Message from the Principal...

October was full of many events and activities! We were so happy to see a great turn out for Student Led Conferences! Thank you for partnering with us to support your child’s academic and social/emotional success. Our Leadership Team will be reviewing the parent, student, and teacher feedback on SLCs to make them even more powerful next time. Please continue the conversations with your child about their goals and the work they are doing to achieve them.

Thank you to the volunteers that provided food for staff on the two conference days. It was appreciated and delicious! I also want to thank our PTCO for putting on a well attended and fun Trunk or Treat. We had nearly 200 students in costumes and 21 decorated trunks. It was amazing!! Please check the calendar on the website for upcoming events. Your child’s teacher can also keep you in the know, so please don’t hesitate to contact them or check out their teacher page under “Staff” on the website.

This month please take note of pages 9-12 in the High Plains School Parent/Student Handbook found on the website under “Resources”, http://www.thompson.k12.co.us/HighPlains. These pages highlight information regarding lost and found, field trips, cold and inclement weather procedures, personal items brought to school, and our student dress code (including PE). Living in Colorado means ever changing weather, so please make sure your child comes to school prepared for the weather. Think layers!!!

continued on next page
Message from the Principal continued

Please continue with caution, safety, and following all on campus traffic patterns and rules, as well as official road/traffic laws as you enter and exit the campus. Please only cross at designated crosswalks and follow the directions of our staff and volunteer crossing guard, Douglas Money. Loveland Police may ticket persons crossing illegally. The crosswalks are for everyone’s safety, especially our children. Please help to set a good example for all of our children. They (children) are watching; actions speak louder than words!

Please continue reading our November newsletter to see all of the events and activities planned for November, as well as important information to keep you in the know. It’s going to be another busy but fun month filled with learning, community building, and engaging activities! Remember November 20th-24th is Thanksgiving break. We wish all of our families a pleasant, plentiful, and thankful Thanksgiving!

See you in the drive line!

Danielle Feeney, Principal
**Food Drive**

Student Ambassadors are proud to partner with Philo of Loveland to fight hunger in our community. From November 6th-28th, students will be collecting non-perishable food items for this year's food drive. As a school, High Plains is committed to collecting 1,500 items for our community. Students may bring their items to their classroom or homeroom teacher, and place in the designated box in their teacher's room. Thank you in advance for your commitment to helping fight hunger in our community and stocking the shelves of our local food banks!

**Volunteer and Paid Crossing Guards**

We are still looking for volunteers or paid crossing guards to help students cross safely to school on Monday and Friday mornings and in the afternoons. If interested in volunteering, please contact Candie Joshi: candie.joshi@gmail.com. You can find paid positions at [http://www.thompsonschools.org/page/2465](http://www.thompsonschools.org/page/2465); search for vacancies under transportation.
Library

A Book Fair “Thank You!”

Thank you to everyone who visited the Scholastic Book Fair! We had a great time, kids loved getting to see new books (and can’t wait to read the new ones!), and we raised almost $1,500 for the High Plains School library. We deeply appreciate everyone’s support and are already looking forward to another great fair in the spring!

Helping Our Kids Become Good Digital Citizens

Online content can have a huge impact on a child’s social, emotional, and cognitive development. Knowing this, most parents wonder how they can help their kids learn how to behave safely and respectfully when online and what they can do to support good digital citizenship at home.

Common Sense (www.commonsense.org), an independent, nonprofit organization, can be a valuable resource for parents, educators, and community members; recently, Common Sense published the following article to help parents start a healthy conversation with their kids and to reinforce what kids are learning at school.

continued on next page
What Should I Teach My Kid about Safe Online Behavior?

As soon as your kids begin to go online, it's important to explain your expectations of their behavior. By acting responsibly and respectfully, they will enjoy their time online and get the best of the Internet while mostly avoiding things such as cyberbullying and inappropriate content. Here are some basics to share with your child:

**Communicate appropriately.** Use the right language for your audience. You might write or speak to a teacher differently from a friend. And never use all caps!

**Keep private things private.** Don't share personal information, including passwords, your home address, inappropriate images, and gossip.

**Respect others.** Be courteous. Disagree politely.

**Don’t lie, steal, or cheat.** Don't try to deceive others. Remember to give credit where credit is due. And, although it’s easy to copy others' work, download things without permission, or use game cheat codes, don’t do it.

**Be an "upstander."** If someone you know is being targeted by a bully, stand up for that person. You would want him or her to do the same for you.

**Report misbehavior.** The Internet is a giant community, and you can help it be a nice place.

**Follow your family's rules.** If your parent tells you to avoid certain websites or to stop texting after a certain time, listen. The more you act responsibly, the more privileges you'll get.

