Message from the Principal...

We hope each of you had a restful and enjoyable Thanksgiving break! The next three and half weeks will be full and fast! High Plains School, in conjunction with High Plains School’s PTCO has erected a Giving Tree in the main office. On the Giving Tree are ornaments listing items that a High Plains’ family wishes their child(ren) to receive this holiday season. Please check out the tree and help support a High Plains’ family this holiday season. Look for detailed information on the High Plains School website under “Family & Community”.

Our student council held a canned food drive to support Philo of Loveland and Larimer County Food Bank. Our goal was 1,000 items. With student, parent, and staff support we collected over 1,800 items! In addition to the canned food drive, High Plains is accepting new pajamas to give to the Olson’s Pajama Project in memory of Sharon Olson. Please find detailed information about the Pajama Project at http://www.olsonspajamas.com/

In January I hope to offer opportunities for families to visit with myself and key staff on topics ranging from Problem Based Learning to Standards Based Grading and Instruction. Please take a moment to complete the Coffee Talk with the Principal Survey. Information from this survey will help staff and myself identify the best times

continued on next page
Message From The Principal continued

and topics to share with High Plains families that support students and the school achieving its mission.

Please continue reading our December 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! We wish each of you a joyous holiday season!

See you in the morning!

Sincerely,

Danielle Feeney
Principal, High Plains School

Impact of Marijuana on Colorado Youth

Please join Thompson School District Health Services staff and Turning Point on December 5th from 6:00pm-7:30pm for a presentation on the impacts of marijuana on Colorado youth. The presentation will share facts, statistics, and very enlightening information on how Marijuana is affecting our youth in Colorado. The presentation will be held in the Bison Cafe at High Plains School.

Savings is great with 68!

For big savings without sacrificing comfort, remember: 68°F is the perfect thermostat setting for when you’re relaxing at home this winter. And if you want to save even more, you can lower it to 58°F when you’re away or asleep.

Find more winter savings tips at cityofloveland.org/energyreports
**Spelling Bee**

Students in grades 1st - 8th are invited to participate in our High Plains School Spelling Bee on Wednesday, January 11th, 2017 in the HPS cafeteria. 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 which will take place on Saturday, January 28th, 2017. This will take place at Thompson Valley High School and is an all-day event. We will be holding two optional practice sessions after school on Monday, January 9th & Tuesday, January 10th from 3:15-4 pm. Students who would like to participate in the after-school sessions should bring their word lists as we will review words, bee procedures and practice spelling into a microphone.

If you have any questions, please contact Jessica.soulek@thompsonschools.org!

Happy Spelling!

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**Art Club**

Artwork from the HPS Art Club has been submitted to the Scott’s Bluff Dream Rocket Project. Please view the submissions at:

- Flickr
- Facebook
- Website
High Plains PTCO
What’s Up!

Box Tops
As a school we collected almost 6,000 box tops and earned just under $600 for our school!!

Thank you to everyone for participating in our first Box Top competition in October! Miss Goldberg’s 3rd graders & Miss Williamson’s 2nd graders took 1st & 2nd place and brought in 1,700 box tops!

We have started our second Box Top Competition - The top 4 classes to turn in the most box tops by Friday, December 9th will win a Hot Chocolate Party! Thank you for helping earn money for our school!

Amazon Smile - earn money for our school while shopping on Amazon
Go to smile.amazon.com and login to your amazon account, then search for and select High Plains PTCO in Loveland, CO. The same Amazon products you love will be available!

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases the PTCO.

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

Holiday Giving Tree
In the spirit of the holidays, the High Plains School Giving Tree is an opportunity for families to provide holiday gifts for children, within our High Plains community, whose family may need a little extra help during the holiday season. Thank you for making a difference in our families’ holiday season!

