



Husky Talk Newsletter

High Point Academy Thursday, November 10, 2016 Volume 11, Issue 7

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

Michele Garver
Elementary School
Assistant Principal

Jackson Westenskow
Middle School
Assistant Principal

Juanise Cornell
Dean of Students

Barbara Hill

Director of
Communications

Erica Wood
Director of Student
Services

Teresa Frasier
Office Manager

Jill Fitz
Enrollment
Coordinator

Amanda Delgado
Medical Assistant

Michael Fields
Governing Board
President

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If you're on Facebook, like High Point Academy to receive school updates in your newsfeed.

Volunteer Training

The next volunteer training will take place on Friday, November 11th at 8:00am.

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 Wood at ewood@highpointacademy.net or 303-217-5152 if you are planning to attend. If you have completed the training in a previous year you need to complete the background check annually. Please email Erica Wood to get the form to complete this process.

PTO UPDATE!!!

PTO meetings have been moved to the second Thursday of the month starting at 6pm. Our next meeting will take place tonight, Thursday, December 8 at 6:00pm. Childcare will continue to be provided.

October PTO Meeting Minutes

Power Hour

Power Hour – Our FREE afterschool tutoring program for 4th through 8th grade students occurs every Tuesday from 4-5pm. Students can receive tutoring support and/or homework support. Students must have assignments to complete to attend. If students do not have assignments, they will be asked to leave or placed in Husky PACK at the parents expense.

AM Carpool Help Needed

We have two families who are in need of help getting their children to school.

One HPA family is in need of morning carpool help on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 104th Avenue and Tower Road.

Another HPA family is in need of morning carpool help on Tuesdays and Fridays from 56th Avenue and Dunkirk Street.

If you are able to help please contact Erica Wood at ewood@highpointacademy.net

Husky Wear

Did you see HPA's Husky Wear items? Visit <http://denver.educationaloutfitters.com/find-my-school/high-point-academy/> to order your polo shirts, hoodies, jackets, and much more.

Governing Board Meeting

The next Governing Board meeting is Wednesday, November 16th at 7:30am. Families and staff are invited to attend. We hope to see you there!

Fall Sports Update

A shout out to all of our middle school students who participated in HPA athletics this fall. All of our teams had a great season!!

The flag football team had an excellent end to the season. The HPA green team had a great season and they are ready for next year. The HPA gold team made it to the final round of the playoffs last weekend finishing in fourth place out of eighteen teams.

Congratulations to the girls volleyball team who came in second place out of twenty-four teams in the league.

The boys and girls cross country team had an excellent season with all runners placing in the top ten runners in the final three mile race two weeks ago at Vanguard West Classical School.

Carpool Corner

In an effort to ensure our students safety we ask that parents and students only cross Dunkirk Street at 67th Avenue or 64th Avenue where there is a staff member/police officer helping them to cross safely.





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Message from the Principal

Dear HPA Families,

As I know is true for many people, the upcoming Thanksgiving break reminds me to take time and think about the things in my life that I am thankful for and all that I have. One of the things that I am so grateful for are the people in my life. I am filled with gratitude for the amazing students, staff, and families in the High Point Academy community, and I am thankful for another year at HPA and the unique opportunity to work as HPA's Chief Academic Officer/Principal.

In the spirit of thanksgiving, my message this week is a *shout out* to all our amazing teachers at HPA. All too often we take for granted the people who add so much to our lives and I would argue that teachers often fall into that category. Teaching can feel like a thankless job. I am just as guilty as the next person in not showing my appreciation for all that teachers do. I want to encourage every family to reach out to your child's teacher before Thanksgiving break and thank them for all their hard work. You may not know how hard they work, so let me share with you what I see every day. Each day I witness teachers at work long before students arrive, or staying well into the evening; I witness teachers working on weekends and over breaks all to ensure that their lessons are prepared, their classrooms are organized, and that student work is graded. Every day I meet with teachers and hear how well they know their students, how much they care about their success, and all that they are trying to do to give just a little bit more. I am inspired by their dedication and hard work.

"Teachers open our eyes to the world. They give us curiosity and confidence. They teach us to ask questions. They connect us to our past and future. We have lots of heroes today- sports stars, super models and media personalities. They come they have their fifteen minutes of fame and then they go. But the influence of a good teacher stays with us. They are the people who really shape our lives." (Jonathan Sacks).

