Welcome back! We hope each of you had a restful and enjoyable Thanksgiving break! The next few weeks will be full and fast! The weather is definitely getting colder, so be sure your child comes to school with the appropriate layers. Please check out page 9 of the Parent/Student Handbook on the HPS website for Cold/Inclement Weather parameters.

Our Student Ambassadors held a canned food drive to support Philo of Loveland and Larimer County Food Bank. Our goal was 1,500 items. With student, parent, and staff support we collected over 2,000 items! In addition to the canned food drive, High Plains is accepting new pajamas to give to the Olson’s Pajama Project in memory of Sharon Olson. Please find detailed information about the Pajama Project at [http://www.olsonspajamas.com/](http://www.olsonspajamas.com/)

Please continue reading our December newsletter to see all of the events and activities planned for this month, 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! We wish each of you a joyous holiday season!

See you in the morning!

Sincerely,
Danielle Feeney
Principal, High Plains School
Lost and Found

The cold weather is upon us which means that our lost and found will start filling up with gloves, mittens, hats, jackets and many, many other items. Per our Parent/Student handbook lost and found items are donated to charity at the end of each month. Please check our clothes rack and buckets frequently for any items that your child(ren) may have misplaced.

Parent/Student Handbook, Page 9, Section Lost and Found
“Items that are found on school grounds are placed in the lost and found located outside the main office. Small items such as jewelry, glasses, etc. may be claimed in the office. At the end of each month, all lost and found items are donated to local charities.”

Pre-Arranged Absences

The holidays have arrived and family vacations are getting underway. If your child(ren) will be absent for two or more consecutive days a prearranged absence form for should be completed at least two weeks prior to the absence. Pre-arranged absence forms can be picked up from the school office during regular school hours.

Parent/Student Handbook, Page 3, Section Attendance, Paragraph 2
“A prearranged absence form should be completed, at least two weeks prior to the absence, when a family knows in advance that the students will be absent for two or more consecutive days that do not fall within the Thompson School District Attendance policy.”
Olson’s Pajama Project

The Olson’s Pajama Project has become an annual favorite in Loveland and Berthoud schools. It’s held in honor of the late Sharon Olson, local education legend. Her vision was to see that all kids in in our community have warm PJs and a great nights sleep during the winter. With the help of Thompson Schools and countless volunteers, parents and other citizens of this community, her project has become a huge success. Sharon loved these kids and her spirit lives on each winter.

Donation boxes will be located in the office of every Thompson School District elementary school, and the project requests that donated pajamas be in sizes suited for elementary-age children. The school that collects the most wearable pajamas will be the first to receive the traveling Olson Trophy.

We encourage parents and their children to get involved with this cause. Students need experience in service based learning projects and this is an authentic way for students to participate in something that has a positive impact on the community they live in. We have no idea what the Pajama Project will bring for the families in Loveland, but our hope is this endeavor will create a ripple effect and students will begin to serve others in this community in ways we have never imagined.

If a family would like to request a pair of pajamas, they may visit the project website at olsonspajamas.com, download a copy of the attach document and drop off it off at the school office, or call 970-203-5561. All requests will remain anonymous.

Thank you for helping families within our community.
Spanish and Chessmates

After school Spanish and Chessmates will be starting up again in late January. Please check the HPS website under activities for details.

News From The Library

Ebooks: Great Reading for the Holidays!

Reading outside of school can entertain, inspire, help sharpen skills, and build background knowledge. As we head into the holiday season and an upcoming break from school, 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!
**Hour of Code**

We live in a world surrounded by technology. And we know that whatever field our students choose to go into as adults, their ability to succeed will increasingly hinge on understanding how technology works. Right now only a tiny fraction of people are learning computer science, and fewer students are studying it than a decade ago. There are many jobs left untouched that use computer science. We want to change this.

High Plains School will join in on the largest learning event in history: Hour of Code, during Computer Science Education Week (Dec. 4-10). More than 100 million students worldwide will be doing Hour of Code and your student will be a part of this. Kindergarten thru 8th will not only participate in the Hour of Code week, but will incorporate coding throughout the rest of the year into their technology class.

Our Hour of Code is a statement that High Plains School is ready to teach these foundational 21st century skills. We will continue to bring programming activities to your students. This is our chance to change the future for our students and the world.

See [Hour of Code](#) for details.
Drama Club News

Christmas is quickly approaching and the cast is getting excited about presenting their first play here at High Plains School.

