Charging through failures, stampeding through challenges

Message from the Principal...

It is so wonderful to have children once again filling the halls, classrooms, and many nooks and crannies of the school with energy, excitement, and laughter. Students had a great first day viewing the solar eclipse and recently planting a fall crop in our community learning garden. There’s lots to do and learn!

Starting last year staff began exploring personalized learning. There isn’t one definition or method to personalized learning, but there are key components that when implemented, allow a student to adjust their pathway to learning that meets their unique needs and learning preferences. Three key components of personalized learning are having students create learner profiles, set individual goals, and conference and reflect with adults and peers regarding their progress towards goals. In the weeks leading up to October conferences students will be using these components to drive their learning and collect pieces of work that show their progress.

In October High Plains School will shift conferences from parent-teacher to student-parent with teacher facilitation. This shift to student led conferences supports students in owning their learning and truly understanding what they need to achieve and the methods and pathways to fulfilling their goals. Through student led conferences students practice life skills involving communication, organization, and leadership. They learn self reflection and evaluation skills that will not only support them in their K-12 studies, but throughout life as they identify goals for college, career, and life in general.

In the coming weeks staff will be developing the structure of our school’s student led conferences. Communications regarding student led conferences will be coming out in early October. In the meantime, please take a moment to review one resource on student led conferences, Student Led Conferences: Empowerment and Ownership.

Sincerely, Danielle Feeney, principal
Picture Day
Picture day is September 27th. Please check your K-5 child’s Thursday folder or middle school child’s homework folder for more details closer to the date.

Volunteer and Paid Crossing Guards
We are super excited to welcome Douglas Money as our volunteer crossing guard on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings! We would love to have more support on Monday and Friday and in the afternoons. If interested in volunteering, please contact Candie Joshi: candie.joshi@gmail.com. You can find paid positions at http://www.thompsonschools.org/page/2465; search for vacancies under transportation.

Recess Supervision
Are you looking for an opportunity to support High Plains while also enjoying our great Colorado weather and the school’s awesome views and playground? Lunch recess supervision is a great way to do just that! You can visit with your child, get to know the other children in our school, and be a role model and support for kids from kindergarten through eighth grade. Lunch recess happens every day between 10:35-12:30. Volunteers are welcome to do the entire two hours, an hour, every day, once a week, or any portion that works in your schedule. Please contact Mrs. Feeney, danielle.feeney@thompsonschools.org for details and to schedule your time. We also welcome lunch monitors too!
After School Activities

We are excited to offer Spanish classes after school on Mondays for 5th-8th and Wednesdays after school for K-4th at High Plains! Classes are fun and super effective - sign up today as class starts very soon! Open to all grades. Register at [www.sarahsspanishschool.com](http://www.sarahsspanishschool.com) under "programs".

Email [sarah@sarahsspanishschool.com](mailto:sarah@sarahsspanishschool.com) if you have any questions! Please also check out our other before and after school activities under the “Activities” tab on the High Plains website.

Spelling Bee

Students in grades 1st – 8th are invited to participate in our school’s spelling bee! There will be several practice sessions on Fridays after school October 20th – December 1st from 3:15pm-4:15pm (no meeting November 24th). If your child would like to attend these practices and/or participate in the bee, please print out the form found on page 8 and return to the school by October 2nd.
Student Ambassadors

Last school year High Plains created a Student Council that organized a food drive, developed two middle school dances, and created an assembly to teach our student body about what our character pillars (RESPECT) mean. The Student Council did a great job with these activities and we are super proud of them.

This school year we are looking to increase the involvement of our student body in activities that support our school’s bully prevention efforts, as well as community outreach. Student Council will shift to Student Ambassadors. Student Ambassadors will still work on fundraising and charitable efforts and dances, but they will also be tasked with developing a school wide approach to decreasing conflicts between students, welcoming new students, and helping with community tours of the school.

This shift in expectations requires students possess character traits in line with our school’s pillars (RESPECT), and that they are viewed by their peers and adults as someone who is dependable and trustworthy. In mid-September students will learn about the Student Ambassadors program, requirements, and process for becoming a nominated member. To become a member of Student Ambassadors students in grades 3rd-8th will nominate peers in those grades that they feel exemplify the character pillars of responsibility, empathy, safety, perseverance, empowerment, curiosity, and trustworthiness. Staff members will review nominations, in addition to possible interviews before making final selections. Student Ambassadors will hold their first meeting on October 5th, after school and will meet the first and third Thursdays of each month.

