Message from the Principal...

It’s hard to believe it is already October 1st! We had an exciting September, and October is on schedule to also include several fun, engaging events. On October 12th and 13th High Plains School will hold parent-teacher conferences for all Kindergarten through eighth grade students. Please see detailed information in this newsletter under “Parent-Teacher Conferences”.

October 5th is the official October count. What is “October Count” and why is it important? October Count is the process the state uses to determine how much money each school will receive from the K-12 state education budget. This is the main funding source for all public schools. In order to receive accurate funding, it is important for your child to be in attendance throughout the October Count window of September 28th to October 11th, and especially on the official October Count day of October 5th.

On October 28th our PTCO will host a Fall Festival. This will be a great opportunity for all families to come together, have fun, and get to know one another. Please see detailed information about this fun event in this newsletter under “Fall Festival” or check out the PTCO’s website which is linked from the High Plains’ website under “Family & Community”. You can also find information about our school fundraiser on the school and PTCO sites.

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Message From The Principal continued

This month please take note of pages 5-7 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 the communication pathways at High Plains when you have questions or concerns, our school’s Positive Behavior Support System (Bison RESPECT!) and counseling services, as well as information on school lunch, parties, and where to find lost items. To keep up to date on school happenings, our website is the first go to source. Please check the calendar on the website for updated events. Your child’s teacher can also keep you in the know, so please don’t hesitate to contact them or check out their teacher page under “Staff” on the website.

Finally, thank you for your assistance in a smooth opening to the school year. Our drop-off and pick-up has been going well because the majority of parents are following traffic patterns and are staying aware while driving through the campus. Please continue with caution, safety, and following all on campus traffic patterns and rules, as well as official road/traffic laws. Please only cross at designated crosswalks. Loveland Police may ticket persons crossing illegally. The crosswalks are for everyone’s safety, especially our children. Please help to set a good example for all of our children. They (children) are watching; actions speak louder than words!

See you in the morning!

Sincerely,

Danielle Feeney
Principal, High Plains School
**Picture Day**

Individual Picture Day for K-8th took place on September 30th. Information and order forms were sent out in your child’s Thursday folder. You can also go to [http://lifetouch.com/](http://lifetouch.com/) for more information or ordering. Picture retake day is October 28th. Early childhood will have their individual and class pictures on October 20th with retakes on November 17th.

**Parent-Teacher Conferences**

“Parent involvement has the greatest impact, even over socioeconomic status, on a student’s academic success” (Walberg, 1984).

**Parents of Kindergarten through 5th grade students:**

Parent Teacher conferences will take place Wednesday, October 12th from 3:20PM - 7:20PM and Thursday, October 13th from 7:30AM - 7:00PM. Parents of Kindergarten-Fifth graders will need to sign up for a 15 minute conference slot with each of their children’s assigned teachers. Sign ups are available at [http://www.signupgenius.com/](http://www.signupgenius.com/) at the following links:

- October 12th K-5th sign ups: [October 12th K-5th Conference Sign ups](http://www.signupgenius.com/home/)
- October 13th K-2nd sign ups: [October 13th K-2nd Conference Sign ups](http://www.signupgenius.com/home/)
- October 13th 3rd-5th sign ups: [October 13th 3rd-5th Conference Sign ups](http://www.signupgenius.com/home/)

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**Parent-Teacher Conferences continued**

Parents do not need a signupgenius account to sign up for their conference(s), as long as they go through the links above. Please pick the day and time that works for your schedule. If neither date works, please contact your child’s teacher to make alternative arrangements.

**Parents of 6th-8th grade students:**

6th-8th grade conferences will be drop-in only and student led on both October 12th from 3:20-7:20PM and October 13th from 7:30AM-7:00PM. These conferences will take place in the cafeteria. Parents and students will enter the cafeteria, pick up their assigned folder that will contain work samples and their progress report. Students and their parents will proceed to a table where the student will discuss with their parent their work and progress for the quarter. After parent and student discussion, the student and/or parent may request a teacher to join them for further discussion. Teachers will be available in the cafeteria with sign up sheets.

Middle school conferences are structured in this manner to support students with their increased ownership of learning and developing strong communication, reflection, and advocacy skills that will support them as they work towards success in middle school, high school, and college/career pursuits.

The following times will be dinner times for middle school staff during conferences:

- 5-5:30- Mr. Waido and Ms. Joers
- 5:30-6:00- Mrs. Barnes and Mr. Sonnenberg
Creative Corner: Mrs. Alicia Thompson

Hello from the Art Room at High Plains School! I’m so excited for this school year, and I hope your family is as well.

