TEACHER APPRECIATION: DONUTS, COFFEE, AND BISON HCONS

The High Plains PTCO had fun celebrating our teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week this year. You might've noticed some exuberant Bison with signs before school encouraging parents to honk horns. (At the bare minimum, there were a lot of surprised faces and smiles that morning.) Friday, the PTCO brought Donut Haus donuts and Colorado Coffee to our teachers and staff along with some personal journals. We're so thankful for the talented educators and support staff at our school and hope they know it!
COVID created some roadblocks for PTCO fundraising and events this year, but the High Plains PTCO is excited to start the 2021-2022 school year with some money in the bank and big goals to fund important aspects of our school community that touch every student next year. Thank you for participating in the Read-a-thon and Spirit Nights. They were our main sources of revenue this year. Below, the expense graphic shows the balance of how we spent our money.

Some specific things the PTCO spent money on this year were judges for the Band Solo and Ensemble Festival, Kindergarten "BooHoo" Bags, Middle School Recess Equipment, Bingo for Books, the Book-It-Bison Read-a-thon, Teacher Appreciation, Classroom Supplies, Teacher Conference Meals, and Spirit Wear. We are already brainstorming how we will make the best financial contributions possible to the HPS community next year. With less COVID restrictions, we hope to have more community events and to hit the ground running!
There are few people who have impacted High Plains School more than Candie Joshi. Not only was she instrumental in getting High Plains built, but she has selflessly served the High Plains community since its inception.

Candie is modest and kind. If you are lucky enough to talk to her, she will probably keep the conversation on you. However, beneath her unassuming exterior, is an intelligent, change-making, mover and shaker.

While Candie was serving on committees to build High Plains when it was just an idea, the depth of her involvement in our school has been wide and varied. For the last 5 years Candie has been the head of our biggest fundraisers. She has run school jog-a-thons for the past 11 years, beginning at Winona Elementary School. Candie has served as our school's Volunteer Coordinator for 5 years, coached Solar and Electric cars, Destination Imagination for 4 years, and Robotics for 4 years. Candie has created websites, run several community events, made connections with fellow parents and enlisted them in serving in the PTCO.

She has been involved in the smallest and largest aspects of community building at High Plains and continues to prioritize our school in the last weeks of her last school year living in it's boundaries.

When asked about some of her favorite memories Candie said: "The most memorable experience I've had is coming together from the forgotten edges of the school district to build a cohesive community. It is a challenge opening a school with kids from several different schools and creating a single identity. Even before the school was built, the High Plains, Boyd Lake, Waterfront, and Windsor communities worked together to demonstrate the need for the school. We were able to build upon that once the..."
Candie Joshi cont.

When the school was opened, enveloping the staff, new neighbors, and families who chose High Plains for their school. The PTCO community events reinforce those relationships by bringing families together, linking the kids' school life to home life.

Candie has been involved in some way with most High Plains events but she says the Bison Stampede is "the ultimate community event." Perhaps part of Candie's fundraising success has been due to the fact that she truly thinks about building community first. In reference to the Bison Stampede Candie stated: "Businesses can participate through sponsorships and donating prizes, parents can volunteer at the event, stopping by and cheering on their students when they run, or making posters to cheer on students during the event. I love all of the staff, students, and volunteers wearing their event shirts on the day of the Bison Stampede. It is so much more than a fundraiser, it's the perfect way to build community."

It will be impossible to replace Candie Joshi, but we can learn from her example. Here are some last words of advice from the ultimate volunteer: "Don't feel like you have to volunteer for everything. Help where you can, in the classroom or for an after school event, even if it's only for an hour a year. If you can't volunteer, it's ok. Attend events when you can. Every one of these roles are necessary to help build community." Candie Joshi's contributions will impact our school for years to come. We will miss you, Candie, and know you will build people and community wherever you go!
It has been a privilege and an honor to serve High Plains School and the surrounding community as the president of the PTCO for the last four years. It has gone by so fast. I originally volunteered as a way to stay very involved in my little boy's life. He is not so little now, and the rewards became much more than just that. I have met amazing women and men who have volunteered many hours for our children.

The opportunity to support teachers as they search for ways to augment the curriculum and provide experiences outside the school budget has been so rewarding. My favorite events have been Trunk or Treat and the carnival. It is so fun to watch the families swirl around in organized chaos, to let kids just be kids without electronics or academic pressure. It has been a challenge this year trying to provide group events when we haven't been able to meet in groups.

As a committee, we have felt a little ineffectual. However, great things are on the horizon! The plans for the school addition are moving forward. I have had the opportunity to be a part of that planning committee and discuss the concerns of what our children need to enhance their learning opportunities.

The new PTCO leadership is going to be fabulous. Every organization benefits from an infusion of new energy and ideas. I promise—you will be in good hands. Please consider becoming an active participant in this organization. Many hands make light work and you are already a member! Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve your children and go Bison!
Link your King Soopers card to the High Plains PTCO and at no extra cost to you, a portion of the proceeds will be donated to our school. If you don't have it already, make an online account and link your rewards card to it. Then search for "High Plains PTCO" or "GK190" as your organization (don't mix it up with High Plains Elementary PTCO, choose the one in Loveland on Buffalo Mountain Dr.). Instructions and more information can be found at https://www.kingsoopers.com/topic/community-rewards-9.