Message from the Principal

March and early April will be filled with many events so please continue to read the remainder of the newsletter for news on CMAS (State Standardized Testing for grades 3rd-8th) and other important information. Please also check the school’s website and calendar for important dates, as well as the HPS Facebook page. For school specific expectations please check out the Parent-Student Handbook on the school’s website. Don’t forget Daylight Savings Time ends March 8th. Spring forward!

“When you’re curious, you find lots of interesting things to do.” -- Walt Disney

See you in the morning!

Sincerely,
Danielle Feeney
Principal, High Plains School
CMAS

The week of March 30th-April 3rd third through eighth grade HPS students will participate in Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) for English Language Arts and Mathematics. The week of April 6th-10th fifth and eighth grade HPS students will participate in CMAS tests for Science. Please avoid scheduling appointments or taking students out during this window. A specific testing schedule for both CMAS windows will be communicated via email and on our website page. To learn more about CMAS please go to https://www.thompsonschools.org/Page/20134

Thompson School District is in the business of educating students. We are preparing our students to have the knowledge and skills for their future college and career choices. The results from the CMAS assessments provide:

- Valuable information about student achievement toward grade level expectations
- Evidence of student growth from one school year to the next
- Evidence of the skills and competencies necessary for college and career readiness

The results of the assessment are utilized by the Thompson community in the following ways:

- Students and parents can identify areas of strength and improvement
- Schools use the results to assist in accelerated/intervention course placement
- Teachers make decisions to better support individual students during instruction

District-level administration utilizes the results to determine the effectiveness of curriculum and instructional practices which support decisions that are made with regard to professional development and the use of resources.
Pandemic Plan

Thompson School District Pandemic Plan Summary/Parents,

The Thompson School District has worked with the Larimer County Health Department, the Colorado Department of Health and other area school districts to devise plans for a pandemic flu using guidelines set forth by the Center for Disease Control. This is a parent/student summary of the district’s larger report that also addresses staffing and other internal issues during a pandemic that causes school or building closures. A Pandemic Flu Task Force was initiated at Thompson School District to create a plan for addressing possible outbreaks. This plan’s actions intend to:

a. Prevent or minimize the spread of illness through the use of education, information and if necessary, closure

b. Preserve continuity of essential school functions

c. Minimize educational and social disruption

d. Minimize academic and economic losses

Definitions and Findings

• A pandemic is a public health emergency that happens when an animal flu virus changes so that it affects and spreads easily among people.

• The course of pandemic influenza will be governed by factors that cannot be known in advance.

• Planning is an essential component of pandemic influenza preparedness.

• Experts anticipate that an influenza pandemic could last from 18 months to several years, with at least two peak waves of activity. In an affected community, an outbreak could last from three to eight weeks. Following the pandemic, the new viral subtype is likely to continue circulating and contribute to seasonal influenza.

• No one will be immune to the pandemic influenza subtype.

• Vaccinations and antiviral treatment are anticipated to be the most effective medical treatments, but they may be nonexistent or in limited supply.

• Risk groups for severe and fatal infections cannot be predicted with certainty.

• The typical incubation period for respiratory influenza averages two days.

• Non-medical containment measures based on current epidemiological knowledge of influenza will be the principal means of disease control until

continued on next page
Pandemic Plan, continued...

Vaccinations are available, but decisions about non-medical containment measures will be made in an atmosphere of considerable uncertainty and as directed by The Center for Disease Control and state and local health departments.

- Availability of utilities and access to technology, including the Internet is unknown.
- The seasonality of a pandemic cannot be predicted with certainty. The largest “waves” in the U.S. during 20th century pandemics occurred in the fall and winter.

District Prevention Strategies and Processes

Given the information above, district staff and parents cannot prevent a flu outbreak, but steps are being taken to minimize the spread.

1. Before the Pandemic:

- Planning: Establish a leadership team (Pandemic Flu Taskforce), identify essential staff functions, review district policies, and plan for communication.

- Education and Prevention: Introduce an educational campaign for students and staff on the importance of hand washing to help keep from getting sick and spreading illness. This could include signs posted at the schools, morning announcements, newsletter articles, and in-service training to students and staff on ways to help keep from spreading illness (hand washing, coughing/sneezing into your elbow, etc.) to support the campaign.

continued on next page
Pandemic Plan, continued...

2. During the Pandemic:

- Surveillance: The coordinator for student health services maintains direct communication with state and local health departments regarding the progression of illness in the community, district, and surrounding areas. Health services staff will monitor employees and students for influenza-like symptoms and follow public health reporting guidelines for illness and absenteeism.

- Communicate: Health services staff will provide continuous education and support regarding hand washing, incubation periods, contagious periods and transmission routes, prevention strategies for influenza as well as other contagious illnesses; provide up to date cleaning recommendations; and provide information for classrooms, gyms and locker rooms, kitchens and custodial areas, as well as ensure an adequate stock of needed supplies.