We have so many excited things planned to do in every grade, Kindergarten through eighth, this year.

We will all be exploring a variety of materials and techniques, while developing our artistic language, self-expression, and problem solving skills. There will be visiting artists and community projects for multiple age levels, and many opportunities for your student to grow artistically.

This year we will have a number of art shows for all grade levels. In December and then later in May, we will have an all school art show at High Plains, and in the month of January we will have an all grades show at the District Administration building.

I will be offering a different visual arts based S.T.E.A.M. enrichment class every quarter for middle school, and currently we are focusing on a variety of printmaking methods and techniques. Some amazing work has already been produced, and so much more is coming! We can’t wait to show it all off at upcoming shows, however, I am also displaying artwork from all grade levels on my art class website. Check out our progress any time at artathighplains.weebly.com. You can also find this site by visiting my teacher page on the HPS website.

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Creative Corner continued

Very soon there will be an after school Art Club option for Elementary students as well. We will be finalizing plans for this, and details will be coming soon! We will be participating in several competitions, such as Doodle 4 Google and the Colorado Association for Recycling poster contest, as well as participating in workshops with local artists.

If you have any questions, or would like to help out in the art room sometime, please email me at alicia.thompson@thompsonschools.org. We are having a great first few weeks, and I can’t wait to see what amazing things your students create this year!

Alicia Thompson
Art Teacher
High Plains School

Book Fair

We are happy to announce that the Scholastic Fall Book Fair will be here at High Plains during parent/teacher conferences! Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy seeing all the great books and fun school supplies that will be available for purchase. The fair directly benefits our students by providing enriching books for our library. Thank you for your support!
Counselor’s Corner

Dear students and families,

What an adventure this first month of school has been! It has been great to get to know the High Plains students and families. In addition to meeting individual student needs, here is a quick snapshot of the things I have been working on thus far:

Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports

We have developed Bison Bucks (and maybe you’ve seen some come home) to reward positive behavior and I have visited classes to explain this incentive program. Students can turn these in for both classroom and school incentives. The Bison Bucks promote our Bison RESPECT expectations.

Classroom Lessons

Classroom lessons will increase throughout the year. Lessons conducted thus far include:

- Kindergarten: Teamwork
- Fifth Grade: Respect and Kindness
- Sixth Grade: Girls’ Empowerment

Needs Assessment

A developmentally appropriate survey will be given to help determine the needs of our students. The results of this assessment will guide the activities of the High Plains comprehensive counseling program. All individual information will be kept confidential and will only be seen by me. Data reports will only include general data trends.

Ms. Burton

970.679.9805

danielle.burton@thompsonschools.org

Hours: Mon-Fri, 10:30a—3:20p
Counselor’s Corner

9 Months to 9th Grade

That’s right! It’s time for 8th grade to start planning ahead for high school!

Thompson School District has adopted the 9 Months to 9th Grade plan to help eighth graders transition to high school. Parents and guardians of 8th graders will see more information soon.

Here a couple of dates to mark in your calendars now:

College Fair
- November 1, 2016
- 6:00-8:00pm
- The Ranch at the Larimer Country Fairgrounds in the Thomas M. McKee Building

Mountain View High School* Curriculum Night
- November 2, 2016
- 6:00-7:30pm

*If you will be attending a different high school in the district, more information will be sent out soon

Library

The HPS library is fortunate to have thousands of digital books for students of all ages and reading levels. Please visit our school's website (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: jt DOE23), and their password is their student number preceded by two zeroes (example: 00123456).
**Play It Forward**

The Music Department at High Plains is beginning a band program! We are in need of any musical instruments and supplies for students who can not afford or obtain the materials needed for band.

We will be accepting new or used items at any point during the school year. Please drop off instruments or supplies to the main office, along with your information. If you have any questions, please contact Shawna Lemons using the information below.

**Thank you for supporting the arts in our school and community!**

Shawna Lemons
970.679.9817
HPSmusic.com
[shawna.lemons@thompsonschools.org](mailto:shawna.lemons@thompsonschools.org)

**Titlewish.com**

Are you interested in helping to enrich the lives of the students of High Plains School? If so, please consider donating online at [www.titlewish.com](http://www.titlewish.com). 100% of donated funds will be used to purchase high quality, shelf-ready books and other media center materials that will inform, engage, and challenge kids. Our school goal is to raise $10,000 by the end of October. Additionally, Follett Library Resources (our Titlewish sponsor) will match 10% of every dollar raised. We appreciate your contributions!
Coach’s Corner
Hello HPS Families,

As September draws to a close and the weather starts to get colder, please keep in mind your students’ day(s) for Physical Education. Having the proper footwear is essential for full participation in PE class. Snow boots, while great for keeping out the snow and cold, are not great for PE. If you do send your kiddos to school with snow boots on, please make sure that they have another pair of shoes with them for PE.