If you would like to know more about Student Ambassadors, or offer support, please contact Danielle Feeney @ danielle.feeney@thompsonschools.org, Arika Schlagel @ arika.schlagel@thompsonschools.org, or Danielle Burton @ danielle.burton@thompsonschools.org
Year 3 Of Standards-Based Reporting In Grades 1st-5th

Dear Elementary Families,

We are excited for a new school year and continuing our journey with Standards-Based Reporting. Standards-Based Reporting focuses on what a student knows and what they learn. We continue in our third year using Standards-Based Reporting in the area of math, for grades 1st through 5th and are happy to move forward with Standards-Based Reporting in English Language Arts (ELA) and work habits, which are reported separately from academics. *Please note that since kindergarten is utilizing TS GOLD, their progress reports will look different. Below is a brief overview of our progress scale. Teachers collect and score samples of student work that show their progress toward meeting grade level standards. This score is an indicator of where your child is, at that moment in time. This is a shift from previous years’ scoring which was measured against end of year expectations. The scoring shift is based off of feedback and our continuous efforts to create a seamless Early Childhood through 12th grade experience for our students and families.

4- Exemplary -The student consistently produces an exemplary body of evidence that shows increased depth and complexity and transfer of understanding and flexible application of end of year grade-level concepts.

3- Meeting -The student consistently meets standards as demonstrated by a body of evidence that shows independent understanding and application of grade-level concepts.

continued on next page
Year 3 Of Standards-Based Reporting  

**2- Progressing** - The student demonstrates progress toward standards as demonstrated by a body of evidence that shows incomplete/inconsistent understanding and application of grade-level concepts.

**1- Emerging** - The student has limited understanding of standards as demonstrated by a body of evidence that shows minimal understanding and application of grade-level concepts.

More information regarding Thompson School District Work Habits for 1st - 12th grade will be coming soon. We look forward to a great school year, focused on the success of your child!

Thompson School District Learning Service Team

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**Health Office News**

Why do nurses use red pens? Because they might have to draw blood!

We Love to see your kiddos everyday here at High Plains! But have you ever wondered......when should my child stay home? In order to help us keep High Plains healthy please have them stay home if they have a fever of 101, vomiting, diarrhea or any illness that would prevent them from learning in the classroom (A bad cold, uncontrolable cough or pain that would not allow them to focus)

The health office is in need of sandwich sized zip lock bags please! Also, if you have any girl clothing you can donate (including underwear) it would be greatly appreciated!

Hello High Plains families! Did you know that we have a program to help you with food over the weekend? If your family needs food assistance please contact Carey in the health office at 970-679-9808. Your student will pick up a bag from the office every Friday that will contain dinner, lunch and snack items!
Drama Club at High Plains School This Year!

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, Nanci LaBianca, and I am the new full time Interventionist at High Plains School. I am excited to be a part of this community and to be working with the students at this school. I am also creating an after school Drama Club for interested students in Grades 5-8. Having taught for many years, I always enjoyed working with students in after school activities such as a Theater or Drama Club. There will hopefully be two productions this year; one in late November/ early December. Then there will be another one in the Spring. The first presentation is a simple one act play where little help is needed. I may ask for some help looking for a few props, yet essentially this is a skit and does not require a lot of outside help. We are looking for parent volunteers for the second play in the Spring to help the students with scenery, props, programs, costumes, and other items as needed. In January, I will be sending out another article asking for parent volunteers. If you are interested, then please feel free to contact me at that time.

Practices will be held Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays after school starting September 13. Snacks will be provided and I will be charging a small one time fee of $10.00 for those students involved in each production. If your child is involved in this activity, they would need to be picked up at 4:30.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to create the best possible experiences in order for your children to grow, learn, and reach their academic potential and goals.

Ms. Nanci LaBianca
Dear Parent(s) or Guardian,

Students in grades 1st – 8th are invited to participate in our school’s spelling bee! There will be several practice sessions on Fridays after school October 20th – December 1st from 3:15-4:15 pm (No meeting November 24th). If your child would like to attend these practices and/or participate in the bee, please print, fill out and return this form by October 2nd, 2017 (you can also email me the form). Students who return the permission slip will be emailed the words to study. The High Plains School Spelling Bee will be held on Tuesday, December 12th, 2017 at 8:00am at HPS. Parents and guests are welcome to attend! The top finalists 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

___ My child has my permission to participate in the school spelling bee practice session(s).

___ My child has my permission to participate in the High Plains School Spelling Bee. Written Test Friday, December 8th and Oral Test on Tuesday, December 12, 2017.

Parent’s Name: ____________________________ Parent’s Signature: ____________________________

Parent’s Email Address: ____________________________

Student’s Name: ____________________________ Grade: ________ Teacher’s Name: ____________________________

Student’s Name: ____________________________ Grade: ________ Teacher’s Name: ____________________________

Student’s Name: ____________________________ Grade: ________ Teacher’s Name: ____________________________

Student’s Name: ____________________________ Grade: ________ Teacher’s Name: ____________________________
Counselor’s Corner

Welcome to the new school year!

