Hillcrest is a fantastic community of learners. We have a diverse student body who come to school excited to learn each day. Our staff is highly educated and motivated to meet the needs of all the learners we serve.

Academic Accomplishments
Hillcrest students continue to achieve at high levels. On the Measurements of Student Progress (MSP), Hillcrest students achieved above the state average in all academic areas assessed and in all grade levels assessed. Reading scores rose in third-, fourth- and fifth-grades. In reading, nearly 80 percent of third-graders met standard and nearly 85 percent of fourth-graders met standard. In addition, our math instruction and student performance continues to be strong. For example, more than 50 percent of all third- and fifth-graders achieved a “Level 4” on the 2013-14 MSP in math. This is the highest level possible and a big accomplishment. Hillcrest students continue to outperform their peers from demographically similar schools—we expect this pattern to continue as we maintain high expectations for all.

Academic Goals
The staff and students at Hillcrest are motivated to learn every day. We are continuing to maintain our focus on getting students to understand big ideas and to think independently. We do this by teaching students to, “Justify their thinking with relevant evidence and communicate it clearly...” no matter the subject area. This focus is helping students transition smoothly into the higher expectations of the Common Core State Standards, (CCSS) which require students to form opinions and back them up with the spoken and/or written word.

We are helping students use technology to enhance their learning experiences and to connect in new ways with the world around them. To do this, Chromebooks are now available for all third- through fifth-graders for at least half of the school day each week. The Chromebooks are proving to be outstanding tools for engaging students and for enhancing their learning.

We want Hillcrest Hawks to read for understanding; apply math concepts to real world situations; write with a purpose and voice; and engage in thoughtful analysis of the world around them through science, social studies, art and more. Our goal at Hillcrest is to provide a well-rounded education that will help develop our students into confident contributors to society. We are well on our way.

How You Can Help
One of the qualities we are most proud of is the great sense of community we create each day. Volunteers are welcomed with open arms. Currently, volunteers help in classrooms, support teachers with material preparation, eat with students in our Lunch Buddy program and much more. We encourage families and community members to participate as much as possible at Hillcrest.

At home, you can help by working with your child to master his or her math skills. One way to do this is to use our online math program—IXL Math—regularly. Also, reading with your child every day and providing opportunities for him or her to read independently from books, magazines or RAZ Kids is extremely helpful. Make sure your children know the importance of school by having them attend (and arrive on time) every day.
Supplementary Programs
The following data reflects the percentage of Hillcrest students benefitting from supplemental programs:

- Free or Reduced Meals = 40.4%
- Special Education = 25.1%
- Transitional Bilingual = 10.5%
- Highly Capable = 31 students
- Average Class Size = 26

Student Ethnic Composition

- American Indian/Alaskan Native = 4%
- Asian = 3.6%
- Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander = 3%
- Asian/Pacific Islande = 3.8%
- Black/African American = 1.7%
- Hispanic/Latino of any race(s) = 19.6%
- White = 67.5%
- Two or More Races = 7%

(Totals will not equal 100%)

About Our Students
We believe every student is capable and deserving of the best possible educational program. We do not retain, suspend or expel students unless all avenues for success have been explored. We view school as the place for each child to receive an excellent education and lifelong skills. We stress the importance of regular attendance, promptness, responsibility for work and decision making and behaving in a positive and cooperative manner.

About Our Staff
Hillcrest has 33 certificated teachers and support professionals assisted by 21 paraprofessionals and support staff guided by one principal and one associate principal. Additionally, all district buildings are also supported by custodians, grounds, maintenance and technology personnel. On average Hillcrest teachers have 11 years of teaching experience and more than 63 percent have a master’s degree. All Hillcrest teachers meet the highly qualified designation as outlined by the federal No Child Left Behind law.

About Our School Building
Hillcrest was built in 1953 and remodeled with an addition in 1977. During the 2007-08 academic year the building was closed for a complete modernization and reopened in the fall of 2008. It sits on a 15 acre site that exceeds the standards for elementary schools. Hillcrest serves 680 students in kindergarten through fifth-grade. We have 25 classrooms, six portable classrooms, a multipurpose room, library, music room and an outside play area and two covered play areas.

About Our Financial Resources
For the 2014-15 fiscal year the general fund budget revenue totals $80 million. The school board set a minimum budgeted ending fund balance of 5 percent of expenditures that is necessary to accommodate normal cash flow.

Approximately 75.1 percent of the revenue comes from the state for basic education and special programs. The state provides an average of $5,665 per full time student to Lake Stevens School District. All I-728 (class size) funding has been cut from the state budget.

A total of 18.9 percent of the revenue comes from the citizens of the community through the levy of voter approved taxes and various fees and donations.

Approximately 83.7 percent of the expenditures are used for payment of salaries and benefits for the employees of the district.

The balance of the expenditure budget is used in the areas of supplies and materials, purchased services, capital outlay and travel.

State and District Assessment Plan
In the spring of 2014 most Lake Stevens School District students in grades three through five took the Measurements of Student Progress (MSP)—a standards-based assessment of reading, writing, math and science. Students must demonstrate proficiency or mastery in order to meet standards in each area. The tests use a combination of multiple choice, short answer and essay responses.

To view detailed assessment results and reports, visit the district website and click on “Our District,” “Publications & Reports,” and “Washington State Report Card.” From there you can sort information by school.

While most of our students took the MSP, students at Sunnycrest Elementary School participated in a pilot of the new Smarter Balanced Assessment. The assessment, which is solely computer-based, will replace the MSP in 2015 and measures students’ progress towards being career and college ready as defined by the Common Core State Standards. As part of the pilot at Sunnycrest, student results were not published and the district did not receive scores.

Participating in the pilot allowed our students, teachers and administrators to get a “sneak peak” and learn what the assessment would entail. It also allowed our Information Technology staff to ‘test out’ our digital infrastructure and technology. Participation helped us learn that our district is going in the right direction in terms of materials, instruction, professional learning, and technology and infrastructure. Very few technology glitches were experienced during the pilots, and our students reported feeling challenged but not overwhelmed by the piloted items.

In addition to state assessments, teachers monitor student learning in grades K-5 in reading, writing and math through district benchmark assessments. Information gathered from these assessments enable teachers to tailor instruction to meet the needs of each student. Progress on these skills is monitored over the course of the academic year.

Teachers and teacher teams engage in careful study of the student achievement data that comes from these state and district assessments. Each school has a Data Team made up of building teachers, support staff, and administrators that analyze data to make instructional decisions and changes when needed. The district has continued its professional development work around data and differentiation to help meet the academic needs of each student and will continue to do so in the years to come.

Hillcrest Elementary School Contact Information
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Susan Songstad, Associate Principal
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425-335-1545

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