The district will issue statements from school/health department with instructions on identifying symptoms, how to care for the sick, and how long the sick should stay home before returning to school. Flu updates will be included in school newsletters, the Infinite Campus parent portal, the district Web site at www.thompsonschools.org and in more pressing circumstances, sent home through students.

- Transportation Services: Provides routine cleaning for all buses (this influenza does not require any new or additional cleaning procedures).

- Custodial Services: Custodians typically step up the cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting of commonly touched surfaces (phones, door handles, desks, & water fountains) during flu season. They work in conjunction with the Information/Technology department to determine what steps can be taken to reduce the spread of germs from computer use in lab settings.

- Food Services: This area is already subject to rigorous cleanliness standards imposed by the health department.

However, common areas in the lunchrooms need to be sanitized, specifically, silverware and salad bars. Use menus to promote healthy eating habits.

- Hand washing/hand sanitizer: Hand washing is the single most-effective method of preventing illness. The use of hand sanitizer is not an appropriate substitute for hand washing with soap and warm water. Hand sanitizer does not remove dirt or kill germs in dirt. Because hand sanitizer does kill viruses, students and staff may bring hand sanitizer or sanitizing wipes for personal use but may not share these items with anyone else. The district does not supply hand sanitizer.
**Pandemic Plan, continued...**

- Respiratory etiquette and precautions: Students and staff members who present at school with fever and symptoms of influenza may be separated from other students and staff or given a mask to wear until they can leave school grounds. Additionally, much of the education about influenza prevention has focused on the need to cover noses and mouths with tissues when sneezing or coughing (or into the elbow or shirt sleeve when a tissue is not handy).

**o Current health department recommendations:**

- Parents are asked to answer these questions each morning before sending your child to school:

  1. Does your child have a fever (100° F)?

  2. Does your child have a sore throat, cough, runny nose, body aches, vomiting, or diarrhea?

- If you answered “yes” to both questions above, your child might have the flu. Keep your child home from school until fever or symptoms of fever are gone for 24 hours (without the aid of medications like Ibuprofen or Tylenol or products containing these).

- If you answered “yes” to only one question above, keep your child home from school until symptoms are gone for 24 hours.

Absences: Parents of students who miss school for an extended period should work with the principal and teachers at their school to provide homework and assignments for the absent student. Parents of students with health concerns should consult with their physicians regarding recommendations for attendance, flu shots, and antiviral medications. These cases will be handled on an individual basis. Currently, there is no recommendation that healthy students avoid public places.

**3. After the Pandemic:**

- Recovery: Continue to monitor for illness, establish a “return to learning” program to get students back on track, and provide counseling to students or staff as needed.

- Management: Conduct a debriefing, assess lessons learned and damage assessment, and update plan with any new information. Transition back to the prevention and preparedness phase.
Art

Hello from the art room!

The Thompson School District art show will be held at the Administration building from March 6-April 20. The following students will have their artwork on display at the show:


Congratulations!

The opening reception for artists and their families will be March 6th from 4:30-6:30pm at the Thompson School District Administration building.

Bison Sports Information
March 2020

Upcoming:

3/2 - Track and Field practice begins @ MVHS 5:45pm-7:15pm
- All paperwork and payments for track must be turned in by the end of school on 3/2/20
- 3/26 - Home Track Meet @ LHS 4:30pm **rescheduled from 3/25/20 due to LHS conflict** - please contact Coach B if you can volunteer

- 4/1 - Track @ Windsor HS 3:30pm
- 4/8 - Home Track Meet @ MVHS 4:30pm - Please contact Coach B if you can volunteer
- 4/15 - Track @ Bill Reed 4:30pm
- 4/22 - Home Track Meet @ MVHS 4:30pm - please contact Coach B if you can volunteer
- 4/28 - 6th grade NCAC championship meet @ Windsor HS 3:30pm
- 4/29 - JV NCAC championship meet @ Turner MS 4:30pm
- 5/5 - NCAC Varsity Championship Meet Day 1 @ Berthoud HS 4:30pm
- 5/7 - NCAC Varsity Championship Meet Day 2 @ Berthoud HS 4:30pm
High Plains Middle School Awarded $750 Grant from the Rotary Club of Loveland

High Plains Middle School recently applied for and received The Four-Way Test Grant of $750 from the Rotary Club of Loveland to promote positive personal behaviors in middle school students. These behaviors are identified in the Four Way Test, the foundational statement of values of Rotary International. They include truthfulness, fairness, inclusiveness, friendliness, kindness, compassion and generosity. High Plains Middle School will use these funds to start a student-run Kindness Club.

