Charging through failures, stampeding through challenges

January 2017

Message from the Principal...

We sincerely hope all of our families have enjoyed a restful and joyous winter break! We look forward to students continuing their educational journey, exploring PBL experiences (problem based learning) and engineering challenges, as well as developing their skills and knowledge in all of the content areas. While we continue our work for this year, staff will also be looking forward to next year. Staff will begin developing a 2017-2018 master schedule. One of the changes we are considering is revising the half day kindergarten schedule. If you would like to hear that conversation, please join our SAAC (School Accountability Advisory Committee) on January 23rd at 5:15pm at HPS.

Starting in January we also wish to partner with the High Plains PTCO to offer parent information portions during the PTCO’s regularly scheduled meeting. The first PTCO meeting is January 24th at 6:30pm. The parent information portion would occur from 6:30-7:30 and the PTCO meeting would follow immediately afterward. Thank you to parents that responded to the Coffee Talk with the Principal survey. We hope to cover some of the topics from that survey. If you’d like to take the survey, please click on this link: Coffee Talk with the Principal

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Message From The Principal continued

This month please take special notice of pages 11-12 in the High Plains School Parent/Student Handbook found on the website under “About High Plains”, http://www.thompson.k12.co.us/HighPlains. These pages highlight information regarding technology use, our PTCO, and how to volunteer. For additional information, please contact your child’s teacher.

Again, we hope you enjoyed the winter break and all the festivities and activity that comes with it. Happy new year!

Sincerely,

Danielle Feeney
Principal, High Plains School

New graduation requirements for incoming 9th graders (current 8th graders)

The state of Colorado has adopted new graduation requirements. Thompson School District will apply these new requirements to incoming 9th graders. If you’d like more information, please contact any of the Thompson School District high school counselors. This link will take you to the TSD board of education policy on graduation requirements. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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
High Plains School will participate in the Schools on the Move Challenge running February 1st through February 28th. Please check out the link for more information, Schools on the Move. Keep an eye out for more information later in January in your child’s Thursday folder!

2017-2018 Kindergarten Open House

On February 1st between 8AM and 6PM, parents of incoming kindergarten students may stop by the school to drop off registration documentation (birth certificate, proof of address, vaccination records).

On-line registration for incoming kindergarten students within the High Plains School boundary area opens January 13th. Register at: http://www.thompsonschools.org/registration
Missing Assignment Reporting

Beginning second semester parents will receive missing assignment reports through their Infinite Campus email whenever their child has an assignment that has not been turned in by the due date. Please be sure that your contact information is up to date so you receive notifications. If you have questions about assignments or grades, please contact your child’s teachers for assistance. For assistance with your Infinite Campus account please follow the link to the district’s IC portal information and help site: Infinite Campus Portal

Let’s Bring in the New Year with a Good Book!

Reading over break is a great way to reinforce vocabulary acquisition, increase comprehension, and just enjoy a good story! The High Plains library offers thousands of digital books for students of all ages and reading levels. Accessing them is easy:

- 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.
- 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)
- Enjoy!
Nutrition Services: Thompson is Cooking Up Delicious and Healthy School Meal Changes

More healthy changes are on the way! As many of you already know, TSD Nutrition has accepted the LiveWell Colorado challenge to improve the nutritional value of meals. As we gradually move toward more fresh, local and scratch cooking we will be paring down some menu choices in order to streamline the transition to quality scratch recipes.

We are very excited about this journey, and we appreciate your support along the way. We encourage you to join the LiveWell Colorado Challenge by spreading the good news, sharing your feedback and ideas and by choosing the fresh and tasty meal items we will be introducing over the next several years.

For more information contact: Lisa Kendall at lisa.kendall@thompsonschools.org
More information about the LiveWell@School Food Initiative is also available at: http://livewellcolorado.org/healthy-schools/food-initiative.