Intramural Basketball
- Who: 6th-8th grade boys
- What: Informational meeting
- When: Wednesday October 19th, 6:30pm
- Where: HPS Cafeteria
- Why: Meet the coaches and discuss expectations for and playing options

Heads Up!
With the change in the weather, the hats came back out, and now is a good time for parents to be on the alert for head lice. Head lice are a common childhood affliction. All places where children get together are places where head lice can be transferred. Clean hair and home are no guarantee that head lice will not find your child. Periodically check your child’s hair for nits (eggs), which can usually be seen long before lice can be located. Nits are small white to tan particles found in the hair that look a lot like dandruff, except that dandruff is loose and can be brushed from the hair, whereas nits are attached to the hair shaft and cannot be removed easily. Lice are very small (flea sized) and do not like light, so they can be hard to find. If your child is experiencing itching of the scalp or you see something in the hair and are not sure what it is, feel free to stop by the health office and allow us to check. Thanks

Sincerely,
Carey Quaratino (Health Aide) and Curt Van Tress, RN (School Nurse)
High Plains PTCO
Happenings:

Thank You to our community!
- Thank you to everyone who came to out and had dinner at Chipotle!! We raised $1100.00 for our school!
- Look for Spiritwear orders to arrive mid-October. Keep an eye out for another opportunity to purchase Spiritwear in November.

The Big Kahuna Fundraiser
- We are raising money to support our school - field trips, extracurricular and fun events!
- Students will receive fun prizes for participation - cash/check donations WILL qualify students for prizes!
- Orders due on Tuesday 10/11, product will be given to families to distribute to customers Monday 11/7

King Soopers Gift Card fundraiser - Sign up online to get your card
- Simply load your card before purchasing groceries or gas
- 5% of your everything you spend will benefit the High Plains PTCO
- Get more details and sign up at www.highplainsptco.org/fundraising

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!
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)
  - Thursday Folders - put papers in folders and/or make copies
  - Math Counts (grades 6-8) & Math Olympiads (grades 4-8) - lead or help start program
  - Fall Carnival - build carnival games, join the Planning Committee, or make signs
  - Box Tops - counting and bundling
  - 5th Grade Library - help cover books with contact paper
  - 100 Mile Club - help track laps, school day mornings 7:30-7:45
  - Preschool Book Library - help students check out books M-Th 12:00-12:20 (one or more days)
  - Lunch and/or Recess Monitoring - Mon-Fri 10:50 am - 1:00 pm

*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*
High Plains School
Box Tops for Education
October School-Wide Competition

The two classes to collect the most box tops by October 21st, 2016 will win a Popcorn Party and/or Movie Day!!
Start clipping today and save money for our school!!

Here’s How:

- Clip box tops from hundreds of your favorite brands, including Ziploc, Nestle, Pillsbury, Kleenex, Hefty, General Mills, Huggies and much more. For a complete list of participating products, visit the Box Tops website at www.boxtops4education.com.

- Please bundle box tops in a baggie or similar container and write your teacher’s name on the outside of the baggie/container. This will help to make sure that the correct class is credited.

- Get friends and family involved by encouraging them to help save box tops too!

- Deadline: Friday, October 21st, 2016 is the last day to turn in your box tops to qualify for the movie/popcorn day. The two winning classes will be announced during morning announcements on Tuesday, October 25th. Winners will get to choose the date to have their party.

Box tops are redeemed for cash which will be used for educational items, programs and events sponsored by the High Plains Parent Teacher Community Organization.
October 3  Room Parent Meeting  8:00am
October 4  PTCO Fall Festival  4:00pm
October 5  Official October Count
October 7  No School for Students
October 11  Jared Polis visit
October 12  Parent/Teacher Conferences
            3:20-7:20pm
October 13  Parent/Teacher Conferences
            7:30am-7:00pm
October 13  No School for Students
October 14  No School for Students
October 17  Fundraiser $ due
October 18  PTCO meeting  6:30pm
October 19  Boys Basketball Mtg
October 28  Picture Retake Day