Message from the Principal...

Happy New Year and welcome back! The classrooms and halls are once more filled with the sounds of learning. Second semester is under way and your child is half-way to their next grade level! There is a lot more to be learned and accomplished though.

January is a great time to reflect and set goals for the new year. Reflection and goal setting are things that come naturally to most adults, especially at the end of the year. Children should also be encouraged to reflect on the things they have learned and have done well. After reflection, encouraging your child to think about areas they wish to improve, and then making a plan is a good next step. When students learn to develop goals, they start down a path of empowerment and improvement. Their journey towards their goal(s) helps them stay focused, prioritize, and persevere.

So take the opportunity that the new year affords to hit the “refresh” button. As your child works towards their goal(s), I hope you too identify your part in helping them. If their 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.

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Message from the Principal continued

Please continue reading our January 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!

“Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any one thing.” -- Abraham Lincoln

See you in the morning!

Sincerely,

Danielle Feeney

SOS Parent Information Night

On January 17th from 6-7pm in the Bison Cafe, parents are welcome to attend a presentation from district personnel on SOS: Signs of Suicide. Parents will learn about the SOS curriculum implemented in Thompson School District’s middle and high school programs. Through the presentation parents will learn about risk factors and warning signs of youth suicide, as well as ways to talk with your child about suicide. For more information please contact Jessica Shiveley at jessica.shiveley@thompsonschools.org
**Kindergarten Tours**

Parents of incoming Kindergarten students are welcome to attend one of four tours scheduled for January 24th. The tours are an opportunity for parents of incoming Kindergarten students to tour the school and learn more about what their child will experience in Kindergarten. Tours are scheduled for 8:30am, 10am, 1:30pm, and 3:30pm. Please contact the office to schedule your tour. 

*This tour is for parents only, so please do not bring children. In late spring High Plains will offer a time for incoming Kindergarten students and parents to meet with Kindergarten teachers.*

**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.

**Spiritwear**

Thanks to the families that have participated in the Bison spirit wear fundraiser in December. Kosmo Screen Printing is donating $150 to the High Plains PTCO. Check out some spirit wear samples at the Bingo for Books event, January 26. Next order will be in February.
Student Perception Survey

This year we are administering a student perception survey (SPS). The questions in the survey will ask your child to give feedback about his or her teacher and learning experiences. The goal is for teachers to use student survey results to become even better teachers.

A permission slip is not needed; we simply want to keep you informed.

What This Means for Your Child and Other Students

Your child should know that his or her voice and classroom experiences matter. The student survey is a way for students to communicate their thoughts to teachers without any negative consequences. The survey results will be confidential. Teachers will not receive student names with their survey results.

Every student in the district will most likely take the survey at least once, and some students will take it more than once (for different teachers). While we want all teachers to receive feedback from their students, we are also trying to make sure that students are not completing multiple surveys when it’s not necessary.

What This Means to You as a Parent

We know that having a great teacher is the most important school-based factor in your child’s success. The student survey is one of many tools our school district can use to provide teachers with feedback to help them improve. Schools will be stronger and your child’s teachers will be better. Ultimately, your child’s learning will improve, too.

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Student Perception Survey continued

What This Means for Teachers and Schools

The purpose of the SPS is to provide educators with more feedback about how they can improve to increase student learning. Common practice in teacher evaluations is for principals to observe a teacher instructing a lesson and to provide him or her with feedback on strengths and weaknesses. While the principal’s feedback helps teachers improve their instruction, teachers can improve even more when given information from students who are in their classrooms every day.

The surveys are not designed to measure whether students like or dislike their teacher. Rather, the focus is on how teachers and the classroom environment help students learn.

How Can I Learn More?

Visit The Colorado Education Initiative website at www.coloradoedinitiative.org/studentsurvey to learn more about the SPS and to see the survey questions.

Technology

In January, during all technology classes at High Plains School, students reviewed and signed the district's updated Technology Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) agreement, a document that applies to all members of the Thompson School District community.