Talent show

It’s that time of year again when we start preparing for the Annual HPS Talent Show.

Do you have a special talent? Can you sing, dance, play a musical instrument, tell jokes, jump rope, draw, or something else?

Well, start practicing as we will have tryouts the week after March Break. Watch the Drama bulletin board in the breezeway for dates and times for the tryouts.

If you have any questions, please contact Nanci LaBianca at nanci.labianca@thompsonschools.org
Play It Forward

The Music Department at High Plains School has a thriving Band program, and we are always looking for donations! We currently have four Band ensembles with almost one hundred 5th-8th grade students involved, and we plan to grow our ensembles in the future. In order to set students up for success, we are in need of any musical instruments and general Band supplies for students who can not afford or obtain the materials needed to be in Band. Donations are immediately put to use, and **HPS will pay for any repair necessary to make the instrument functional**. Plus, when you donate to a school it can be a tax deduction.

Instrument donations are extremely helpful, but there are some other items that can help our program function. Below is a list of some common materials needs for Band students:

- Folding music stands
- Instrument maintenance kits and cleaning swabs
- Tradition of Excellence Book 1 (for any instrument)
- Reeds (Clarinet & Saxophone - any brand/size is welcome)
- Dawn dish soap, cleaning brushes, Clorox wipes, toothbrushes

If you do not see something in the list above, or have any questions regarding donations to the HPS music program, please inquire with Shawna Lemons (HPS band director). Please drop off instruments or supplies to the main office, along with your information.

**Thank you for supporting the arts in our school and community!**

Shawna Lemons
970.679.9817 (desk phone)
HPSmusic.com • Follow @_hpsmusic
shawna.lemons@thompsonschools.org
News from the Library

A Book Fair “Thank you!”

Thank you to everyone who came to the Scholastic Book Fair! Students loved getting to visit the fair and are looking forward to reading all the new books; additionally, all of the funds that our community raised go to support student literacy and the High Plains School library. We deeply appreciate everyone’s support.

High Plains School Ebooks: At Your Fingertips!

Students at High Plains are fortunate to have a wealth of digital resources at their fingertips.

Thousands of ebooks for all ages can be accessed by following these five easy steps:

1. Visit our school's website (highplainsschool.org).
2. Select “Library” under the “Resources” tab.
3. Either click on the Destiny (HPS books) icon or select Sora (OverDrive--TSD books) from the menu; for each, students simply log in using their district user name and password. Books can be read through a browser or on any device using the free OverDrive or Sora apps.
4. Have fun browsing and selecting, and happy reading!
**Words from Wardlow**

Here is the next edition of The ABC’s to Success at HPS R is for Resilience, S is for Safety, and T is for Technology.

**R is for Resilience.** Having an understanding that you can overcome a challenge and are worthy shows resilience. In order to tackle obstacles, along with perseverance and grit, is resilience. During formative years, childhood and adolescence, a human's internal ideas and habits are forming. The events and experiences we encounter have an impact on who we are and who we will become. Resilience was once thought of as a trait developed in adulthood. However, it has been recognized as something that is learned and must be nurtured over time. At HPS we teach resilience in many ways. It is taught through the Second Step curriculum, during PBL (Problem Based Learning) experiences, and in all school settings (classroom, cafe, playground, specials, sports). Researchers Cahill, Beadle, Farrelly, Forster, & Smith (2014) found that there are many factors of resilience. Resilience can be seen as a combination of: social competence and pro-social values, optimism, purpose, attachment to family, to school, and learning, problem-solving skills, effective coping skills, and positive self-image.

Resilience is the ability to build positive relationships with peers, handle small challenges, and trust in yourself, your abilities.

**S is for Safety** School safety is a passion of mine. I was a classroom teacher for 18 year and every year “my kids” were my priority. The well being of every single student was my number one goal. Safety is not just about being protected from physical harm. It is the feeling of belonging, the ability to be vulnerable, make mistakes, and know you are protected. It is taking a risk academically and realizing success or failure, you are safe. Of course physical safety is at the forefront of safety conversations due to the world we live in. At HPS we take safety and security very seriously and all staff members work to provide a safe, nurturing, and inclusive learning environment. Mr.Evan (our campus monitor) is diligent in ensuring our building is secure at all times. Ms.Lisa takes pride in keeping our school safe from hazards such as ice on the playground, or spills inside. Mrs.Feeney keeps us safe through ongoing drills that are critical to keeping us prepared in the event we face the threat of harm. Our incredible HPS staff creates a safe place for students to charge through failures and stampede through challenges. Mrs.Case provides a safe place for students to share feelings and struggles. A safe learning environment is an effective learning environment.
Words from Wardlow, continued...

