Message from the Principal...

Happy spring! We hope all of our families enjoy their spring breaks and students come back to school renewed and ready to continue their learning. There are only 10 weeks of school left! Soon our 8th graders will become high schoolers and we’ll be welcoming new kinder parents to our Bison family.

Our Student Ambassadors completed their STOP strategy video and teachers are sharing the strategy with each of their classes before spring break. Please check out the video and ask your child about how they can use this strategy to help them out when they face conflict. You can find the video at High Plains Anti Bullying and STOP Training.

March and early April will be filled with many events so please continue to read the remainder of the newsletter for news on CMAS (State Standardized Testing for grades 3rd-8th) and other important information. Please also check the school’s website and calendar for important dates, as well as the HPS Facebook page. For school specific expectations please check out the Parent-Student Handbook on the school’s website.

“When you’re curious, you find lots of interesting things to do.” -- - Walt Disney

See you in the morning!

Sincerely,

Danielle Feeney
Principal, High Plains School
CMAS

Shortly after Spring Break, we will be conducting the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) state assessments. Our 3rd-8th grade students will be assessed on progress towards meeting the Colorado Academic Standards in English Language Arts and Math. Additionally, our 4th and 7th graders will be assessed in Social Studies and our 5th and 8th graders will be assessed in Science this year. Below are the dates students will be taking these assessments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Assessment(s)</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd-8th</td>
<td>ELA &amp; Math</td>
<td>March 26th-March 30th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th and 7th</td>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>April 9th-April 13th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th and 8th</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>April 9th-April 13th</td>
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</table>

We ask that you avoid these days as much as possible as you look to schedule appointments for your child so that they will be in attendance during testing. Having said that, we do understand that some absences are unavoidable. In the event that your child will be absent on any of these days, please contact your child’s teacher or the front office so that we can plan accordingly.

In addition to the valuable information you receive from these state assessments about how your child is progressing towards the Colorado Academic Standards at his/her grade level, this information is used by teachers and administrators at schools at the beginning of the next school year to plan for instructional programming that will best meet your child’s academic needs. This data also informs the development of programs and systems to meet the needs of students across buildings.

The Colorado Department of Education has produced a document with details about the 2017-2018 CMAS assessments. This document can be found at this link.

CMAS: What to expect in 2017-2018 [http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/20170814whattoexpect](http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/20170814whattoexpect)
**Spring Ka-Ching**

The High Plains Student Ambassadors are sponsoring a Spring Ka-Ching in support of kids with cancer. The money raised will go to Cookies for Kid's Cancer, an organization dedicated to supporting cancer research to end childhood cancer. Students are encouraged to bring in loose change, no matter how little or big, to place in their class’ collection jar. The goal is to collect $1500! The fundraiser will last from March 19th-30th. The top elementary class and top middle school class will earn a root beer and popcorn party! Student Ambassadors also have a website parents and other community members can make donations at, [http://www.cookiesforkidscancer.org/Fundraiser/HPSBison](http://www.cookiesforkidscancer.org/Fundraiser/HPSBison). Please share this link and spread the word to help our school reach the goal of $1500 to support kids suffering from cancer. Thank you!

**8th Grade’s Last Day**

Our 8th grade students' last day of school will be Wednesday, May 23rd. The middle school team is planning special activities for that day to wish our 8th graders well on their journey to high school graduation and beyond. Once the day's activities are finalized, they will be communicated to families.
Talent Show

Do you have a hidden or obvious talent that you would like to demonstrate to others? Do you enjoy being in the spotlight, singing, gymnastics, dancing, playing an instrument? Or maybe you can juggle, tell jokes, present a magic act or karate skills, act out a skit or monologue? Well, start practicing and preparing for High Plains first Talent Show coming at the end of May. Tryouts will be held Friday, March 23, from 3:10 - 5:00.

If you are interested in trying out for this spectacular event, then be sure to obtain a permission/ information sheet from Ms. LaBianca as soon as possible. Then start practicing so you can be your best at try outs.
High Plains EC-8 News

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Ebooks: Great Reading for Spring!

Reading outside of school entertains and builds stronger vocabularies. Keep in mind the wealth of digital resources that HPS students have at their fingertips (and that aren’t video games!). 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 SSO.
  - 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!

Follett Destiny

Spring Break $200 Giveaway!
$100 gift card for you & $100 gift card for your school!
Click here to enter...
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 the Give Next students and parents who helped out with the 2nd Annual KidsPak Food Drive. They helped unload, sort, and stack food for the organization.

Up Next:

- We are working on deciding to whom we should award our grant money. Then we’ll be doing site visits and organization interviews.

Save the Date:

- Friday, May 11, 2018 from 5-7pm – The Give Next class will be having our awards ceremony to award our grant monies. Make a plan to come! Everyone is welcome. You will be blown away by what the students have done.
**HPS 7th Graders Have Play Produced**

In October and November 2017, CU Professor Kevin Rich came to the 7th grade Language Arts class and ran a series of writer’s workshops focusing on the modern day fairy tale. Then in groups, the students wrote their own fairy tale. One fairy tale was chosen to be produced by the CU Dance and Theatre Department. HPS 7th graders Malia Joshi, Skyler Tyson, Teagan Clark, and Joy Mellott had their play, *Alex Buffman* chosen.

On February 16 the entire middle school was able to see *Alex Buffman* performed in our very own gym. Afterwards, Language Arts classes were given the opportunity to work with the cast and crew in their own play writing workshops. This production will also be performed at other schools and libraries along the Front Range.