**Think before you post, text, or share.** Consider how you and others might feel after you've posted something. It's not always easy to take back what you've said online, and your online behavior can create a lasting footprint.

Library

Ebooks: Great Reading for the Holiday Season!

As we head into the holiday season, keep in mind the wealth of digital resources that HPS students have at their fingertips. Ebooks can be accessed at any time by following these five easy steps:

- Visit our school’s website (highplainsschool.org)
- Select "Library" under the "Resources" tab.
- Click on the Follett Destiny icon in order to search our catalog and read ebooks.
- Choose to log in using Google SSD.
  * **Student email name**: first initial, middle initial, last name, last two digits of graduating year, @thompsonschools.org (ex.: jtdoe23@thompsonschools.org)
  * **Password**: student number preceded by two zeroes (example: 00123456)
- Happy Reading!
Health Office

Heads Up!

With the change in the weather, the hats came back out, and now is a good time for parents to be on the alert for head lice. Head lice are a common childhood affliction. All places where children get together are places where head lice can be transferred. Clean hair and home are no guarantee that head lice will not find your child. Periodically check your child’s hair for nits (eggs), which can usually be seen long before lice can be located. Nits are small white to tan particles found in the hair that look a lot like dandruff, except that dandruff is loose and can be brushed from the hair, whereas nits are attached to the hair shaft and cannot be removed easily. Lice are very small (flea sized) and do not like light, so they can be hard to find. If your child is experiencing itching of the scalp or you see something in the hair and are not sure what it is, feel free to stop by the health office and allow us to check.

Carey Quaratino (Health Aide)
Curt Van Tress, RN (School Nurse)

HPS Choir

HPS Choir Slotted to Sing the National Anthem...

Come support the High Plains School Choir as they perform the National Anthem at the Colorado Eagles game Saturday, December 9th at 7:05pm vs. the Rapid City Rush! Performer tickets are $16 each while non-performer tickets are just $21! If you are a buying a ticket for a performer, please put the name of the singer in the customer comments. This is a fundraiser, and $5 for every “non-performer” ticket will go back to benefit the High Plains K-8 music program! These funds will go toward new music, instruments, and other performances.

Auditions:
Any HPS Middle School Choir member can audition to be a performer in the "Eagles Choir". Mrs. Lemons will select 30-35 students for this event. Look for a sign-up sheet outside the music door beginning in November. Good luck!!
The middle school **Give Next** philanthropy class update:

We attended our Kick-Off Day at CSU and have been working hard ever since to create our mission statement. As a class, we decided to make an impact on the lives of people with disabilities. Our mission statement is as follows.

> *We, the High Plains School Give Next class, aim to address the needs of people with disabilities in our community. We will achieve our mission with the generous donations from Nancy Patton of the Public Service Credit Union and Denise and Patrick Juliana. We are looking to support nonprofit organizations that will impact and help improve the lives of people with disabilities.*

We’re still looking for a few more donations for our Adopt-A-Classroom classroom

The schools we have adopted are currently in need of the following:

- Amazon gift cards (any amount)
- Barnes & Noble gift cards (any amount)
- Other gift cards you think a teacher could use (Target, Walmart, Starbucks)
- Pencils
- Notebooks
- Binders
- Expo markers

Send any donations to school with your child; please label it “Joers – room 216” and asked the office staff to put it in her mailbox. Thank you in advance.

- A big thank you to all those who ordered Butter Braids. Just a reminder: Butter Braids will be delivered to HPS on Wednesday, November 29 – please plan to pick up or arrange to get them that week.
- Please keep checking back for other opportunities to help.
Peace Circles

Peacekeeper Agreements

In Peacekeeper circles children are learning to build a safe atmosphere in the classroom community and how to share their feelings and needs with one another. In order to feel safe in the circle, children have said that they need to “trust each other”. One way to build this trust is to allow everyone equal opportunity to speak about what is happening, using “I” statements, to share their experience and have other’s listen respectfully to learn from their friends how to be a better friend.

The circle begins each week by reviewing the agreements.

If your family is using the circle process at home you may want to use these agreements or come up with others that fit your families values and needs.

The agreements are:

1. Tell the truth.
2. Speak from the heart/Listen from the heart.
3. Respect the talking piece.
4. Keep it current.
5. Use “I statements” followed by descriptive clarification.
6. Have eye contact
7. Participants may choose to pass, ideally there will be time to come back to them later, so their voice is in circle.
8. Confidentiality! “What is said in the circle stays in the circle!”

Use PeaceKeeper Language to express Gratitude

During this holiday season, many focus on gratitude and appreciation. Try using PeaceKeeper language at your family table. Here’s an example of an appreciation that your children are learning.

Child says, “Mom, thank you for spending time with me. It makes me feel joyful and loved.”

