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 bed time routine. No matter what their goal, your support will surely help them achieve it. Please join us on February 5th for a second PIE Night for other ideas to support your child. Read further for details!

continued on next page
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
Principal, High Plains School

Happy New Year!
Parent-Student Handbook

Stay in the know! Please check out the HPS Parent/Student Handbook, especially pages 5-7 to learn about home and school communications, as well as HPS’s PBIS and counseling services. There are a lot of field trips in second semester, so please check out page 9 for information on those fun, educational trips.

Reminder for Late Start Wednesday

Thank you families for doing a wonderful job remembering each Wednesday is a late start for schools throughout TSD. This time allows educators to collaborate in their planning and professional growth opportunities to better support students. Students may be dropped off on campus beginning at 9am on Wednesdays.

Parents are encouraged to take advantage of Base Camp offerings, as well as the Spanish and Chess offerings on Late Start Wednesday mornings. Please read further for more details on those offerings and how to register.

School Accountability Advisory Committee & PIE Night

Our School Accountability Advisory Committee, in coordination with HPS staff will be hosting a second PIE (Partners in Education) Night on February 5th. Some topics parents can explore during that time from 6pm-7:30pm include: preparing for a successful Student Led Conference, Second Step and Peace Keepers (social emotional learning programs), standards based grading, and parents accessing technology to support their child. Please RSVP at HPS February 5th PIE Night

PreK - 12 Colorado Teachers!

Apply for a Teachers and Technology Grant for the 2018 - 19 school year for your school

High Plains Elementary School

Grants range from $500 to $5000 and are available to full-time classroom teachers in public or private school. The CenturyLink Clarke M. Williams Foundation’s Teachers and Technology grants are designed to help fund projects that advance student success through the innovative use of technology in the classroom.

Click centurylink.com/teachersandtechnology

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Spanish and Chessmates

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

Kindergarten Tours

Parents of incoming Kindergarten students are welcome to attend one of three tours scheduled for January 11th, February 8th, and March 29th. 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 3:45pm. Please contact Kylie Boucha, registrar at 679-9802 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.
Student Perception Survey

In the month of January students in grades 3rd-5th will participate in 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.

continued on next page
Student Perception Survey
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.

High Plains School Spelling Bee Winners

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Spelling Bee this year! You took a risk and stampeded through challenges!

- Congratulations to the top 5 middle school students who are advancing to the District Spelling Bee on January 26th to represent High Plains School: Anderson H, Chloe K, Sean B, Maddie B and Aidan S.

- Congratulations to the top 11 elementary school students who are also advancing to the District Spelling Bee to represent High Plains School: Jay H, Jaiden J, Zoey H, Robert B, Nathaniel L, Natallia L, Sophie B, Rylee P, Reaghan E, Romi G, and Preston S.

Please congratulate the winners and encourage them to do well in the District Bee!!
Our Mission Statement

High Plains School’s Give Next class wants to help prevent child abuse and help support child welfare. With the generous funding from local community donors, we hope to promote child welfare and aim to stop child abuse with the support of local nonprofit organizations.

Ornaments

We have been very successful with ornament sales. They have been very fun for our Give Next class to make using a laser printer to put the design into the wood. They look very nice and we have raised ~$200 dollars so far.

Gift Wrapping

Another fun project we have been doing is gift wrapping. We have been gift wrapping for community service and for anyone around the school. It has been very fun and it was cool to see how to wrap them very nicely.
High Plains PTCO
What’s Up!

The PTCO Funded $5,815 to Help Support Our School!! Items approved include:

✓ Fieldtrips Throughout the School Year
✓ Middle School Competitions
✓ Kindness Initiative
✓ Professional Development for Music
✓ Headphones for Kindergarten Students
✓ Breakfast for PBL Panelists

Mark Your Calendar!!

✓ Box Top Competition – January 7th – 25th
✓ PTCO Meeting – January 15th at 6:30 pm
✓ Panera School Spirit Night – January 24th from 4:00-8:00 pm
✓ Bingo for Books – January 25th from 6:30-7:30 pm

We Appreciate Your Support

✓ Thank you to everyone who came out to Chick-fil-A for our Spirit Night on December 4th. We had a great turn out and raised $650 for our school!
✓ Thank you to everyone who participated in Kid’s Night Out at the Chilson on December 15th. We had 38 students from HP attend and we raised $156 for our school.

Box Top Competition

It’s Box Top Time!!! The Top 3 classes to turn in the most box tops between Monday, January 7th and Friday, January 25th will win a Hot Cocoa party!! Here is 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

continued on next page
High Plains PTCO
What’s Up!

