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# Husky Talk Newsletter

High Point Academy

Thursday, October 1, 2015 Volume 10, Issue 4

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 as well as an annual background check. If you have completed the training in a previous year you need to complete the background check **annually**. The next volunteer training will take place on October 6 at 4:00 pm. Please contact Erica Konieczny at [ekonieczny@highpointacademy.net](mailto:ekonieczny@highpointacademy.net) or 303-217-5152 to RSVP for the training.

## Middle School Basketball Meeting

Middle school basketball starts in November. If your 6th, 7th, or 8th grader is interested in playing, please plan to attend the parent informational meeting on Monday, October 12 at 4:00pm at the school. All forms and sport physicals will be due October 30 this year so please plan accordingly.

## After School Activities

The fall session of after school activities starts on Thursday, October 8 and will run for eight weeks every Thursday/Friday through December 3. Sign-up forms went home in Thursday folders last week, but you can view and print the form on the HPA website under Current Families-Activities. This round of activities features Arts and Crafts, 3D Design and Printing, Drama Club, Sketch Art, Music Circle, Mosaic Club, Book Club, Sign Language Club, Volleyball, and Spanish Reading Club. Please turn in forms and money to the front office Friday, September 25 through Wednesday, October 7. Teachers will not accept registration or payment for activities.

## Power Hour

Power Hour, High Point Academy's after school tutoring program, is starting back up this upcoming Tuesday, October 6 from 4-5pm. This program is free of charge and available to HPA students. This program is facilitated by HPA teachers and is designed to help students complete and understand current course work and homework.

## P.E. Movie Night

Mr. Maynes and Mr. Michel will be hosting P.E. Movie Night to raise money for Field Day and the Physical Education Department, in which 100% of the proceeds will help purchase supplies and equipment for HPA students to use.

When: Friday, October 9th from 4:00-5:30 pm

Where: HPA gym

Cost: \$3 per student, includes: movie, a bag of popcorn, and a bottle of water

## Fall Festival—October 27th Recipes Needed

You're invited to be a part of the fall festival and international potluck on Tuesday, October 27th from 5-7pm. The Equity Committee is collecting family favorite native dishes to be included in a HPA multi cultural recipe book. Coming home in Thursday folders today is a recipe form to be filled out if you would like to participate. Students who bring in a recipe on or before Friday, October 9th will receive a free jean day on October 9th. All recipes should be turned in to the homeroom or homebase teacher.

## Love and Logic Parent Education Class

Mrs. Bongard, our Middle School Assistant Principal, will be teaching a Love and Logic parent education class this year. The class will meet once a month, on the second Friday of the month, from 6-7:30PM. Free childcare and dinner will always be provided. The cost is only \$20 and a great time is always to be had! If you are wondering how to put an end to arguing, back talk, or begging, OR if you just want to have more fun parenting while raising responsible, respectful kids, then this class is for you! The signup sheet is enclosed in this week's Thursday folders or you can reserve your space by emailing Mrs. Bongard at [kbongard@highpointacademy.net](mailto:kbongard@highpointacademy.net). The \$20 can be paid during sign up, or at the first class session (Oct 9th). See you then!

## Important Dates:

**October 3:** Cross Country Meet 8:00am at Strive: GVR

**October 6:** Volunteer Training 4:00pm

**October 6:** Power Hour 4-5pm

**October 6:** Flag Football Game at 5:00pm at the High Point field

**October 7:** Coffee with Keri 8:00-8:30am

**October 7:** Volleyball Game at 5:00pm at Vanguard West (against Vanguard East (B))

**October 8:** Volleyball Game at 5:15pm at HPA

**October 9:** P.E. Movie Night 4:00-5:30pm

**October 9:** Love and Logic Parent Education Class 6-7:30pm (see page 1 for details)

**October 10:** Cross Country Meet 8:00am at Strive: GVR

**October 12:** MS Basketball Parent Meeting 4:00pm

**October 13:** Volleyball Game at 4:30pm at HPA

**October 13:** Flag Football Game at 4:30pm at Omar D. Blair

**October 14:** Governing Board Meeting 5:30pm

## Save the Date

HPA's International Fall Festival and Potluck, Tuesday, October 27 from 5-7pm

# Husky Talk Newsletter

## Message from the Principal

Dear HPA Families,

As you may know, we are in the midst of October Count which determines our school funding for the year. This funding is allocated based on our student count. Please ensure that your child is at school during this window. While attendance is critical during October Count for funding purposes, student attendance is essential every day for their academic growth and learning. If you are arriving at school after 8:00am, please make adjustments to your morning routines so that your child is at school on time. Students can be dropped off as early as 7:30. Please take advantage of opportunity. At HPA we believe that every minute counts!

Now that we've completed our sixth week of school and we are in high gear, you may be wondering how to support your child academically. Families often find themselves unsure or unable to provide assistance with the work that is being asked of their child to complete at home. Homework may also be a source of stress or frustration for your student, or in many cases, the family members trying to help. At this month's, "Coffee with Keri" we discussed strategies that may help avoid some of the battles we face when it's homework time.