A big thank you to the Thompson Education Association Student Achievement Grant for providing funding for this fabulous experience.

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HPS 7th Graders Have Play Produced continued
**Music Department**

Below you will find a calendar for High Plains School events specific to the music department.

Students who are performing need to arrive **30 minutes before** the concert time, unless otherwise stated by Mrs. Lemons.

**Note:** Dates and times are subject to change for any reason. You will be notified as soon as possible.

- **March 21** [Wednesday] **3:30-6:30 pm** - Instrument Rental Event with Music & Arts @ HPS Music Room
- **March 26** [Monday] **4-6pm** - TSD Honor Band Reading Rehearsal @ CBMS
- **March 28** [Wednesday] **rehearsals all day; concert at 6:30 pm** - TSD Honor Choir @ TVHS Auditorium
- *****CHANGED DATE*** April 11** [Wednesday] **4-6pm** - TSD Honor Band Rehearsal @ MVHS Auditorium
- *****CHANGED DATE*** April 12** [Thursday] **8am-3pm** - TSD Honor Band Rehearsal @ MVHS Auditorium
- *****CHANGED DATE*** April 12** [Thursday] **6pm** - TSD Honor Band Concert @ MVHS Auditorium
- **April 22** [Sunday] **3pm** - Loveland Concert Band @ MVHS Auditorium
- **May 2** [Wednesday] **7 pm** - HPS Middle School Band & Choir Concert @ MVHS Auditorium
- **May 6** [Tuesday] **9am-2pm** - HPS 8th Grade Field Trip “A Day in the Arts” @ MVHS
- *****CHANGED DATE*** May 12** [Saturday] **8 am-4 pm** - HPS Instrumental Solo & Ensembles Festival @ HPS (only offered for 6-8th grade band - PBL)
Peacekeeper Circle

What is confidentiality? How do we learn to trust others?

One of the agreements the children speak each week before Peacekeeper circle begins is: “What gets said in circle, stays in circle” - or CONFIDENTIALITY.

In Peacekeeper Circles we are teaching the children that if they share another person’s story from what they heard in Peacekeeper circle it is no longer the truth. “Telling the truth” is another one of the Peacekeeper agreements they uphold.

As the children interpret “what gets said in circle stays in circle”, they usually define it to mean, “gossip or spreading rumors”. They are re-telling it from their own perspective and it is no longer from the heart of their classmate who shared in the “safety” of the classroom community.

When we repeat what another has shared (as in the old fashioned “telephone” game) the truth gets distorted. Children are learning to resolve their conflicts with others immediately in Peacekeeper and if others go out and spread rumor or gossip about a friend they prolong the issue, which likely has been “forgiven”, “forgotten” and the two people have already “moved on” from their mis-understanding or disagreement.

This is an important tool and skill that the children are learning to uphold in order to build a safe and trusting environment in their classrooms and beyond. We are helping the children learn to respect and care for their friends so they can learn how to build more trusting friendships throughout their lives.

These skills are far reaching when embraced and nurtured in and beyond the classroom. The children are encouraged to share with you about their own personal experience in circle but not repeat other’s stories. So when you are “listening to your children”, help them decipher if this is breaching the trust they agreed to, and help them discern what is theirs to retell and what is NOT.

We all want to feel safe, respected and trustworthy.
Coach’s Corner
Middle School:

- Track and field website - [http://hpstrackandfield.weebly.com/](http://hpstrackandfield.weebly.com/)
- Track and field meets in March
  - March 28th at Loveland High School 3:15pm
- Stay up to date with the HPS athletics website at [http://highplainsathletics.weebly.com/](http://highplainsathletics.weebly.com/)
- 5th grade girls - We have a parent who is interested in putting together a Power to Play basketball team for this summer. Please contact Scott Ellis at SEllis@groupmortgagellc.com if you are interested.
- Volleyball open gyms are underway! 5th -8th grade girls, see Mrs. Lemons or Mrs. Knutzen for details.

Go Bison!

Coach B
High Plains PTCO
What’s Up!

Child Care Available During March Meeting!!

- Our next PTCO meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 20th at 6:30 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 the spring carnival, movie night, middle school dance, teacher requests, spirit night report and more!! Please come support our Bison and make your voice “Herd”!!

We Appreciate Your Support!!

- Our Bad Daddy Burger Bar Spirit Night was a success! We raised $702 for our school!

- Thank you for turning in your Box Tops!! As a school we brought in about 2,000 Box Tops, earning $200 for our school!! Congratulations to Miss Knutzen’s 4th graders, Miss Salmon’s 5th graders and Miss Williamson’s 2nd graders, they turned in the most box tops and won a pajama party and movie day! We will have another competition in April so keep on clipping!

Mark Your Calendar – Spring Carnival!!

- Join us April 13th from 5:30-7:30pm for a fun family event!! Look for more information to come!

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.

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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! highplansk8ptco@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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 12th – 16th</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 19th – 30th</td>
<td>Student Ambassadors’ Spring Ka-Ching</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 20th</td>
<td>PTCO Meeting 6:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 26th – 30th</td>
<td>ELA and Math CMAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 28th</td>
<td>Track Meet at Loveland High School 3:15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 4th</td>
<td>Track Meet at Thompson Valley High School 3:15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 7th</td>
<td>Colorado Destination State Tournament</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 9th – 13th</td>
<td>4th &amp; 7th grade Social Studies CMAS</td>
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<td>5th &amp; 8th grade Science CMAS</td>
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<td>April 11th</td>
<td>Track Meet at Mountain View High School 3:15pm</td>
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