About LiveWell Colorado

The LiveWell@School Food Initiative is one of many initiatives under LiveWell Colorado, a non-profit organization committed to promoting healthy eating and active living in Colorado. The LiveWell@School Food Initiative works in partnership with food service directors and their staff to serve up freshly prepared meals that taste good and are good for students through FREE culinary trainings, on-site chef consultant support, and strategic and culinary action planning. It is LiveWell Colorado’s mission to make sure every child in Colorado eats well, lives well, and stays well to serve their communities and families.
**Code for Girls**

Calling 2nd and 3rd grade GIRLS to come learn after school how to code using Cubelets.

What are Cubelets? Cubelets are robot blocks that easily connect to form robots that inspire kids to become better thinkers.

- We will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays, January 23 - February 27, 2017, from after school till 4:15pm in the STEAM room #186.
- Cost: $15.00 (snacks and supplies)
- Spots are open to the first 20 GIRLS in 2nd and 3rd grade that turn in their permission slips and money.
- Questions? Please contact Mrs. Payton @ 679-9838 nancy.payton@thompsonschools.org

**Girls on the Run**

*Girls on the Run* will start the week of March 6th. Girls on the Run inspires girls to a lifetime of self-respect and a healthy lifestyle through an innovative program that combines training for a 3.1 mile run/walk race with a fun, health education lesson plan. We will meet Mondays and Wednesdays after school. Open to all 3rd through 5th grade girls. Registration opens February 6th - watch for info coming soon. For more information about the program go to [www.girlsontherunrockies.org](http://www.girlsontherunrockies.org). Questions or want to coach? Contact: Shannon.Altenhofen@thompsonschools.org

**HPS Art Display**

The following students have art displayed at the district building for the month of January:

- Christian Zarzana
- Joseph Zarzana
- Graham Williamson
- Leah Horvath
- Viviana Tomasini-Keever
- Zoey Henriet
- Benjamin Zarzana
- Josiah Berant
- Susannah Woods
- Aubrey Tyrell
- Lena Morgan
- Alex Ellis
- Charli Scofield
- Victoria Harrod
- Jacque Harrod
- Carolina Harrod
- Davis Kinney
- Zach Gaberick
- Rebecca Burlingame-Lee
- James Cathey
- Dannika Johnson
- Tayler Paterson
- Jacob Willits
- Anna Grace Harris
- Andrew Mackin
- Joyce Huang
- Rubie Godinez
**High Plains Music**

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

**PLEASE NOTE:** The original link was incorrect. Use this link to purchase tickets: [https://eagles.isportstix.com/order/group/HighPlainsChoir](https://eagles.isportstix.com/order/group/HighPlainsChoir)

Please refer to [HPSmusic.com](http://HPSmusic.com) for additional information.

- 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
High Plains PTCO
What’s Up!

2017 Meeting PTCO Meeting Schedule
We are excited announce that the first 30-45 minute information and feedback session to each meeting. All meetings are at High Plains School, 6:30-8:30pm

- January 24th - Competency Based Education - Understanding standards-based grading
- February 28th - Elementary Literacy
- March 21st - TBD
- April 18th - TBD
- May 16th - TBD

Smashburger Fundraiser
We had another successful restaurant fundraiser night!! Together we raised over $300 to support school needs. Have an idea for a great restaurant night location? Email us!

highplainsk8ptco@gmail.com

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.

Volunteer Opportunities
All Volunteers must register online: www.thompsonschools.org/volunteer

Current Opportunities: www.highplainsptco.com/volunteer

- Volunteer to help plan our first annual High Plains School Jog-a-thon
- Help catalogue books for our Scholastic Reading Library
- Read with 3rd graders - contact Terri.Bellinghausen@thompsonschools.org
- Help put up and take down chairs for the School Spelling Bee on Wed, January 11th from 1:00-3:30pm - contact jessica.soulek@thompsonschools.org

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High Plains PTCO
What’s Up!

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](mailto:highplainsk8ptco@gmail.com)
- Like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com) 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.

SAVE the DATE

| January 16 | No School |
| January 23 | HPS Accountability Advisory Committee (5:15pm) |
| January 24 | PTCO (6:30 pm) |
| January 25 | Eagles Hockey Game Fundraiser |