Location, location, location... make sure your child has a quiet place to work (NO: TV, computer, iPad, cell phone, or other electronic). As simple as this sounds, when asked, most children say they are completing their homework in their living rooms in front of the TV. Too many distractions result in incomplete or inaccurate work. It's also important that your child has the appropriate materials to complete the work. This may be a calculator, computer, graph paper, etc. If you do not have the supplies your child needs, please reach out to the office so that we can arrange for you to borrow what you need.

90% of success is attitude... homework historically may have been a source of conflict between students and families which has resulted in a negative attitude around homework. As much as possible, even if you have to 'fake it', have a positive attitude about homework. If you are positive about the work your child needs to complete, they are more likely to be positive about it. When your child is working on their homework model 'homework' behaviors such reading a book, balancing your checkbook, writing an email, or researching a question you have or something you've heard on the news.

It takes a village...you are your child's first teacher and you know them best, communicate with your child's teacher about what you are noticing during homework time or any concerns you may have. Research shows that parent involvement is more important to a child's academic success than IQ, economic status, or school programming.

Helping hands, means...the best ways to support your child with homework are around organization, and pacing. Help them do the 'hard' work first before fatigue sets in and the 'easy' homework last. Make sure they take a break, or get started at a reasonable hour. And most importantly, and usually the most difficult for parents, provide guidance, *not* answers, when your child asks for help.

While the scientific research regarding homework is inconclusive as to whether or not it increases academic achievement, we do believe that homework is a worthwhile practice that has significant benefits. Homework helps students develop time management and research skills, build self-discipline and independence, grow responsibility and ownership of their learning, as well as improve thinking and memory.

If you have any questions about the work your child is doing, please feel free to reach out by email or stop by my office.

With husky pride,

Ms. Keri Melmed

Chief Academic Officer/Principal

# Donation and Volunteer Opportunities

- **Vision and Hearing Screening Volunteers Needed:** Vision and hearing testing is November 30 through December 3. We need 10 volunteers each day from 8:15am to 3:15pm, lunch will be provided. If you are interested please contact Erica Konieczny at [ekonieczny@highpointacademy.net](mailto:ekonieczny@highpointacademy.net).

## HPA Website-Counselors Corner Page

The Counselors Corner webpage has been recently updated! This is a great way to get to know our counselors and their roles at HPA. Also check out all of the bullying, learning disabilities, suicide prevention, and community mental health resources available to you and your students. There will also be a Counselor Blog coming soon where you will find announcements and updates on what the counselors are up to. The link to the Counselors Corner is: <http://www.highpointacademy.net/counselors-corner/>

## Book Character Dress Day

On October 30, students can dress up as their favorite book character. Students must have their costume idea pre-approved through their teacher and have the book in hand on Character Dress Day.

## 2015-2016 Colorguard

High Point Academy Colorguard is now accepting new members, K-8 boys and girls, through the end of October. Practices are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:15-7:00 pm in the HPA gym. Interested in more information? Please email Kathy Frazier at [katfrazi77@msn.com](mailto:katfrazi77@msn.com) or come by before or after practice.

## Box Tops Fundraiser

Did you know that every 50 Box Tops labels earns \$5.00 for the school? The next time you see a Box Top label, don't throw it away, clip it! The PTO is sponsoring a Box Tops 4 Education labels contest from October 12th-16th. One winning class from primary, secondary, and middle school advisory groups will each receive a \$50 gift card for their classroom. To participate, clip Box Tops labels from products and have your student turn them in to their homeroom/ advisory teacher. Expired Box Tops and Campbell Soup labels do not count toward the contest totals. For more information about the Box Tops 4 Education program, visit [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) or email the school Box Tops coordinator, Audrey Bixler, at [audreybix5@gmail.com](mailto:audreybix5@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto:jjcordo@msn.com).

## Free Community Event: Trunk or Treat

[Click here](#) for a flyer for Trunk or Treat, hosted by the Optimist Club, on October 24. Please contact Joan Cordo at [jjcordo@msn.com](mailto:jjcordo@msn.com) with questions.

## Highly Qualified Teachers

As a parent of a student here at High point Academy, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teacher who instructs your child. This is a requirement for all districts that receive Title I funds. Federal law allows you to request certain information about your student's classroom teacher. The law also requires the district to give you this information in a timely manner upon request. Listed below is the information about which you have the right to ask for regarding each of your student's classroom teachers.

- Whether the Colorado Department of Education has licensed or endorsed your student's teacher for the grades and subjects taught.
- Whether CDE has decided that your student's teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances.
- The teacher's college major; whether the teacher has any advance degrees, and, if so, the subject of the degrees.
- Whether any teachers' aides or similar paraeducators provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

Please contact Teresa Frazier at (303) 217-5152 if you would like to receive any of this information.

## 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](mailto:ekonieczny@highpointacademy.net)

- Afternoon carpool help needed to Montbello. Major cross streets are Crown Blvd. and 51st St.
- Afternoon carpool help needed after school to the GVR area, 53rd and Dunkirk St.
- Morning carpool help from the Green Valley Ranch area.
- Morning and Afternoon carpool help needed, Chambers and 40th Ave area.
- Afternoon carpool on Friday's to the Colfax Ave. and Tower Rd. area.