Hello Bison families!! We hope all of our families, In-person and TCO, are doing well. We are excited to be slowly getting some of our Bison back in person. There has been much preparation and planning to get to this point. Parents/Guardians, please remember to symptom and temperature screen each of your children each morning. Check out this link, Can I go to school today?, from CDE to provide parents guidance when symptom and temperature screening.

Continue to check out Facebook, our website, your child’s teacher’s newsletter and communications, and of course details in this newsletter for all events and/or important information to keep you in the know.

Stay safe, happy, and healthy!

Danielle Feeney, principal
Parent-Student Handbook

Our Parent-Student Handbook (linked) is available on our website, as well as sent to families on September 24th. The handbook is a supplement to TSD policies, student code of conduct, and the Return to Learn plan. Please check it out for specific details (links too!) about High Plains operations, including:

- Drop-off & Pick-up map and directions
- Arrival & Dismissal information
- Breakfast & Lunch
- Student absences
- And much more!

Return to In-Person Learning

We are super excited for our students to start returning to in person learning. Please see this document for the HPS staggered return schedule. Prior to students returning for in-person learning, parents are required to complete an In-Person Learning Acknowledgement Form, which confirms their student will adhere to all safety guidelines and requirements to attend in person at any TSD school. This also includes the acknowledgement that guardians will symptom and temperature check their students at home prior to coming to school.

The In-Person Learning Acknowledgement Form is in Parent Portal. A less than 3 minute video tutorial showing families how to complete this form prior to their child's first day of in person learning is located at this link. This link shows (on the 3rd page) how to find your middle school student's A/B cohort. A/B cohorts are only for 6th-8th grade students.

Please take a moment to complete the In-Person Learning Acknowledgement Form prior to your child’s first day of in person learning at HPS. We cannot wait to see all of our Bison!! Until then, stay healthy, safe, and happy!
October Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences

On October 13th, 14th, and 15th High Plains School will host virtual Fall Conferences. October 13-14th conferences are held virtually 4:15pm-7:45pm and October 15th virtual conferences are held 8am-3pm. Your child’s teacher will send a sign up and communications directly to you. Please keep an eye out for messages coming soon. Please contact your child’s teacher, should you have additional questions.

Free and Reduced Application

All TSD students may eat breakfast and lunch for free until the end of December 2020. Parents/Guardians are still encouraged to apply for Free and Reduced Meal status. Please complete the “Free and Reduced (F/R) Meal Price Application Form.” The forms are available at this link: TSD Nutrition Services. You will be notified by mail of your child’s status. F/R status may also open up other resources, so families are encouraged to apply.

Reminder for Late Start Wednesday

All TSD schools are including weekly late start Wednesdays again this school year in their schedules. On late start Wednesdays 6-8 remote instruction (in person for K-5) will begin by 9:20 am. This time allows for educators to collaborate in their planning and professional growth opportunities.

YMCA

Our district chose specific school sites to house YMCA and Boys and Girls Club childcare. HPS will have the YMCA be our before and after school care. Please check out the YMCA link (also on our website) for details. Scholarships and waivers are available through the YMCA. Please contact them directly. Before and after school care on the High Plains School campus will begin the week of October 12, 2020.

Read-a-Thon

Our PTCO is hosting a Read-a-Thon that will encourage students to read A LOT and also have a chance to raise funds for High Plains School. The Read-a-Thon will take place between October 19-30th. Please check out the PTCO website at https://www.highplainsptco.org/ or contact Nancy Wolfgang at HighPlainsK8PTCO@gmail.com
**Picture Day**

All HPS students, in-person, middle school hybrid (A/B), and Thompson Connect Online, will have the opportunity to get their picture taken for the 20-21 school year. Picture days are Nov. 2nd (6th-8th grade A students & K-5) and Nov. 6th (6th-8th grade B students & K-5). We will send out a sign up genius for Thompson Connect Online students, so parents/guardians may bring them on one of those dates to the HPS campus to have their picture taken. More details to come!!

**School Accountability Advisory Committee**

The School Accountability Advisory Committee supports High Plains School staff with some of the following items:

1. Reviewing and providing input into the development and implementation of the School’s Unified Improvement Plan
2. Providing input into budget allocation as it relates to the School’s Unified Improvement Plan
3. Providing input into activities to increase parent engagement in school

Jenny Webb is our School Accountability Advisory Committee chairperson. Jenny meets with the principal prior to SAAC sessions (4 a year) to set the agenda, helps recruit members of our school’s community for SAAC, supports the communications and dialogues of the SAAC to community members, and participates in District Accountability Committee sessions to gain a district wide perspective that supports High Plains School’s efforts.

HPS will hold our 2nd SAAC meeting (virtual) on December 1st at 5:15pm. The remaining dates: February 16th, May 4th. All meetings will be Google meet, unless otherwise communicated.

**Reminder**

Remember to Charge Chromebooks

With students returning to In Person Learning please get your student in the habit of charging their Chromebook nightly. Chromebooks will need to travel between home and school and it is best to have a fully charged Chromebook each day. Please help your student find a place to charge their Chromebook nightly and then for them to remember to put it in their backpack each morning.
PTCO Read-A-Thon

*October Read-a-thon Fundraiser*

As we look at fundraising differently this year the PTCO has selected a Read-A-Thon as our major source of income. This will replace the Bison Stampede Fun Run we have promoted in previous years. Fundraising helps us to invest in our school community through classroom support, school support, hospitality, school community events and wellness incentives.

