuesday before school and you can find them weight lifting or even playing tennis. You can always count on having a great time!

Keeping our campus clean! As many of you may know our school has a National Junior Honors Society or NJHS. Only selected students are a part of our school’s NJHS. Some of the things the members do are campus cleanups every week and volunteer at various school events such as the Back to School Bash. We interviewed Nicole Tarby and Troy Borman to see what it’s like for them being a part of NJHS. Both students agreed that it is a ton of fun because “you come across new opportunities and interact with people and make new friends.” says Nicole. Everyone within NJHS has a favorite part and Troy commented that “getting to do new things and help out our community” is what he enjoys. We hope that you now know a little more about our National Junior Honors Society and we encourage you to help out around the community also.