Message from the Principal...

“Don’t cry because it’s over. Smile because it happened” — Dr. Seuss

I know I’ve said it before, but this year flew! This first year held many challenges and successes. Staff are humbled to be a part of it, but also looking forward to a break to re-energize for next school year. Staff have held onto a saying all year, “It’s a marathon, not a sprint. Tie those sneakers tight!” We know next year will also bring its own set of challenges, and we are already reflecting, dialoguing, and planning how to approach them. So the marathon will continue.

We also know kids and parents are looking forward to, and maybe a little anxious about the school year ending. The end of the year brings excitement about long, sunny days riding bikes, going to the pool, hanging out with friends, and sleeping in a little later. If parents are looking for ideas on how to plan for their child’s summer, this article includes a few ideas, Avoiding End of the School Year Anxiety: 5 Tips to Plan (Or Not) for Your Kids’ Summer. In addition Thompson School District is offering fun, hands on classes. You can find information about all the offerings at Thompson Summer Programs.

Thank you for taking a leap of faith with us this year. We look forward to the many end of year events and celebrating with students and families this inaugural year. Until May 26th, keep those sneakers on and keep moving!
Community Tours
On May 10th High Plains School will offer a building tour for community members and parents interested in hearing about the school’s program and unique design features. The tour starts at 3:30PM. If interested, please RSVP to Judy Simeon at judy.simeon@thompsonschools.org

2017-2018 Half Time Kindergarten
We are excited to welcome you and your child to High Plains School for the 2017-2018 school year! Our enrollment for half time kindergarten has exceeded the number of students that can be accommodated in one section. With this information we have decided to offer two sections of half time kindergarten for the 2017-2018 school year. Both sections will be taught by Mrs. Tammy Asher. The half time kindergarten sections will run on the following schedule:

- Section 1: 7:50am-3:10pm on Monday and Tuesday and 7:50am-10:20am on Wednesday
- Section 2: 12:40pm-3:10pm on Wednesday and 7:50am-3:10pm on Thursday and Friday

We will enroll students in sections first looking for a balance of girls and boys, and then according to the date their enrollment/registration was turned into the school. If parents have a preference, we will do our best to accommodate, but we must ensure a balanced number of students in both sections. If you have a preference or other questions pertaining to half time kindergarten for next school year, please contact the High Plains School office.

Home Efficiency Assessments
Larimer County Conservation Corps has partnered with Loveland Water and Power to offer services and products to improve your home’s efficiency at no cost to you. This limited time offer is available now through April.

(970) 498-6081 larimerworkforce.org/energy
Volunteer Crossing Guards
Volunteer Crossing Guards Needed at High Plains School for this school year and the 2017-2018 school year. Help keep kids safe. Must Be 18 or Older. Online Training Provided. If interested, contact Candie Joshi: candie.joshi@gmail.com

Bully Prevention Grant
On May 4th at the TSD Administration Building (in the Boardroom) from 5:30pm-7:30pm Matt Hughes, along with Berthoud, Cottonwood Plains, and High Plains School staff will share information about the CDE Bully Prevention grant that the 3 schools won. Information regarding the grant and a parent and student survey were sent home with students on April 20th.

If you have any questions about the survey or the Parent Information Night, please contact the BPEG coordinator, Matt Hughes at: E-mail: matt.hughes@thompsonschools.org / Phone: (970) 613-5788

Let’s Finish the Year Strong!
With 5 weeks remaining, it can be easy to slide a little on routines and expectations. Summer will be here soon enough, but before then please help your child finish the year strong! There is still a lot to do and learn, and we all wish to end on a positive note! Please review the Parent/Student Handbook, available on the school website under “About High Plains” for expectations on dress code, attendance, technology use, field trips, and more.
May 19th Ignite STEM Camp

May 19th is a teacher work day. Don’t have plans for your child? Check out the Ignite STEM camp available through Thompson School District at [http://www.thompsonschools.org/ignite](http://www.thompsonschools.org/ignite). A camp is offered at High Plains School.

Last Day of School

The last day of school is Friday, May 26th. This is an early release day, so High Plains’ students will be released at 11:15AM. Lunch will not be served on this day. Please feel free to send students to school with a snack. Kindergarten through fifth grade will hold their 4th quarter recognition assemblies. If your child earns a recognition, their classroom teacher will contact you with details. Middle school is working out details on their recognition event. This will be communicated, once it is determined.

Attention Kindergarten Families!

The end of the year is nearing and we are excited to celebrate the students! We will be having a Kindergarten Celebration Potluck on May 23 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Loveland Sports Park. We will not be having a formal graduation ceremony, but we will speak a few words of reflection about the year. We will be asking families to bring a dish big enough to feed 10 people. Please look for more details to come in Mrs. Asher’s and Mrs. Mayberry’s weekly newsletter.
**Health Office News**

What did the pig say on a hot summer day? I’m Bacon!!!

The end of our first school year is fast approaching! Time for our parents with kiddos on Medications kept here at school to remember that they must be picked up! Medications in the health office need to be checked out on the last day, by the end of the day. Medications not picked up will be destroyed. Also, I will be sending home new care plans and permission for medication forms, please have these filled out during the summer so we can be ready for a fresh start in August.

**HPS Computer Lab Website**

Summer is right around the corner and you don’t want your student to forget all the great things he/she has learned this year. There are some great resources on the Computer Lab Website that your student can do during the summer. They can do Hour of Code, Math practice, Language Arts Practice and much more. All accounts that Kindergarten thru 5th grade have used this year will stay active until August 1st. If your student needs their password please have them ask Mrs. Payton before the last day of school.

