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Husky Talk Newsletter

High Point Academy

Thursday, August 20, 2015 Volume 10, Issue 1

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.

Welcome Back!

Happy first week of school! Many thanks to everyone who attended Back to School Night and Student Testing last week, it truly helped make this week about student learning. If you missed Back to School Night, please take a moment to check out the [PowerPoint presentation](#) from the evening.

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

Middle School Fall Sports

Sports available to 6th-8th grade students this fall are Girls Volleyball, Boys Flag Football, and Girls and Boys Cross Country. Practice will begin on Monday, August 24. There will be tryouts for girls volleyball on August 24 and 25. **There is a parent meeting today after school at 4:00pm in the gymnasium.** To print off paperwork and forms please [click here](#) and you will be redirected to the schools website. If you still have questions email Erica Konieczny, at ekonieczny@highpointacademy.net or call the school.

Governing Board Meeting

Next Wednesday is the first governing board meeting of the school year. Meetings take place every month on the 4th Wednesday at 5:30pm in the Wellness room (there are some exceptions, please see the calendar on the website for exact dates). Come and see how the governing board provides the strategic leadership of the school. Governing board meetings are open to the public, and the board would love to see you there!

Jean Day

The last Friday of every month is a jean day. Students can wear jeans for \$1. This money helps support the yearbook and keep the cost down for families. The jean day schedule for the year is available [here](#).

Attendance and Tardies

Welcome back! We wanted to let everyone know that we will start marking tardies beginning on Monday, August 24th. A student will be marked tardy if they arrive to school or to their homerooms after 8:00am. Please remember that you can drop your child (ren) off beginning at 7:30am to avoid the carpool line.

Middle School students will also be marked tardy throughout the day if they arrive to their classes late following their five minute passing period.

Rockies Tickets on Sale NOW!

High Point Academy middle school athletics is having a ticket sales fundraiser for a community night at the ballpark on Friday, September 18. Tickets are \$5 a piece and can be ordered using the form coming home in Thursday folders today. \$2 from each ticket will come back to HPA and help support middle school student athletic costs. Please return [this form](#) with money (CASH ONLY) to the front office by September 3rd at 4:00pm to reserve your tickets.

School Newsletters

HPA school newsletters are sent out bi-weekly. These publications are sent out electronically via email. For the first few editions we will also be printing them and sending them home in Thursday folders. If you would like to continue to receive a paper copy throughout the year please contact Tonya Gray at 303-217-5152 or via email at tgray@highpointacademy.net

Important Dates:

August 20: Middle School Fall Sports Parent Meeting 4:00pm in the gym

August 21: Strategic Plan Parent Input Meeting 8:00am and 2:00pm

August 26: Volunteer Training 8:00am

August 26: Governing Board Meeting 5:30pm

August 28: Jean Day- \$1 to wear jeans

September 1: Volunteer Training 4:00pm

September 2: All middle school fall sports paperwork due by 4:00pm

September 3: Rockies ticket order forms and money due by 4:00pm

September 7: NO SCHOOL Labor Day

We also have a HPA app that can be downloaded at the app store.

Husky Talk Newsletter

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.

PM Access to the Building

To keep our students safe we are not allowing students to wander the building after school. If students are not picked up during carpool they will be sent to Husky PACK. Husky PACK parents please come through the lunch room door to pick up your child. Preschool parents and families, please enter through the front door when coming to pick up students at the end of the day.

Volunteer Training

Our first volunteer trainings are coming up on Wednesday, August 26 at 8:00am and again on Tuesday, September 1 at 4:00pm. If you are interested in working in a classroom, going on field trips, or helping at the school and have not completed the training in previous years, you need to attend this training and clear a background check before going into classrooms. Please RSVP to Erica Konieczny at ekonieczny@highpointacademy.net or 303-217-5152 if you want to attend. If you have completed the training in a previous year you need to complete the background check annually. Please email Erica Konieczny to get the form to complete this process.

Snack Policy

A friendly reminder that our wellness policy allows only fresh fruits and vegetables to be brought for snack.

Thank you in advance for your support.

PowerSchool & My School Bucks Letter

Coming home in Thursday folders today is a letter for creating a PowerSchool login which will allow you to track student grades and attendance, as well as update contact info and settings. If you have an account from last year you can disregard this portion of the letter. If you have any questions about PowerSchool please contact Erica Konieczny. Also in the letter is your child's student ID number, which is needed to create your child's lunch account. If you have any questions about My School Bucks please contact the front office.

If you do not receive a letter it is because we are still waiting to receive your child's ID number from the state. As soon as this information gets to us we will get the letters out.

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 from the Green Valley Ranch area.

Donation and Volunteer Opportunities

- **School Garden Volunteers Needed:** Our parent garden volunteer, 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.



Husky Talk Newsletter

Message from the Principal

Dear HPA Families,

It is with great enthusiasm that, on behalf of the entire HPA staff, I welcome you back to school!

Teachers and staff returned to work the first week in August. Over the last two weeks there has been lots of excitement and energy planning for the new school year. Staff was eagerly organizing their classrooms, revising curriculum, meeting within teams, getting appropriate medical training, as well as diving into texts and most current research on best teaching practices. The building was abuzz with activity and anticipation for the new year.

Our preparations culminated on Thursday evening with Back to School Night. It was wonderful to see so many familiar and new faces in our classrooms and hallways. Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to engage in our first community event of the year. It was a great opportunity to meet teachers and see classrooms. For those of you who were unable to attend Back to School Night or who missed the general session, the highlights of the presentation are listed below.

As a school we are focusing on a few initiatives that will support our students learning and growth from a social, emotional, and academic standpoint. Ms. Juanise Cornell, our Dean of Students, is working with six other staff members in leading our work around restorative practices. A way of thinking that helps shift culture from viewing discipline as an opportunity to punish, to viewing discipline as an opportunity to repair harm and learn from your mistakes. Mrs. Michele Garver, our Elementary School Assistant Principal, is working with a handful of teachers to lead our work around grading and reporting practices. You may see a shift in your child's grades as teachers separate habits of work and character from content understanding. Mrs. Kelle Bongard, our Middle School Assistant Principal, and her team are leading staff in using data efficiently and effectively so that teachers can become better teachers and students can become better learners. We are also working with an outside consultant, Dr. Darlene Sampson, to become more culturally responsive educators. Cultural responsiveness allows us to use what we know about our students to meet their academic, social, and emotional needs so that they are learning and growing in our care. As you can see we are highly focused on becoming better practitioners for your students. This work is done during our staff meetings on Wednesdays, during team meetings throughout the school day, as well as during our non-contact professional development/teacher work days. The staff is energized by these initiatives and we are excited to learn more about each one as the year progresses.

While we are still waiting for the state to release math and reading scores from last year, we are proud to share the growth in student achievement HPA saw over the last two years in social studies and science. This summer, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) released the 4th, 5th, 7th, and 8th grade CMAS test results which showed that the number of students that are strong or distinguished grew significantly from 2013-2014 school year to 2014-2015 school year. This exciting 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.

If you have any questions about any of these topics, please feel free to email, call, or stop by my office.

We have had a wonderful first week back and look forward to many more weeks of learning and fun together!

With Husky pride,
Ms. Keri Melmed
Chief Academic Officer/Principal