**T is for Technology** We are educating digital natives. The children of today (and some of you reading this) do not know a world without cell phones, microwaves, cable TV, social media, and much more. They likely don’t know what a cassette tape is, don’t read the comics in the newspaper, can’t figure out a rotary phone, and have never heard an analog alarm clock. Technology affords us so many opportunities. In the immortal words of Spiderman’s Uncle Ben, “With great power comes great responsibility.” It is indeed a great responsibility to educate students in a digital world. The access students have is immeasurable in comparison to access I had from the Encyclopedia Britannica. At HPS we teach digital citizenship. We have a system called Securly that monitors web searches. We meet with students who are accessing information that is irrelevant to classroom instruction. We have a tech coach in the building to support staff with technology issues and provides professional development to ensure we are using technology to enhance instruction, not replace it. This link will take you to tips for raising students in a digital age, [https://www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/Media/Pages/Tips-for-Parents-Digital-Age.aspx](https://www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/Media/Pages/Tips-for-Parents-Digital-Age.aspx).

**Parent-Student Handbook**

Stay in the know! Please check out the [HPS Parent/Student Handbook](#), especially pages 8-10 to learn about school parties, field trips cold & inclement weather, and other topics.

**Attendance Line**

970-679-9870

Please call the attendance line if you know your student will be absent from school or late to school. This number will connect you directly.
**Innovation Insites**

February was the month of Curiosity. Encouraging students to ask questions to learn about their world. I turned that around and asked the students to try new things, wonder and see what happens! They need time to tinker and ask: How can I make this happen? What happens if I try this? Does this work?

We started February with Candy Heart Challenges and Valentine’s Day activities. Thank you to all the families that helped me with providing Candy Hearts. We had more than enough and the students really enjoyed their activities. Please enjoy the pictures of their work.

Kindergartners learned that there are so many more things we can do with Candy Hearts besides eat them! We sorted them, counted them, stacked them, built walls and made letters and shapes. We also worked on collaboration in pairs or small groups of three to stack cups into heart shaped towers. Look at how proud they are with their towers!

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1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th graders had a choice of activities. We made Candy Heart Dispensers, Candy Heart Tower Challenges, Valentine Carriers, and Heart shaped Cup Towers, and Binary Code Bracelets. Candy Heart Dispensers was definitely a favorite and there were a lot of very creative and innovative designs.

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4th Graders also had a special visit from HP Programmers and Engineers to extend January's Hour of Code. HP brought in mBots and Laptops and challenged the 4th graders to program various challenges. This was a lot of fun and the students represented High Plains Bison Pride and Heart.

The last couple of weeks students were introduced to some new coding materials: Makey Makey, Dash Robot and Ozobot. As the students are learning how to use them and transfer their coding skills learned in Code.org, they will be challenged to come up with ways these materials can help them present their upcoming PBLs. Students are really enjoying the new materials and are showing great interest. Below are links to websites for more information on the new devices.

**Makey Makey** - Makey Makey is a circuit board that connects to a computer and uses basic electronics. Everyday items can then become an extension of the keyboard. [https://makeymakey.com/](https://makeymakey.com/)

**Dash** - Dash is a robot with sensors, lights, and wheels that can be programmed with Apple iOS, Android, Kindle and Chromebook. Dash is perfect for younger grades K-2. [https://www.makewonder.com/robots/dash/](https://www.makewonder.com/robots/dash/)

**Ozobot Evo** - Ozobot Evo is a robot that can be programmed two ways, color coded markers and with computer software. The software is easy and has 5 levels to grow with your learner. [https://shop.ozobot.com/?_ga=2.117149381.236117101.1582602544-293936451.1582320141](https://shop.ozobot.com/?_ga=2.117149381.236117101.1582602544-293936451.1582320141)

**Scratch** - Scratch is a free website where students can create their own stories, games and creations. It is compatible with Makey Makey. [https://scratch.mit.edu/](https://scratch.mit.edu/)

Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Lindy Jones
Innovation Specialist
Phone: (970) 679-9838
E-mail: lindy.jones@thompsonschools.org
Website: [https://www.thompsonschools.org/Domain/6834](https://www.thompsonschools.org/Domain/6834)
Grade levels: Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th; Middle School TED 2 and STEAM Electives
Join us for the Second Annual

OPERATION: HPS Health & Wellness

When:
April 29, 2020
5 - 7 p.m.

Where:
High Plains School

Who: All HPS Families

Why: Learn about and participate in activities to help you be the best you!

Admission is Free!
Enter to win door prizes!

Cosmic Yoga
Healthy Hearts
Self-care station
Free prizes
Climbing Wall
Smoothie Bike
Gardening
LHS Catering
100 Mile Club
Loveland Athletics
Social Media Health

SPIRITUAL
EMOTIONAL
FINANCIAL
INTELLECTUAL
ENVIRONMENTAL
PHYSICAL
SOCIAL
VOCATIONAL