Mom Says, “Ashton, thank you for helping set the table for our HOLIDAY dinner. I feel overjoyed that you were being so helpful.”

What a second year PeaceKeeper teacher said:

This teacher has children that were trained to use the PeaceKeeper skills last year. She shared how dramatically different this class is compared to the one she had last year. Their kindness with one another is remarkable and she felt this to be a direct result of having used the PeaceKeeper circles in their classrooms last year. “The student’s ability to express gratitude helps improve the classroom community.”

continued on next page
Peace Circles continued

What a fifth grade student said:

“Thank you Ms. Kiri for bringing PeaceKeeper into our school because last year our class was having such a hard time and I didn’t feel like I had many friends. This year I feel like I have many more friends. I am much happier and feel we all know how to make friends because PeaceKeeper helped us learn how to treat each other nicely.”

Whitney and Kiri (PKC Trainers) say:

“Thank you to all who are embracing the use of these Restorative Practice skills taught in PeaceKeeper, both in and beyond the classroom. It makes us feel hopeful for our children and their future.”

Happy HOLIDAYS to all

Ms Kiri and Ms Whitney

Middle School Dance

Middle school students, get ready to dance the night away! Student Ambassadors are planning a Winter Wonderland Dance on December 8th from 6pm-8pm. More details to come out after the next Ambassador meeting on November 16th.
High Plains PTCO
What’s Up!

In October the PTCO Funded Over $3,460 to Help Support Our School!! Items approved include:

- Art Display Room Partitions
- PBL Appreciation Breakfast
- 1st, 2nd and 6th Grade Student Work Published through Scholastic

We Appreciate Your Support!!

- Thank you to everyone who came out to Chick-fil-A on Monday, October 2nd. We raised $483!!!
- Our Bison Stampede was a great success!! So far we have raised over $12,000!!! Thank you!!
- We have raised just under $750 for our school so far this year from box tops!! Look for another box top competition coming soon!! Thank you for clipping box tops!!

Chipotle School Spirit Night

- Join us for School Spirit Night at Chipotle in Loveland, CO on Wednesday, November 15th. Look for more information to come!!
- When ordering at the front counter tell the cashier that you are there to support High Plains and we will earn money for our school!
- The more people we bring in to eat, the more money we will generate for our school!! Invite your friends and family to come too!!

Holiday Giving Tree

- Sponsor a family for holiday gifts and a holiday meal this season with our Holiday Giving Tree!
- Giving Tree Ornaments will be available starting November 13th, gifts due to the school by December 14th

King Soopers Gift Card fundraiser - Sign up online to get your card

- Simply load your card before purchasing groceries or gas
- 5% of your everything you spend will benefit the High Plains PTCO
- Get more details and sign up at www.highplainsptco.org/fundraising

continued on next page
Amazon Smile

* Did you know you can earn money for High Plains School while shopping on Amazon?? AmazonSmile is the same Amazon that you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Follow these 3 easy steps and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the High Plains PTCO. Thank you for helping support our school!
  * Go to smile.amazon.com and login to your amazon account.
  * Search for and select High Plains PTCO in Loveland, CO.
  * Start Shopping!! The same Amazon products you love will be available!
  * ** In order to support the PTCO you must always start your shopping at smile.amazon.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

* All Volunteers must register online: [www.thompsonschools.org/volunteer](http://www.thompsonschools.org/volunteer)
* Current Opportunities: [www.highplainsptco.com/volunteer](http://www.highplainsptco.com/volunteer)

The High Plains Parent Teacher Community Organization (PTCO)

* Visit our website to learn about who we are, why we are here, and how you can help! [www.highplainsptco.org](http://www.highplainsptco.org)
* Have questions? Would like to volunteer? Shoot us an email! highplainsk8ptco@gmail.com
* Like us on [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com) for up-to-date information!

The purpose of the High Plains PTCO is to enhance and support the educational experience, to develop a close connection between school, home and community by encouraging parental involvement, and to improve the environment at High Plains School through volunteer and financial support.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 6th – 28th</td>
<td>Food Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 13th</td>
<td>Kindergarten Open House 4:30pm at Loveland High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 14th</td>
<td>Read Aloud Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 14th</td>
<td>PTCO Meeting @ 6:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 20th – 24th</td>
<td>No School ~ Thanksgiving Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 8th</td>
<td>Winter Wonderland Dance 6pm - 8pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 9th</td>
<td>HPS Choir National Anthem at Eagles Hockey Game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 11th</td>
<td>High School Course Registration Information Night at MVHS at 6:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 12th</td>
<td>HPS Spelling Bee Contest 8:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 19th</td>
<td>4th &amp; 5th grade winter program 6:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 22nd – January 5th</td>
<td>No School Winter Break</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>