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Husky Talk Newsletter

High Point Academy Thursday, September 3, 2015 Volume 10, Issue 2

Our mission is to provide a strong foundation of academic excellence in partnership with family and community in which each individual is challenged to achieve his/her highest potential academically, socially, and personally.

Volunteer Training

Are you interested in working in a classroom, going on field trips, or helping at the school? If so, you need to complete a one-time volunteer training and background check. If you have completed the training in a previous year you need to complete the background check **annually**. Please contact Erica Konieczny at ekonieczny@highpointacademy.net or 303-217-5152 to find out when the next training is taking place or to get the background check form.

Families Looking for Carpool Help

Helping other HPA families by carpooling is a great way to build community as well as earn your parent volunteer hours. The following are families looking for help getting their children either to school or home from school. If you can help please contact Erica Konieczny at ekonieczny@highpointacademy.net

- Afternoon carpool help needed to Montbello. Major cross streets are Crown Blvd. and 51st St.
- Morning carpool help from the Green Valley Ranch area.

Girls on the Run

Girls on the Run starts the week of September 14th. 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 Thursdays after school from 3:45-5:00 pm. Open to all HPA 3rd through 5th grade girls. Registration is open at www.girlsontherunrockies.org

Garden to Cafeteria Program

It was recently announced that High Point Academy had been selected to participate in The Garden to Cafeteria (GTC) program, which is administered under Denver Public Schools Food and Nutrition Services Department. This program provides opportunities for students to grow fresh fruits and vegetables in their school garden with the aim of supplying some of their harvest to the school cafeteria to be used at lunch service. On Thursday August 20th, some of the delicious vegetables served on the salad bar came directly from our school garden.

There are strict protocols to assure the food safety of the vegetables harvested from the school garden by students. A huge thanks to our School Garden Coordinator, Jogita Auzina, for completing the necessary procedures for HPA to become a part of the program.

NEW Husky Wear

Did you see HPA's new Husky Wear items? Visit www.saiteamsports.com to order your polo shirts, hoodies, jackets, and much more.

King Soopers Gift Cards

If you shop at King Soopers, please consider helping HPA to raise money by purchasing a reloadable gift card and using it to make your purchases of groceries, gas, and more! 5% of all purchases will come back to HPA. Gift cards cost \$5 and are for sale in the office. If you have questions about the program, please contact parent Joan Cordo at jjcordo@msn.com.

Donation and Volunteer Opportunities

- **School Garden Volunteers Needed:** Our parent garden coordinator, Jogita Auzina, is seeking volunteers to assist with the school garden. This is a perfect opportunity to be involved in the wonderful work that is being done for our school. Please contact Jogita at jogitaa@hotmail.com or 912-414-3867.

Important Dates:

September 7: NO SCHOOL Labor Day

September 9: Flag Football Game at 4:30pm at KIPP Montbello

September 9: Volleyball Game at 5:15pm at High Point Academy

September 15: Volleyball Game at 4:15pm at High Point Academy

September 15: Flag Football Game at 5:00pm at the High Point field

September 16: Evening conferences 4-8pm

September 17: Evening conferences 4-8pm

September 18: NO SCHOOL

September 18: HPA Community Night at the Rockies Game 6:40pm first pitch.

Save the Date

Picture Day will be Tuesday, September 29. If possible plan appointments for other dates so all students can be included. We will be looking for volunteers to help throughout the day. Opportunities will be posted in the volunteer and donation opportunities section of the newsletter in the coming weeks.

Strategic Planning Survey

As you know, HPA is engaging in a strategic planning process. Please share your perspective by completing a short 3 question survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WLVJKD8>

The survey closes tomorrow, Friday, September 4th at noon.

Husky Talk Newsletter

Message from the Principal

Dear HPA Families,

The 2015-2016 school year is off to a wonderful start! The buzz and excitement in the building these last three weeks has been palpable. Thank you for helping your child transition from the ease of summer vacation to the structure of the school day. We know it's not easy getting to bed early and we appreciate you getting your child to school on time and ready to learn!

Now that we are back in school, and children spend much of their day at school, you may wonder how to keep informed about the things they are doing and learning. At HPA, we make great efforts to ensure a strong home-school partnership. Part of that partnership is to help keep our families informed about classroom and school happenings. Teachers will email, blog, use class dojo or send home newsletters that highlight how the students are doing, what students are learning, and in some cases important upcoming assignments. Please be sure to reach out to your child's teacher if you haven't received any communication. Student grades are tracked on Power School, which is another avenue that can keep you informed about your child's progress. Every other week, you should be receiving the Husky Newsletter with important messages from the office on line and, for the first few weeks, in Thursday Folders.

Yesterday, at *Coffee with Keri*, we discussed ways to establish a strong home-school partnership. The highlights from the presentation include the five steps to successful partnerships: The PowerPoint from the presentation is available by [clicking on this link](#).

Step 1: Be Supportive... of teachers: Know that teachers make mistakes and appreciate your support. Our teachers are dedicated professionals that work very hard. Teachers want to hear your concerns, so please reach out to them. Provide input and solutions regarding your child, you know your child better than anyone.

Be Supportive... of students: Students need a time and place to do their homework and they need adequate rest and sleep.

Step 2: Stay Informed... Ask your child how their school day went, set aside time to read all newsletters, notes, and emails. Ensure you are informed regarding homework requirements and systems, as well as projects and longer term assignments.

Step 3: Model respect... Discuss any issues or concerns directly with your child's teacher, share concerns directly through a phone call, email, or face to face meeting, rather than through your child. Have a positive attitude about school, the teachers, the work, and learning. Share with your child how important their education is to you and for them.

Step 4: Same page... When a plan is created by you and your child's teacher, it is important that both parties follow through with agreed upon next steps or consequences. By enrolling your child at HPA, you are agreeing to support our policies and procedures. This is critical to ensuring that all adults are on the same page regarding your child's education.

Step 5: Assume best intentions... When there is an issue, listen to your child's perspective as well as the perspective of the adult, then, together with the school determine next steps. It is also important to praise your child each day, and focus on their strengths. Acknowledge the hard work and dedication of your child as well as your child's teacher. If you have any questions about what your child is communicating about school, we strongly encourage you to reach out to your child's homeroom teacher or advisor. At HPA we believe that the better we understand each child, the better we can meet their learning and academic needs. We welcome this type of exchange, so that we can support your child's growth. Communicating through email typically generates the timeliest responses. As you may know, we ask HPA staff to return emails or phone calls within a 36 hour time frame.

We hope these first few weeks have gone well for you and your child. My door is always open. Please stop by, call, or email if you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns.

With husky pride,

Ms. Keri Melmed
Chief Academic Officer/Principal