[HPS Computer Lab Website]
Help Your Kids Have Fun with Summer Reading

Providing structure and materials for your child’s summer reading is an important part of supporting academic growth and minimizing loss of fluency and comprehension; it also can be a lot of fun! A wealth of ideas and suggestions exist online (try starting with “Nine Strategies for Summer Reading”) and through area public libraries. The Loveland Public Library hosts a great summer reading program for students of all ages.

![Children's Summer Reading Program](image)

In addition to the wealth of resources offered by the public libraries, don’t forget that the High Plains School library offers thousands of digital books for all HPS students, and it can be accessed easily at any time of the year:

- Visit our school’s website ([highplainsschool.org](http://highplainsschool.org))
- Select "Library" under the "Popular" tab.
- Click on the Follett Destiny icon in order to search our catalog.
- Log in to read a book digitally.
  - **Student user name**: first initial, middle initial, last name, last two digits of their graduating year (example: jtdoe23)
  - **Password**: student number preceded by two zeroes (example: 00123456)
- Happy Reading!
MVHS Transition Night

Join us for an evening that will provide some helpful information as your student transitions to MVHS, including a tour of MVHS, info on Clubs, Sports, & Activities.

Monday
May 8th
6:00 to 6:30 Transition Information in the Cafeteria
6:30 to 7:30 Tour & Athletics/Activities Info
High Plains PTCO

What’s Up!

2017 PTCO Annual Meeting

YOU’RE a member of the High Plains PTCO!

The High Plains PTCO is inclusive of every family in our school - being a member of the school community automatically enrolls you as a voting member in the PTCO!

- **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** High Plains PTCO Annual Meeting is Tuesday, May 16th @ 6pm

Join us for a root beer float party and fun photo review of our first year together as a school community! We will vote for all officer positions up for re-election, and provide open house-style resources on the exciting plans for next school year, and how you can get involved!

- **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS** The High Plains PTCO is seeking nominations for the position of President. Please forward yourself or a willing member of our school community to highplaink8ptco@gmail.com no later than May 9th.

High Plains has heART!

This Spring and Summer, the PTCO is excited to work with the Loveland Chamber of Commerce to design and install a City with heART sculpture on the High Plains campus. Are you interested in assisting with this project? The committee needs you! Contact highplainsk8ptco@gmail.com for more information.

Teacher Appreciation Week

May 1st-5th

High Plains teachers are the BEST teachers. Please watch for classroom sign-ups for your opportunity to participate. For a different take on what you can do to show your child’s teacher they are valued, check out this quick article.
High Plains PTCO

What’s Up!

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!
Learning Garden Update and Request for Summer Help

What a successful first year it has been in our learning garden! Students had a great time during our fall harvest and gobbled up the healthy salads it produced. Now, after a peaceful winter and with the coming of spring, we’ve just completed our second planting. Spinach is already being harvested, and everyone is anticipating being able to taste the lettuce, pea sprouts, and radishes that are growing. Looking ahead, our summer planting will produce salsa, herb, root, and popcorn gardens.

Would you and your family like to help take care of our garden during the hot months of the summer? We’ll be looking for families to commit to a week’s span—just three days—of watering. Training will be provided, support will be available throughout the summer, and full harvesting benefits are included! If you are interested, information about this opportunity to contribute to our school community will be coming out soon via a SignUp Genius.

We deeply appreciate all of the volunteers who have helped our learning garden get off to such a successful start, and we look forward to many more productive and enriching growing seasons ahead!
Smile.Amazon.com

High Plains School PTCO is partnering with Amazonsmile to raise money for our school. It’s a fast and easy way for us to get more money to be able to help with anything from classroom needs, technology, STEAM focus materials, and a variety of other school needs. Here are the steps for you to get started and how to use Amazonsmile.

- Visit smile.amazon.com and log into your amazon account
- Since you are signed in the screen will look like the one below. After signing in search for HIGH PLAINS PTCO and press select when prompted
- Begin shopping!!!!
  * Once you’ve selected HIGH PLAINS PTCO as your charity everything else will be the same. Be sure to go to SMILE.AMAZON.COM before you shop instead of just amazon.com and our school will receive .5% of all sales.

- SHARE WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY
  * After you have completed your first purchase on Amazonsmile you can share the news with your friends on Facebook, Twitter, or email. The option appears on the confirmation page after your order is complete.
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<th>Date</th>
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<td>May 1st – 5th</td>
<td>Teacher Appreciation Week</td>
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<td>May 2nd</td>
<td>Kindergarten Field Trip</td>
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<td>May 2nd</td>
<td>Instrument Rental Day 3:30pm – 6:30pm</td>
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<td>May 4th</td>
<td>Bully Prevention Grant Information Night (at Admin Bldg) 5:30pm</td>
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<td>May 8th</td>
<td>Mountain View High School Transition Night</td>
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<td>May 10th</td>
<td>2nd Grade Field Trip</td>
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<td>Community Tour 3:30pm</td>
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<td>4th Grade Field Trip</td>
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<td>May 15th</td>
<td>6th Grade Art Sale 2:15pm – 4:00pm</td>
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<td>May 16th</td>
<td>PTCO Annual Meeting 6:30pm</td>
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<td>Kindergarten Field Trip</td>
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<td>May 22nd – 24th</td>
<td>6th Grade Outdoor Education</td>
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<td>May 25th</td>
<td>Fun &amp; Fitness Day</td>
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<td>May 26th</td>
<td>Last day of school 11:15am dismissal (lunch not provided)</td>
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