Periodically reviewing expectations and norms is a necessary practice in classrooms, and it's important that our families have the information they need in order to best support their students' success.

Beginning the 2018-19 school year, families will be required to electronically read and accept the AUP each academic year as a part of the Annual Family Update in August; if that window is missed, hard copies will be provided to families.

Because there have been some updates to the policy, we encourage you to read the linked AUP document and to contact Megan McGee (megan.mcgee@thompsonschools.org) or Nancy Payton (nancy.payton@thompsonschools.org) with any questions.

Click HERE for latest version of the “Student Acceptable Technology Use Policy and Agreement”.
Bully Prevention and Education

Please see the following flyer about an exciting and strategic Bully Prevention workshop for middle school students. Although the workshop is being organized by an outside agency, Intercultural Community Builders (ICB), Thompson School District has partnered with ICB on many occasions, and is proud to promote this strategic event. This is a wonderful leadership development opportunity for middle school students, and for any High Plains Bison interested in attending, the Bully Prevention program at HPS will cover the $45 registration fee. To register your child (for free!) and for more details, please e-mail Matt Hughes, Bully Prevention Coordinator, at matt.hughes@thompsonschools.org, or call: (970) 613-5788.

Help Stop the Bullying
Find Your Voice – Take a Stand
An Anti-Bullying Workshop for Middle School Students
February 3 and 4, 2018
8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. on Saturday; 12:30—4:30 p.m. on Sunday
At the First United Methodist Church, 1005 Stover, Fort Collins
For registration information, contact
Carol Miller, ICB Director, at 970-689-0226 or camill@frii.com
or go to the ICB Website at
www.interculturalcommunitybuilders.org

2017-18 Yearbooks

Happy New Years High Plains Bison families! We hope you are enjoying a wonderful start to you 2018. Yearbooks are a great way to remember our wonderful 2017-18 school year and we have every grade from early childhood to 8th grade in the yearbook. Our journalism staff has taken pictures of classes, the Bison Stampede, the eclipse, field trips, recess, sporting events, PBLs, middle school dance and other school events.

Buy your yearbook for your High Plains student(s) today! Go to the High Plains Website and click on the FAMILY and COMMUNITY tab, then select YEARBOOK from the drop down menu. When prompted, enter our school purchase code 14681.
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.


- A big thank you to all those who purchased an ornament. We made almost 100 ornaments and we’re in the process of counting up our sales.

Up Next:

- Organizations that assist people with disabilities have applied for our grant money. So, we will be reading over the grant applications and making some tough decisions over the next couple of months.
- SAVE THE DATE: Friday, May 11, 2018 in the evening – The Give Next class will be having our awards ceremony to award the monies. Make a plan to come!
Coach’s Corner

Hello HPS Families,
Happy New Year! Here are some important dates and reminders.

Middle School:

- Stay up to date with the HPS athletics website at http://highplainsathletics.weebly.com/
- Athletics fundraiser alert!
  - I have been in contact with Sweetheart City Racing since last year and I am pleased to announce that High Plains School has been invited to help provide volunteers for the Sweetheart classic road race.
  - We need to confirm 10 volunteers to supervise the race course and cheer along the runners in order to receive a donation from Sweetheart City Racing.
  - The race is on February 10th and is scheduled to start at 9:00am. See the website for more details https://sweetheartcityracing.com/sweetheart-classic/
  - There is a free kids race at 8:30am
  - Please contact me ASAP to let me know if you can volunteer reid.bauersfeld@thompsonschools.org
- Track and field practice will begin on Monday March 5th
  - You must have your TSD paperwork completed, the $50 fee paid, and a current physical to participate

Elementary:

- It is time for more youth basketball. 2nd and 3rd grade boys and girls, and 5th grade boys basketball is starting soon! Contact Dana Redford at COL for basketball coaching opportunities. Please contact them ASAP, as it is first come, first serve.
- The COL webtrac registration website is
  - https://webtrac.ci.loveland.co.us/wbwsc/webtrac.wsc/SPLASH.html
- 2nd and 3rd grade boys basketball - 1/16-3/3, practices Tu&Th 6:30pm-7:30pm
  - Registration code 132012-20
- 2nd and 3rd grade girls basketball - 1/16-3/3, practices Tu&Th 5:30pm-6:30pm
  - Registration code 132022-20
- 5th grade boys basketball - 1/16-3/3, practices Tu&Th 7:30pm-8:30pm
  - Registration code 132025-11

Coach B
Child Care Available During January Meeting!!!