My name is Danielle Burton and I am the School Counselor at High Plains. I serve all K-8 students and am excited to get to know them! I am available to meet individually with students and can meet with parents and guardians by appointment. The following information from our Parent/Student Handbook will explain my role and mission as a school counselor:

Counseling Program Mission:
The mission of the High Plains counseling program is to provide all students with a comprehensive school counseling program guided by the ASCA National Model that is centered around an engaging STEAM curriculum. The counseling program is dedicated to making every student feel heard, valued, and safe. In partnership with teachers, administration, parents, guardians, and the Loveland community, the school counselor will empower all students to be successful lifelong learners engaged in real world and community issues.

About Counseling:
The school counselor is available daily to meet with students, parents, and teachers, and may provide counseling services on an individual and group basis, as well as conduct lessons in the classroom. Students are encouraged to meet with the counselor for general support, conflict resolution, decision making, goal setting, resources, etc. Parents/guardians can schedule an appointment with the counselor as needed.

The counseling relationship is confidential except in cases of child abuse and neglect, elder abuse and neglect, and harm to self and/or others. Students are encouraged to communicate their needs with parents/guardians, and the counselor will work to establish a collaborative relationship with parents/guardians to best meet student needs.

continued on next page
Counselor’s Corner continued

The Hats I Wear:

- School Counselor for all K-8 Students
- 504 Coordinator
- SST Coordinator (Student Success Team)
- LULAC Advisor (League of United Latin American Citizens)
- PBIS Team Member (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports)
- TBI Coordinator (Traumatic Brain Injury)
- Connection to resources if your family is experiencing homelessness or hunger
- Mediator, Problem Solver, Cheerleader, Advocate for all students

What’s happening this year?

Elementary School:

I spent the first couple of weeks of school reconnecting with students and going into classrooms to introduce myself, explain my role, and let students know how they can get in touch with me. We read the story Mrs. Joyce Gives the Best High-Fives, in which a new student learns what his school counselor does and how she can support him.

I will be collaborating with elementary teachers to conduct lessons in the classroom that address social, emotional, academic, and career development throughout the year.

Middle School:

Peace Circles: I will be conducting Peace Circles with middle school students throughout the year. This is an experience that allows students to get to know one another and to make connections. Through storytelling, Peace Circles build a sense of culture and community that helps decrease peer conflict and increases social-emotional awareness.

Career Development: Our middle school students will have access to Naviance this year! Naviance is an online program that engages students in learning about their strengths, interests, and personality to explore various careers and fields that align with who they are. This program also tracks students’ Individual Career and Academic Plans, or ICAPs. In Colorado, every student beginning in sixth grade is

continued on next page
Counselor’s Corner continued

required to have an ICAP. Your student’s Naviance account will stay with them through high school graduation, allowing them to research colleges, careers, keep track of resumes and college applications, and set goals.

Need to Reach Me?

Please do not hesitate to contact me with question or concerns:

Phone: 970-679-9805
Email: danielle.burton@thompsonschools.org

Give Next is coming to High Plains School!

What is Give Next?

Give Next is a youth philanthropy program that helps students understand what it means to give of their time, talent, and treasure.

- Each Give Next classroom receives $5,000 through a donation from a generous community member(s). Students spend the year learning about community issues, identifying a mission that is important to them, learning about and volunteering at local nonprofits, and ultimately awarding grants to nonprofits that align with their mission and spark their passion.

- Bohemian Foundation (of Fort Collins) manages Give Next, in partnership with the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado, and a community advisory committee.

- Classroom donations come from local individuals, businesses, or foundations and 100% of the donated funds go to the nonprofits selected to by the students to receive grants.

- Guided by a basic curriculum, students are empowered to design their specific process each year; selecting the mission statement, determining how to research nonprofits, evaluating applications, and making grant recommendations.

continued on next page
Give Next continued

Who will participate in Give Next?

Give Next is being offered at the middle school level. Sixth through eighth grade students have the opportunity to select Give Next as their STEAM class.

Want to help Give Next with one of our first projects?

One of the first projects we would like to do is adopt a classroom in Texas that has been hit by the recent flooding. If you would like to donate, we are currently collecting Amazon and Barnes & Noble gift cards (any amount) to help replace classroom supplies and school and classroom libraries. Please place gift cards in an envelope or Ziploc bag and label it, Ms. Joers – Room 216 and then send to school with your child. ANYONE can help; your child does not have to be in the class for you to donate. We welcome the donations! Thank you in advance.

Box Tops and Milk Caps

Hey families, time to start collecting all those Box Tops!! During the week of September 25\textsuperscript{th}-29\textsuperscript{th} we will kick off our collection year with fun competitions and prizes!! Clipping Box Tops is an easy way for you to help High Plains School and it’s easy. Each Box Top is worth 10¢ and it quickly adds up to real cash for our school. Look for more information to come!!

