Message from the Principal

Happy New Year! I truly hope 2021 brings happiness and health to all of our Bison community.

A new year affords us all the chance to hit the “refresh” button, and after 2020, I know I am looking for a fresh start! As students come back to learning, in person, remote, hybrid, we will be encouraging them to reflect and refresh, so they finish their second semester strong and prepared for the next level.

I also encourage parents/guardians to consider their part in supporting their child toward whatever outcomes they target. If your child’s goal is completing and turning in homework each day, maybe your part is setting a schedule and creating a space where they can work on that goal. If their goal is to improve their reading fluency or understanding, maybe your part is enforcing a “no technology” hour when everyone in the family reads (or is read to). If their goal is to become fluent in their math facts, maybe your part is quizzing them during drives in the car or during their bedtime routine. No matter what their goal, your support will surely help them achieve it.

Please continue reading our January newsletter for 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!

“The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.” --- Nelson Mandela

Sincerely,
Danielle Feeney
Principal, High Plains School
Parent-Student Handbook

Stay in the know! Please check out the [HPS Parent/Student Handbook](#), especially page 10 for reminders about cold and inclement weather. We will be outside as much as temperature allows to allow mask breaks, physical activity, and fresh Colorado air. Please make sure your child is dressed and prepared for Colorado changing weather!

Design Advisory Group (DAG)

High Plains School is getting a building expansion! This expansion was approved by the Board of Education in the spring of 2020. As part of the design and review process, Design Advisory Groups (DAG) are organized at the school level. A DAG is composed of students, parents, staff, community members, custodians, and building leadership from High Plains. The DAG takes a 30,000 foot view through the lens of work done by architects, project managers, contractors, district facility representatives, and district leadership. Please take a look at this [graphic](#) to understand connections between the DAG and these groups.

We are looking for 8-12 High Plains School representatives from the aforementioned categories to comprise the DAG. This is a commitment of approximately 5 monthly meetings, lasting between 1-2 hours each, beginning in February 2021. DAG members must be able to commit to all meetings. If interested in DAG membership, please complete this [form](#) by January 15, 2021.
**Advisory Committee**

HPS will hold our 3rd SAAC meeting (virtual) on February 16th at 5:15pm. The last meeting date is May 4th. All meetings will be via Google meet, unless otherwise communicated. Please take a moment to share with us topics you may like to hear about and/or discuss at the remaining meetings: [HPS School Accountability Advisory Committee (SAAC)](#)

Jenny Webb is our School Accountability Advisory Committee chairperson, and can be reached at jennysue@gmail.com. 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.

**Bison Cares**

Last February Janelle Joers, HPS MS ELA teacher, wrote a grant to the Loveland Rotary to develop a group titled, Bison Cares. The grant was approved and now we are organizing this group in an effort to support students in our Bison community. This message is to alert families and students to this funding source. Additional information will be forthcoming.

The purpose of the Bison Cares Fund is to provide financial support to assist students who cannot afford the fees and associated costs of curricular and co-curricular activities. Even though some students’ families may be able to afford an initial fee, they may not be able to afford the incidentals. For example, a student who makes the basketball team may be able to pay the athletic fee, but not afford the shoes or be able to provide the snacks when it’s his or her family’s turn (as many teams request). Other examples include instrument rental, performance clothing for choral or band events, or the full cost of a yearbook, so students can participate in the end of year yearbook signing event.

The Bison Cares Fund is intended as a last resort to fill gaps or shortfalls when other funding sources can’t meet the full need of the opportunity. Individual students and/or a family member must complete and submit an application to request assistance. The review process is confidential. The opportunities must be Thompson School District and/or High Plains School approved or sponsored and can be curricular or extracurricular.

If you wish, you can donate to the Bison Cares Fund. Send checks to High Plains School, 4255 Buffalo Mountain Drive, Loveland, CO 80538.
5210 Challenge

Save the Date for the 5210+ Challenge—Starting February 1, 2021!
This year, the Challenge will be virtual. Click here to view an informational video from the 2020 Challenge. More information to come as we get closer!

Crossing Guard

Are you looking for an opportunity to support High Plains School? We need a Mon. and Fri. morning (8am-8:20am) and an afternoon (3:30-3:45pm) volunteer crossing guard. Training is virtual and easy! Please contact Mrs. Feeney, danielle.feeney@thompsonschools.org for details and to schedule your time.