“The Christmas Orange” is a story about a young girl who learns about the true meaning of the holidays when she tries to sue Santa Claus for not bringing her what she wanted for Christmas. It is a short half hour play that is imbedded with humor, yet carries the underlying meaning of family and giving to others throughout the three scenes.

“The Christmas Orange” will be presented Friday, December, 15 in the Bison Café starting at 7:00. We hope you can make our debut presentation for some laughter and Holiday Spirit.

DonorsChoose.org from Nanci L.

Some HPS teachers have found a great website that allows them to raise money for items they would like to have to help with their instruction, but that are not budgeted in the school’s budget. If you’d like to support a teacher, please check out DonorsChoose.org. This month Nanci LaBianca, our interventionist who works with students from K-8th to support their literacy is seeking donations for a divider to use when she is teaching small groups in some of our open areas. Please check out her link at Ms. LaBianca’s DonorsChoose.org
The middle school Give Next philanthropy class update:

**Our Mission Statement**

*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.*

**Thank You. Thank You. Thank You.**

A big thank you to all those who ordered Butter Braids. We exceeded our fundraising goal of $600 and made $804.80 to help people with disabilities. We couldn’t have done it without you.

**We’re Selling Christmas Ornaments**

Utilizing our school’s laser engraver/cutter, we have created Christmas ornaments. There are three designs to choose from and all can be personalized up to 10 letters. If interested, please contact Janelle Joers at Janelle.joers@thompsonschools.org, look for a flyer coming home with your child, or buy one at one of the upcoming school events (school play, concerts). Each ornament is $5, which will go to helping people with disabilities.

If you are ready to order, please include the following in an email to Janelle Joers:

- Name
- Child’s name
- Child’s grade and teacher (so we can deliver it)
- Ornament(s) requested and number of each
- Personalization (up to 10 letters); please know we will need payment prior to creating any ornaments with personalization.

Here are rough examples:

- Snowman w/ scarf
- Tree
- Bison-no name
- Bison – with name
High Plains School Spelling Bee

Tuesday, December 12th, 2017 8:00-10:30am in the cafeteria

Parents and guests are welcome to attend! Please check-in at the office upon arrival. Grades 1st-5th will begin at 8:00 am with grades 6th-8th to follow. The top 10 finalists in 1st-5th grade and the top 5 finalists in 6th-8th grade from our School Bee will be invited to participate in the Thompson School District Spelling Bee on Saturday, January 27th, 2018. This will take place at Thompson Valley High School and is an all-day event. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me! Happy Spelling!

Jessica Soulek
Spelling Bee Coordinator

Jessica.Soulek@thompsonschools.org

SAVE the DATE

December 12th  8:00am Spelling Bee
December 14th  Giving Tree presents due
December 15th  7:00pm Drama Club production of The Christmas Orange
December 19th  6:30pm 4th & 5th Grade Winter Program
December 22nd
January 7th  Winter Break
January 8th  Classes resume
January 15th  No School
January 16th  6:30pm PTCO Meeting
January 26th  6:30pm Bingo for Books
Bingo for Books:

- Mark your calendars!! On Friday, January 26th, from 6:30-7:30 pm, we will be having a family bingo night where you will have a chance to win gift cards for books!! This will be a FREE family night held in the school cafeteria and everyone is invited!! Look for more information to come next month!

In November the PTCO Funded Over $1,610 to Help Support Our School!! Items approved include:

- Holiday Books & Drama Props
- Laser Engraver supplies for our Middle-School Give Next students
- Technology Supplies for the Computer Lab
- Security Mirrors for the Library

We Appreciate Your Support!!

- Thank you to everyone who came out to Chipotle on Wednesday, November 15th. We raised $800!
- Our first annual Trunk-or-Treat was a huge success!! We had over 200 students in attendance and 17 trunks!! Congratulations to the Wallin family for winning “Best Trunk”!!
- Our final totals for the Bison Stampede are in and we raised just over $14,000 for our school. A special shout out to McKenna O. for raising the most money!! Thank you to everyone for your support!

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!
High Plains PTCO

What’s Up!

Amazon Smile

- 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
- Current Opportunities: 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! https://www.facebook.com/highplainsK8ptco/
- Have questions? Would like to volunteer? Shoot us an email! highplainsk8ptco@gmail.com
- Like us on Facebook 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.