If you would like to donate a gift:

- Select an ornament from the Giving Tree, located in the school office
- Purchase gift(s) and return them wrapped, with ornament attached, to the school office by Wednesday, December 14th
- If you would like to donate money or gift cards:
  - Please submit donation to the school office, in a sealed envelope, labeled HPS Giving Tree
  - Checks are unable to be accepted as the school cannot process checks for this purpose
  - Monies and gift cards must be returned to the school by Monday, December 12th

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

Volunteer Opportunities
All Volunteers must register online: [www.thompsonschools.org/volunteer](http://www.thompsonschools.org/volunteer)

Current Opportunities: [www.highplainsptco.com/volunteer](http://www.highplainsptco.com/volunteer)

- Help catalogue books for our Scholastic Reading Library
- Read with 3rd graders - contact Terri.Bellinghausen@thompsonschools.org
- Help with School Spelling Bee on Wed, January 11th - contact jessica.soulek@thompsonschools.org

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](http://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.
**Hour of Code**

We live in a world surrounded by technology. And we know that whatever field our students choose to go into as adults, their ability to succeed will increasingly hinge on understanding how technology works. Right now only a tiny fraction of people are learning computer science, and fewer students are studying it than a decade ago. There are many jobs left untouched that use computer science. We want to change this. High Plains School will join in on the largest learning event in history: Hour of Code, during Computer Science Education Week (Dec. 5-11). More than 100 million students worldwide will be doing Hour of Code and your student will be a part of this. Kindergarten thru 8th will not only participate in the Hour of Code week, but will incorporate coding throughout the rest of the year into their technology class. Our Hour of Code is a statement that High Plains School is ready to teach these foundational 21st century skills. We will continue to bring programming activities to your students. This is our chance to change the future for our students and the world. See [https://hourofcode.com/us](https://hourofcode.com/us) for details.

Sincerely, Mrs. Megan McGee and Mrs. Nancy Payton

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If you’d like to encourage your kids to read over break, remember that the HPS library is fortunate to have thousands of digital books for students of all ages and reading levels. To help your child access them, please visit our school's website ([highplainsschool.org](http://highplainsschool.org)) and then select "Library" under the "Popular" tab. Next, simply click on the Follett Destiny icon in order to search our catalog. If your student finds a book they'd like to read digitally, their log-in is their first initial, middle initial, last name, last two digits of their graduating year (example: jtdoe23), and their password is their student number preceded by two zeroes (example: 00123456).

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**Health Office**

HPS health office is needing girl’s clothing of all sizes, especially underwear and socks. If you have any gently used or new items you’d like to donate, it would be greatly appreciated.

Health office riddle for the month: What is the difference between bird flu and swine flu? One requires ‘tweat’ment and the other requires ‘oink’ment.
High Plains Music

We will be performing the National Anthem for the Colorado Eagles hockey game on Wednesday, January 25th. Come and support the High Plains Music department and cheer on the Eagles to a victory over the Tulsa Oilers.

Please refer to HPSmusic.com for additional information.

- December 20 - 4th/5th Winter Concert (MVHS Auditorium) 6:30PM
- January 25 - Star Spangled Banner for Eagles game (Budweiser Event Center) time TBA
- February 7 - 6th Grade TSD Choir Festival (MVHS/TVSH) All day rehearsals; Concert same night
- February 23 - Kinder/1st Concert (HPS) 6:30PM
- March 1 - 4th Grade Field Trip (Rialto Theatre) time TBD
- March 29 - 2nd/3rd Concert (HPS) 6:30PM
- April 12 - Choir Concert (MVHS Auditorium) 7:00PM
- April 19 - Band Concert (MVHS Auditorium) 7:00PM
- (late April - date TBD) HPS Musical (HPS) time TBD
- May 8-12 (TBD)- Talent Show (HPS) time TBD
Monday, December 5th  Impact of Marijuana on Colorado Youth
Friday, December 9th  Last day to turn in Box Tops
Monday, December 12th  Last day to donate money and gift cards for Giving Tree
Wednesday, December 14th  Giving Tree gifts due (must be wrapped)
Tuesday, December 20th  4th/5th Winter Concert (MVHS Auditorium)

Happy Holidays