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

The YMCA offers after school care on site at HPS. Please check out the YMCA link on our HPS website under resources for details. Scholarships and waivers are available through the YMCA. Please contact them directly.
Yearbook STILL NEEDS YOU!

Families and Students,

Thank you all for sending in photos for the Yearbook! We are slowly filling pages with great memories! Please do not stop now. We need more. While school athletics is in limbo we are coming up with alternative ideas to make sure this unprecedented year has true representation of how STRONG the BISON Community is. WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP to make this Yearbook one you won’t want to be without!

We have decided to capture and include the following topics. Please take time to share your pictures with us using the links below.

- **Pets** - Share your pet stories and pictures with us!
- **Who Lifts You Up** - Who is your biggest fan? What is the best advice you ever received?
- **Covid** - Share your COVID experiences with us.
- **Distance Learning** - Share a picture of your home workspace? How was Distance Learning for you?
- **Interacting with Others** - How have you stayed connected during Social Distancing?
- **Volunteer Work Outside of School** - Share your Volunteering experiences with us!
- **Winter** - What do you like to do in the winter?
- **All About Me** - What are you grateful for? What motivates or inspires you? What is a life lesson you have learned?
- **Let’s Eat** - Eating, cooking, baking or delivery? What is your favorite? What is your weird food preference?
- **Fine Arts** - How do you express your creative self? Art, drama, dance... share your masterpiece.
- **Sports Rituals** - What are your sports/competitive superstitions?
- **Out of School Sports** - What types of sports activities out of school do you participate in?
- **Sports Fun Facts** - Tell us more about your sports activities, gear, injuries and accomplishments!
Yearbook Needs YOU! continued...

Sharing pictures is just the beginning. We also need your help SPREADING THE WORD! Encourage your neighbors, classmates and friends to share their memories. We NEED all members of the BISON Community in our Yearbook.

If you have any trouble uploading pictures on the Google Forms, email the pictures directly to me, lindy.jones@thompsonschools.org. Please be sure to include a short description of the events that led to the pictures along with the student’s name(s) and grade(s).

It’s Not Too Late to Order a Yearbook!

This is going to be a Yearbook you don’t want to miss! You can still order a Yearbook for your student! Go to www.jostensyearbooks.com.

Thank you for helping make this an even more memorable 2020-2021 school year!

Mrs. Jones and the Bison Yearbook Staff
Bullying Prevention & Education Grant (BPEG)

High Plains is excited to continue our participation in the state Bullying Prevention & Education (BPEG) through 2022! This competitive grant provides us with evidenced based bullying prevention and educational strategies and opportunities for students, staff, and family engagement. An annual anonymous student perception survey will be given to students each year for student grades 3 and up to monitor prevention efforts and make decisions to continue to make High Plains a great school where all students feel safe and welcome. The survey requires parent permission: please click on the link to sign permission for your child to participate in the survey. (If your child is a returning 4th-8th grader, and you have already completed this permission form, you do not need to complete it again:

All 3rd Grade Families MUST fill out this form:
Student Survey Permission Form - CLICK HERE

Niki Van Essen, M.Ed
Bullying Prevention Implementation Coordinator
Thompson School District
Google Voice: 970-460-6491
(970) 613-5780

She/Her/Hers -Why Pronouns?

News from the Health Office

Hello all! Thank you all for your cooperation with the new health standards! Our students did a wonderful job wearing those masks and washing hands! Just a reminder to send an extra mask in your student’s backpack in case one gets soiled or lost. Also, because they are such great handwashers, please know that they can bring their own hand lotion as long as they do not share with other students. I know this is a confusing time so please don’t hesitate to reach out to me with any questions at 970-679-9808. Thank you from Mrs. Q
News from the Library

Just Twenty Minutes a Day

Reading for enjoyment increases language development and academic performance; even more, it offers a sense of connection and a deeper understanding of other people, places, and ideas. Just 20 minutes of reading each day can make a tremendous difference over time (see the Scholastic infographic below). As we build positive habits and begin a new year, remember the wealth 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 email 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.

Another great source for ebooks is available due to the district’s partnership with the Loveland Public Library. The Student Success Library Initiative ensures that all of our students, K-8, have access to LPL resources--including ebooks, audiobooks, and databases--by simply using their name and their 6-digit TSD student ID number (password without the lead characters). For more information and answers to FAQs, visit https://lovelandpubliclibrary.org/TSDstudents/