



# Husky Talk Newsletter

High Point Academy

Thursday, December 18, 2014 Volume 9, Issue 9

**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.**

*Keri Melmed*  
Chief Academic  
Officer/Principal

*Chad Miller*  
Chief Business  
Officer

*Kelle Bongard*  
Assistant Principal

*Nick Stachokus*  
Dean of Students

*Barbara Hill*  
Director of  
Communications

*Michele Garver*  
Director of  
Assessment &  
Learning Support

*Erica Konieczny*  
Director of Student  
Services

*Teresa Frasier*  
Office Manager

*Sharla Williams*  
Enrollment  
Coordinator

*Amanda Molina*  
Medical Assistant

*Ryan Frasier*  
Governing Board  
President

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## Holiday Shop

The High Point Academy Colorguard team is hosting the holiday shop fundraiser this week after school. The shop will be open tonight after school as well as tomorrow from 12:00-1:30pm.

## Order Your Yearbook Today!

The 2014-2015 school yearbook is now on sale. Purchase forms went home in Thursday folders last week, but you can also order online at [ybpay.lifetouch.com](http://ybpay.lifetouch.com) (yearbook code: 11891215). Order your yearbook by December 19th and you only pay \$10. After that date the yearbook purchase price goes up to \$20 (these prices do not include add-ons).

## Governing Board Meeting

The next Governing Board meeting is tomorrow, Friday, December 19th from 10:30am-12pm. Families are invited to attend. [Click here](#) for the meeting agenda.

## PTO Meeting

The next PTO meeting is tonight at 5:30pm. All families are invited to attend and Husky Pack will be available for child care.

## 2013-2014 Annual Report

The High Point Academy annual report is now available. [Click here](#) to view the report online. This information is also available on the website under "About Us". If you need a hard copy please contact the front office.

## Fall Service Learning Projects

In the spirit of serving others, we are pleased to announce that two service learning groups were featured in last week's showcase. All 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes along with Mr. Pape's, Ms. Konieczny's, and Ms. Bergland's advisory students have been caring for our local environment and are challenging all HPA staff and students to pick up as much trash as possible throughout the month of December. Listen to the morning announcements for more information about their "Leave No Trace" efforts.

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade students of Ms. Ross's class and students of Ms. Fredericks's advisory group are learning about the medical condition of epilepsy and are using their empathy skills to think deeply about what it might be like to have epilepsy. The students have created and displayed awareness posters throughout the school and are hoping to involve the school in a "wear-your-purple-day" fundraiser to support epilepsy patients and research.

## Volunteer & Donations Opportunities

The health office is in need of uniform pants, in particular, sizes 5, 6, and 7. If you are able to help please bring donations to the office.

A parent volunteer is needed to help with the girls and boys basketball games. Please [email Erica Konieczny](#) if you are interested.

[Message from the Chief Academic  
Officer on page two.](#)

# Happy Holidays



# Husky Talk Newsletter

## Message from the Chief Academic Officer

Dear HPA Families,

Did you know that HPA is a top performing school in the far northeast? Our elementary school students out perform their peers in all of the neighboring schools, and our middle school is one of the top three high performing middle schools in the far northeast region. High Point Academy is also outperforming DPS (Denver Public School District) and APS (Aurora Public School District) in reading and writing, as shown by the 2013-2014 TCAP state assessment results. While we know that you choose to send your child to HPA because of our dedicated teachers, engaging and challenging curriculum, we know that this achievement data is another compelling reason you believe in HPA.

This year we continue to see growth and learning and we are excited by the growth our students are making. One measure of growth that we watch and measure each quarter is our STAR data. Prior to the first day of school, you may remember, our students took the STAR reading and math assessment. The assessment results provided teachers important information so that they could plan lessons that were directly aligned to students' needs. Having this data was extremely helpful in providing targeted instruction from the first day of school. The STAR reading and math tests were administered at the end of first quarter. The results were very positive and we saw growth across every content area and grade level. The strong growth is a product of our students' hard work, the support and partnership of our families, and the commitment and passion for teaching and learning that our teachers provide each day.

Of course none of this would be possible without the wonderful faculty and staff at HPA. The staff work tirelessly to create a tremendous learning environment for our students. Let me share with you a few of the engaging and compelling learning experiences that took place this fall.

Our eighth graders completed a unit of study called, "Designing the Future." Students learned about different inventions and how innovation shaped society during that time period. They were reading the book, The Giver, which provocatively discusses those ideas. Sixth graders designed ecosystem books for children. They were our resident experts when they presented their books to our fourth graders. The fourth graders fine-tuned their research and writing skills when they created their own "Decade Magazine" that reported major events of that time period. Our younger readers and writers in first, second, and third grade conducted author studies, character studies, and developed their 'how to' and 'persuasive' writing skills. Kindergartners developed their scientific skills and explored the power of our five senses.

Our hallways have been adorned with the beautiful art work our middle school students completed first and second quarter. As you may know, this school year HPA launched Art as one of our Specials offering. Students in Kindergarten through eighth grade participate in our art class. Students continue to develop their drawing, painting, and creative design skills. HPA believes strongly in our students' ability to think creatively and problem-solve, both critical skills for 21<sup>st</sup> century success. With the addition of art to the other wonderful specials (Wellness, Media-Technology, Spanish, and Physical Education) at HPA we are thrilled that our students are given the opportunity to think and develop in new and exciting ways.

As a staff, we are proud of the accomplishments your students have made this semester. The first half of the year was filled with achievement and growth as well as laughter and community. I wish everyone in the HPA community a safe and happy holiday season and I look forward to the New Year and what 2015 will bring.

Keri Melmed  
High Point Academy  
Chief Academic Officer

### Important Dates:

**December 18:** PTO Meeting 5:30pm

**December 19:** Dress Down Day \$2 (\$1 for top and \$1 for bottom)

**December 19:** International Day 10:00-11:30am

**December 19:** Governing Board Meeting 10:30am-12:00pm

**December 19:** NOON Release

**December 22-January 2:** Winter Break-NO SCHOOL

**January 5:** NO SCHOOL-Teacher Professional Development

**January 9:** End of Quarter 2

**January 14 & 15:** Evening Conferences 4-8pm

**January 16:** NO SCHOOL

**January 19:** Martin Luther King Jr. Day-NO SCHOOL

**January 22:** Middle School Awards Ceremonies

**January 23:** Elementary School Awards Ceremonies