You can also help 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 glass 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 Box Tops and Morning Fresh bottle caps for our school too!

Thank you for your support!

High Plains Parent Teacher Community Organization (PTCO)
From the Library: Reading with Your Child

Research supports the importance and value of parents reading with their children, even after they are able to read independently. Read the linked article for more information, and then make time to enjoy a great story with your child; everyone will benefit!


Interested in Ebooks?

As we begin the school year, 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 "Popular" 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!
Coach’s Corner September 2017

Hello HPS families,

Now that school is full steam ahead, I wanted to update you on some exciting things happening in HPS athletics.

- We are starting our first year as a competitive middle school athletics program.
- Middle school athletics has a new website. Get all your information on the Bison at: http://highplainsathletics.weebly.com
- Take a moment to check out the September schedule to see if you can come support one of the teams.
- I would like to thank our friends at the Power to Play sports facility. Through a generous community partnership, P2P will be hosting the High Plains home volleyball and basketball games at their gorgeous new facility this season. It is worth a trip down there just to see the place! Please take a moment to thank the staff and ownership at the facility while you are cheering on the Bison.

### Volleyball

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date and Time</th>
<th>Cross Country</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date and time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>@ Severance</td>
<td>Wednesday, September 6 3:30pm</td>
<td>Walt Clark Invitational</td>
<td>Walt Clark Middle School</td>
<td>Thursday, September 7 3:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@ Bill Reed</td>
<td>Monday, September 11 3:30pm</td>
<td>John Martin Invitational</td>
<td>Fort Collins HS</td>
<td>Friday, September 15 3:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@ Walt Clark</td>
<td>Wednesday, September 13 3:30pm</td>
<td>Sweetheart Invitational</td>
<td>North Lake Park</td>
<td>Friday, September 22 2:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>@ Bill Reed</td>
<td>Monday, September 18 3:30pm</td>
<td>Windsor Invitational</td>
<td>Eastman Park, Windsor</td>
<td>Friday, September 29 3:30pm</td>
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<td>Vs. Erwin</td>
<td>Wednesday, September 20 3:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>@ Windsor</td>
<td>Monday, September 25 3:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vs. Con Ball</td>
<td>Wednesday, September 27 3:30pm</td>
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### Important dates for October:

Boys basketball tryouts start on October 16th. In order to participate, you must have:

2. A current physical (within one calendar year)
3. Paid the $50 TSD fee (scholarships are available to those who qualify)
Welcome to the Cyber Cafe

K-5th Grade has Technology Class for an hour once a week. As we go through the first month of school ask your student about the Computer Lab website. Click here to see the sites your student will be using to enhance their classroom learning and to practice important skills.

If you ever have any questions feel free to contact me - Mrs. Payton nancy.payton@thompsonschools.org or 970-679-9838.

100 Mile Club

High Plains is proud to offer 100 Mile Club again for this school year. Please join us each morning from 7:30 – 7:45 as we run, jog, or walk around the 100 Mile Club track on the north side of the building. Students, new and returning, will need to fill out an enrollment form and include $10, check made out to High Plains School. Upon reaching goals of 25, 50, 75, and 100 miles, students will receive rewards. We look forward to helping students start their day with movement, while working together to achieve our goals. Enrollment forms are available on the High Plains website or at www.100mileclub.com. Questions, contact Mrs. Bellinghausen at terri.bellinghausen@thompsonschools.org or at 679-9833.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 11th</td>
<td>Volleyball game at Bill Reed Middle School (3:30pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 13th</td>
<td>Volleyball game at Walt Clark Middle School (3:30pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 15th</td>
<td>Cross Country meet at Fort Collins High School (3:00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 18th</td>
<td>Volleyball game @ Bill Reed Middle School (3:30pm)</td>
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<td>SAAC (5:15pm)</td>
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<td>Sept 19th</td>
<td>PTCO Meeting (6:30pm)</td>
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<td>Sept 20th</td>
<td>Volleyball game at Power2Play (3:30pm)</td>
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<td>Sept 22nd</td>
<td>Cross Country meet at North Lake Park (2:00pm)</td>
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<td>Set 25th –</td>
<td>October Count Window</td>
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<td>Oct 6th</td>
<td>Volleyball game at Windsor Middle School (3:30pm)</td>
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<td>School Pictures</td>
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<td>Volleyball game at Power2Play (3:30pm)</td>
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<td>Sept 29th</td>
<td>Cross Country meet at Eastman Park (3:30pm)</td>
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<td>Oct 2nd</td>
<td>Volleyball game at Power2Play (3:30pm)</td>
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<td>Oct 3rd</td>
<td>Walk 2 School Day</td>
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<td>Volleyball game at Power2Play (3:30)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 12th</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Conferences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 13th</td>
<td>No School</td>
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