Before we head off for our Thanksgiving break, let's show our gratitude and appreciation to the real superheroes in our society. A hand written note, a quick email, a flower, a picture, a Starbucks, a thank you card would touch the hearts of our teachers more than you know and would show them how much we value all that they do for our students and community.

What a powerful example this would be for our children to see us showing acts of kindness and gratitude. Let's come together this thanksgiving season and appreciate the people who make HPA a great place for our students to grow and learn.

I hope the upcoming Thanksgiving break provides you and your family time to reflect and think about what you are thankful for as well as time to rest, relax and re-connect.

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

Donation and Volunteer Opportunities

The Art class is continuing their plastic cap drive for a school mural. They are in need of any plastic caps that screw on (i.e. water bottle caps, orange juice caps, Gatorade caps, peanut butter caps, etc.). They need large caps too (hair products, ice cream containers, and food products). There is a drop off station in the front hallway of the school.

Upcoming Events and a Service Learning Update on page 3.

Important Dates:

November 10: PTO Meeting 6-7pm

November 15: Power Hour 4-5pm

November 16: Governing Board Meeting 7:30-9am

November 18: \$1 Jean Day for students

November 21-25: NO SCHOOL—Thanksgiving Break

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Taking Learning Outside of the Classroom - A Look at Service Learning at HPA

Our Service Learning program allows our High Point Preschool through 8th grade students the opportunity to take their learning outside the four walls of the classroom. This project based learning aligns with grade level state standards and student research problems in the community that they believe they can have a positive effect on. Grade level teams engage in activities to fundraise, raise awareness, and donate their time to make a difference towards these local issues. This allows for deeper student insight, dialogue and reflection by making a connection between what is learned in the classroom and what is occurring in their community. Take a look at all of the amazing things that are happening here at HPA!

Preschool will be launching an HPA Homelessness Campaign to raise awareness of homelessness in Colorado. They will begin collecting clothing and winter coats for families in need.

Kindergarten is continuing to collect empty printer cartridges for The Wild Animal Sanctuary in Eastern Colorado. We will be learning about the differences between wild animals and pets that we can have in our homes. We will continue our studies on animal babies and their mother's characteristics, their specific needs and individual habitats. At the end of the year Kindergarten students will be go out on a field experience to see their specific animals of study at the Denver Zoo! Kindergarten will also be creating individual art work to fundraise for the Wild Animal Sanctuary.

First grade will be starting their Service Learning projects during the second half of the school year. They will be studying community helpers and their roles in supporting Green Valley Ranch citizens. Students will be in charge of writing thank you letters and drawing pictures to show how their families are supported by local community leaders.

Second grade will be working on their Service Learning during the second half of the year... Stay tuned!

Third grade will be participating in Pennies for Patients again this year, raising money for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. This will be happening March 6, 2017- March 31, 2017. Third grade will challenge HPA to raise pennies to find a cure for all blood cancers, and improve the quality of life for Colorado and Wyoming patients and their families. Students will be utilizing their graphing skills as they graph the totals week to week in math class. Students also are applying their Empathy Unit to real life experiences and will write letters to children impacted by Leukemia & Lymphoma during Second Steps class time.

Fourth grade will be working on their Service Learning during the second half of the year... Stay tuned!

Fifth grade has been working hard to collect empty water bottles for their school wide display to help raise awareness of the environmental and health impact of disposable water bottles. You can see water bottles hung on the walls throughout the school with fact cards to help students, visitors, and staff better understand how plastic water bottles have changed us and our Earth. Fifth grade has plans to take their field experience at the Denver Zoo to study the Washed Ashore exhibit of art made from trash taken from our oceans (there's even one made entirely of water bottles!)

Sixth grade will be working on their Service Learning during the second half of the year... Stay tuned!

Seventh grade will be working on their Service Learning during the second half of the year... Stay tuned!

Eighth grade will be incorporating many areas of study into their Service Learning project this year including Science, Language Arts, as well as Math. Eighth grade will begin by investigating and raising awareness for a family member of one of our own HPA students. The family member has been diagnosed with Alexander's Disease. In Science they will be focused on the genetics behind the disease, in Math they will be locating and studying the statistics associate with the disease occurrences and in Language Arts students will be reading and analyzing the testimonials from those affected by the disease.