✓ 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 receives the credit.

✓ 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!

✓ Deadline: Friday, January 25th, 2019 is the last day to turn in your box tops to qualify for the hot cocoa party. Winning classes will get to choose the date to have their party.

Thank you for supporting our school!!!

Bingo for Books:
On Friday, January 25th, 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 home!

Spirit Night at Panera’s in Loveland!!
Join us at Panera’s in Loveland on January 24th from 4:00-8:00 pm for some delicious food. Bring a flyer (hard copy or digital version) with you and Panera’s will donate a portion of the proceeds from your purchase to High Plains School. It’s a great way to combine great taste and great fun - for a great cause. We hope to see you there!

Caps4Cash - Morning Fresh Dairy Products
✓ You can earn cash for our school by drinking milk or juice! Caps4Cash is a Morning Fresh Dairy program where High Plains School can earn cash by collecting caps from Morning Fresh Dairy bottles.

✓ Each bottle cap earns 5¢ for our school and all you have to do is save your bottle caps, bring them to school and drop them off in the collection bucket located in the office!

✓ We can earn even more money by getting our friends and family involved! Ask them to save Morning Fresh bottle caps for our school too!

continued on next page
High Plains PTCO
What’s Up!

King Soopers Gift Card fundraiser

✓ Sign up online to get your card
✓ Simply load your card before purchasing groceries or gas
✓ 5% of your everything you spend will benefit the High Plains PTCO
✓ Get more details and sign up at www.highplainsptco.org/fundraising

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 www.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.
High Plains School
Box Tops for Education
School-Wide Competition

The Top 3 classes to collect the most box tops by Friday, January 25th will win a hot chocolate party!!
Start clipping today and save money for our school!!!!

Here’s How:
✓ 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 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.

✓ Get friends and family involved by encouraging them to help save box tops too!

✓ Deadline: Friday, January 25th, 2018 is the last day to turn in your box tops to qualify for the hot chocolate party. The three winning classes will be announced during morning announcements. Winners will get to choose the date to have their party.

Box tops are redeemed for cash which will be used for educational items, programs and events sponsored by the High Plains Parent Teacher Community Organization.
Yearbook

High Plains School is proud to offer a hardcover yearbook that includes Early Childhood through 8th grade. We are covering all sorts of activities and are excited to offer a 64-page full-color book for only $35. You can purchase the book online anytime you wish. Please go to JostensYearbooks.com

If you have any questions or would like to pay by check, please email Mark.Kubichek@ThompsonSchools.org

You will only receive an advertising email from Jostes in late January if you have NOT yet purchased a yearbook for this school year.

Thanks, Mark Kubichek, Yearbook Advisor

Music

January 22 [Tuesday] all day trip - HPS Middle School field trip - Colorado Symphony Orchestra @ Boettcher Concert Hall

Myth & Legend

Explore the world of Myth and Legend with your Colorado Symphony at the 2018/19 student concerts at Boettcher Concert Hall. Students will hear and consider the source material for symphonic music by composers inspired by ancient tales from multiple cultures. Advance classroom study will be supported by Colorado State Music Standards and Common Core aligned materials featuring this program’s repertoire (stated below).

- **BEETHOVEN** Overture to *The Creatures of Prometheus*
- **GRIEG** ‘In the Hall of the Mountain King’ from *Peer Gynt*
- **WAGNER** *Ride of the Valkyries*
- **HOLST** ‘Mercury’ from *The Planets*
- **HOLST** ‘Mars’ from *The Planets*
- **TRADITIONAL** La Llorona
- **STRAVINSKY** Berceuse and Finale, from *The Firebird*

continued on next page
Music

January 29 [Tuesday] 1 pm - TSD 4th Grade Field Trip to see FACE @ TVHS Auditorium

THOMPSON SCHOOL DISTRICT HAS AGAIN BOOKED THE GROUP "FACE" TO PERFORM FOR OUR STUDENTS. HERE'S A LITTLE INFO ABOUT THE GROUP.