- Our next PTCO meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 16th from 6:30-8:00 pm and we would love to have you there!! We will have child care provided by some of our middle school student ambassadors and agenda items will include finalizing our Bingo for Books night, voting on teacher funds requests, upcoming fundraisers and more!! Please come support our Bison and make your voice “Herd”!!

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!!

Box Top Competition:

- It’s Box Top Time!!! Do you like Ice Cream?? Do you like Soda?? Do you like Ice Cream Floats?? Yes??!! Then turn in your box tops between Monday, January 8th and Friday, January 19th and the Top 3 Classes to turn in the most box tops by January 19th will win an Ice Cream Float Party!! Here’s how it works:

  - Clip box tops from hundreds of your favorite brands, including Ziploc, Nestle, Pillsbury, Kleenex, Hefty, General Mills, Huggies and much more. For a complete list of participating products, visit the Box Tops website at www.boxtops4education.com
  
  - Please bundle box tops in a baggie, envelope or similar container and write your teacher’s name on the outside of the baggie/container. This will help to make sure that the correct class is credited.
  
  - Box Top bundles can be turned into your classroom teacher or placed in the box top collection bucket located in the office!!
  
  - Get friends and family involved by encouraging them to help save box tops too!

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High Plains PTCO

What’s Up!

Box Top Competition:

- Deadline: Friday, January 19th, 2018 is the last day to turn in your box tops to qualify for the ice cream float party. The winning class will be announced during morning announcements on Monday, January 22nd. Winners will get to choose the date to have their party. Thank you for supporting our school!!!

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

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! www.highplainsptco.org
- 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.
How Peacekeeper Circles Impact the Whole School

Teachers and students participate in classroom Peacekeeper Circles for 30 minutes each week. After the 5-session training period (which is now complete), teachers conduct weekly circles where every child has an opportunity to speak.

During circle the students are encouraged to share:

1. appreciation and gratitude
2. hurts and concerns
3. full-hearted apologies, to make amends — the basis for healing
4. and express the impact of second-hand joys and hurts

Having all grades learn Peacekeeper skills, the entire school forms an effective “culture of kindness and compassion” that is self-sustaining.

Using their Peacekeeping skills becomes the norm around the school.

Teachers who have used Peacekeeper report seeing students using Peacekeeper skills in their small-group projects and resolving their own conflicts on the playground. When children’s emotional needs are met, the learning environment is enhanced. Less classroom disruption and fewer problems between students means more time for teaching and learning. Ask your child how they use Peacekeeper skills inside and outside of class! Please encourage them to do so at home too. You received a booklet that might help your whole family use Peacekeeper together.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 15th</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 16th</td>
<td>PTCO Meeting 6:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 17th</td>
<td>SOS Parent Education Night (Gatekeeper Training)6:00pm</td>
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<td>January 24th</td>
<td>Girls Basketball at Power2Play 3:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 25th</td>
<td>Girls Basketball at Severance Middle School 3:30pm</td>
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<td>January 26th</td>
<td>Bingo for Books 6:30pm</td>
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<td>January 31st</td>
<td>Girls Basketball at Bill Reed Middle School 3:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 1st</td>
<td>Girls Basketball at Power2Play 3:30pm</td>
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<td>February 8th</td>
<td>Girls Basketball at Lucille Erwin Middle School 3:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 13th</td>
<td>PTCO Meeting 6:30pm</td>
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