The Read-A-Thon will be a two week period, from October 20-30th, in which your child will gain support from family and friends to sponsor minutes spent on reading. To keep our students and community safe an on-line tracking and funding collection system will be used with an alternate system if on-line is not optimal for families. Students or classes with the highest participation will receive prizes!

A read-a-thon is a great way to encourage community as well as meet fundraising goals. We need participation from all students! Encourage your family and friends to support our children and organization. You will receive more information on the Read-A-Thon in the near future through email and your child’s teacher.

Yearbook News!

Families and Students,

Yearbook Staff have been working on developing a theme and cover for the yearbook. We are excited to present the 2020-2021 theme **Bison Strong**! The High Plains Bison community has heart and strength when we come together. The beginning of the 2020-2021 school year has proven that we live our motto “Charging Through Failures; Stampeding Through Challenges”.

We are excited that students will be joining teachers in the building; however, we now know how school is not just happening on the campus of High Plains. It is all around us and the Yearbook Staff needs your help capturing those moments. We need pictures from you! The Yearbook Staff is currently working on launching a School-Wide Photography Contest. It will have categories and prizes! More information will be coming out soon!

*continued on next page*
Yearbook News!

Please, continue to capture Bison Strong moments in our community with your cameras and cell phones! Then email them to Mrs. Jones, lindy.jones@thompsonschools.org. Here are a few tips for taking photos using your smart phones!

- Turn on the camera’s gridlines. Place the subject of the photo on the intersections.
- Focus on faces in places.
- Don’t use digital zoom. Use your legs to get close.
- Set the camera’s focus and exposure by tapping on the screen.
- Don’t take pictures of people’s backs, food in the mouth, anything embarrassing.
- Use natural light, no flash.
- Take candids (subject not posing for camera). Shoot emotions.
- Clean the phone lens with a microfiber cloth.
- Use portrait mode to control a busy, distracting background.
- Don’t add filters.
- Don’t edit. Leave that to the yearbook staff.
- Don’t shoot the subject in front of a window. Light from the window will silhouette subject.
- If shooting portraits outdoors, place subject in the shade.
- Hold the camera straight; don’t tilt.
- Take horizontal and vertical images.

This year is different. So is the yearbook. It is going to be one you don’t want to miss! Order your 2021 yearbook for the BEST PRICE by visiting www.jostensyearbooks.com. In the meantime please send us photos! Any other questions regarding Yearbook can be sent to Mrs. Jones. Thank you for helping make this an even more memorable 2020-2021 school year!

Mrs. Jones and the Bison Yearbook Staff
Virtual Book Fair, October 5-18

The Scholastic Book Fair is returning virtually to High Plains School and can be easily visited at [https://www.scholastic.com/bf/highplainsschool](https://www.scholastic.com/bf/highplainsschool). The fair will run from Monday, October 5th, through Sunday, October 18th, and our library will benefit by receiving 25% of the total earnings in Scholastic Dollars from items that are purchased during the fair dates. There are over 6,000 books to choose from for students of all ages (including the option to pre-order the new *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* book—out 10/27—and *Cat-Kid Comic Club*—out 12/1). Orders will be delivered right to your home (free shipping on book orders over $25). We hope you enjoy exploring the options and finding great books that support literacy and the joy of reading. Thank you for your support!

Ebooks

As the days begin to shorten and the time spent inside lengthens, don’t forget the huge number of ebooks available to your students through Sora!

→ Go to Sora.

→ Click on "Find my school."

→ Select any Thompson School District school (all are the same account).

→ Choose "Thompson School District R2-J" on the drop-down menu.

→ Sign in with your child’s district log-in. Please contact me ([megan.mcgee@thompsonschools.org](mailto:megan.mcgee@thompsonschools.org)) if you have any questions about log-ins.

→ Notice the different options (you can search by popular subjects, genres, or other categories) and enjoy browsing and then checking out books.
Dear Bison Families,

Are you longing for some thoughts of cooler weather? Have your thoughts turned to putting up the Christmas tree? Not yet...? Well, this year we will be having a High Plains Family Christmas Sing-a-Long. Think about a song that your family would like to sing or lip sync. You can dress up in your Christmas best, or in red and white or as elves and Mr. and Mrs. Santa. You can have tropical scenery and wear shorts and summer wear; or get creative and create your own Santa workshop, in front of the fireplace, out in a snowbank, or in a sleigh. You will need to record it into a YouTube video and send it to me: nanci.labianca@thompsonschools.org.

I will then put it all together into an amazing Christmas video for your enjoyment. This will take the place of our yearly Christmas play. I think it will be so much fun and it gives us all a chance to get artistic, innovative and use our imaginations!

So start putting your thinking caps on, share ideas and plan with the rest of your family members. I will send out more information in the November newsletter.

Ms. LaBianca

Lost and Found

For health reasons we are unable to maintain a Lost and Found at this time. Please label your student’s coats, hats and other items so that when we find something, we can return it to the owner. Otherwise, the unmarked items will not be returned to you.