FACE IS AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED ALL-VOCAL ROCK BAND FROM BOULDER, COLORADO WHO HAVE BEEN CAPTIVATING AUDIENCES FOR OVER A DECADE WITH THEIR INFECTIOUS ENERGY PUNCTUATED BY AN ENDEARING LOVE OF PERFORMANCE. “BLENDING MODERN POPULAR TUNES WITH COMPLEX HARMONIES, BRILLIANT BEAT-BOX RHYTHMS AND SUPERB SINGING...FACE TAKE THEIR AUDIENCE ON A MUSICAL JOURNEY AND IT’S FANTASTIC FUN.” (FRINGEREVIEW.CO.UK) PERFORMING OVER 100 SHOWS YEAR AROUND THE WORLD, THE BAND HAS ALSO COMPETED ON THE HIT NBC SERIES “THE SING-OFF,” HEADLINED AT EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND’S PRESTIGIOUS FESTIVAL FRINGE, AND HAS BEEN SCHEDULED IN FRONT OF LEGENDARY PERFORMERS SUCH AS JON BON JOVI, JAY LENO, MANHATTAN TRANSFER, CULTURE CLUB & BOY GEORGE, AND BARENAKED LADIES.

UPCOMING IN FEBRUARY...

- February 7 [Thursday] all day event; concert at 7:00pm - TSD 6th Grade Choir Festival @ MVHS/TVHS. All 6th Grade choir students will participate in this district festival. This ensemble is made up of all 6th grade students from our local middle schools. Those students chosen will practice on their own and rehearse several times together before their concert on February 7th.

- February 8 [Friday] by midnight - TSD Honor Band Auditions are due. All 7th and 8th Grade band students are auditioning to see if they have what it takes to be in the TSD Honor Band. This ensemble is made up of the top musicians from local middle schools. Those students chosen will practice on their own and rehearse several times together before their concert on May 2nd.
News from the Library

Regular reading impacts a child’s success at school. If not addressed early the educational gap widens...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child A</th>
<th>Child B</th>
<th>Child C</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reads 20 minutes per day</td>
<td>Reads 5 minutes per day</td>
<td>Reads 1 minute per day</td>
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<tr>
<td>3,600 minutes per school year</td>
<td>900 minutes per school year</td>
<td>180 minutes per school year</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,800,000 words per school year</td>
<td>282,000 words per school year</td>
<td>8,000 words per school year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scores in the 90th percentile</td>
<td>Scores in the 50th percentile</td>
<td>Scores in the 10th percentile</td>
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Standardised Test Scores

By the end of grade 6, Child A will have read the equivalent of 60 school days, Child B will have read for 12 school days and Child C will have read for 3 days. Nagy and Herman, 1987.

continued on next page
News from the Library

It’s Easy to Read Ebooks at Home

Long winter nights are perfect for spending an evening at home with a good book. Students at High Plains are fortunate to have a wealth of digital resources at their fingertips. Thousands of 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 or borrow ebooks.
- Choose to log in using Google SSO if in district or by entering district credentials:
  - **Student user name**: student’s district username (if an email address is requested, simply add @thompsonschools.org to the username)
  - **Password**: student’s district password (student number preceded by three student-specific numbers/letters)  *(Note: You can find your child’s username and password on Parent Portal. Please contact Megan McGee at megan.mcgee@thompsonschools.org if you have any questions.)*
- Happy Reading!
Character Counts!

We are working hard at High Plains to support our students’ social-emotional learning. Managing emotions, resolving conflict, making decisions, and showing empathy are all part of our social-emotional development, and it takes time and practice to develop these skills. We have several things in place at High Plains to help support this area of development!

Bullying Prevention Education Grant

High Plains is one of three schools in Thompson School District to receive the Bullying Prevention Education Grant through the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). We are so lucky to be able to access programs and resources through this grant, including Second Step, Peace Circles, workshops and assemblies by Brandon Harrington, and training with CDE on Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS). We have been a part of this grant since 2017 and we have been approved for another round of the grant after this school year!

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce the new Bullying Prevention Implementation Coordinator that will begin working with High Plains in January to support our bullying prevention efforts through the grant: Niki VanEssen. We are so excited to have her join our team!

If you would like to learn more about the various programs and supports we have in place at High Plains aligned to bullying prevention, or would like more resources related to bullying prevention, check out our website: [https://www.thompsonschools.org/Page/17245](https://www.thompsonschools.org/Page/17245). Here you will find links to initiatives, resources, and community partners. In addition, you can find information about Thompson School District policies related to bullying, how to recognize bullying, and knowing when and how to report.

We have worked hard to help students know the differences between bullying, being mean, teasing, and rudeness. Parents and guardians are an integral part of our team! You can support this learning at home as well and help your students know how and when to advocate for themselves.

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Intentional</th>
<th>Power Grab</th>
<th>Repeated</th>
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<tr>
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<td>✓</td>
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<td>Mean</td>
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