Dear Families,

Highland Park Elementary is proudly participating in a proactive and positive kindness initiative called the GREAT KINDNESS CHALLENGE next week! Please join us in this week of fun dedicated to creating a culture of kindness and compassion on campuses worldwide. We’re highlighting the leaner profile characteristic of CARING and calling February 10-14 KINDNESS WEEK.

Here’s how it works. Every child is provided with a kindness checklist from their classroom teacher. The checklist includes different acts of kindness students can complete in the week. Some of those include: slip a nice note in your friend’s backpack, help a younger student say “thank you” to a volunteer, thank the bus driver, and create your own kind deed. We will also provide students with the family edition of the Great Kindness Challenge so you can have fun as a family completing as many acts of kindness as you can in the week. Some of the family kindness acts include: do a household chore without being asked, create a family gratitude jar, take a family walk outside, and pick up and recycle trash in your neighborhood.

Each day of the week will also have a theme cleverly tied to Kindness:
- Monday - Crazy for Kindness – Crazy Hair and/or Clothing Day
- Tuesday - Hats Off to Kindness – Hat Day
- Wednesday - Dreaming of Kindness – Pajama Day
- Thursday - Tie One On for Kindness – Wear a Tie Day (we’re making the ties at school)
- Friday - Hearts Full of Kindness - Wear Red or Pink Day

Kindness Week will culminate with CARING DAY, on Friday, February 14, which coincidentally is Valentine’s Day. On Caring Day, students may bring cards or small treats for their classmates, in addition to doing kind deeds. Of course, if you are planning on bringing cards or treats, make sure there are enough for everyone in the class.

You can find additional information about the Great Kindness Challenge at GreatKindnessChallenge.org.

Together, let’s show each other that KINDNESS MATTERS!

Sincerely,
Nancy Flynn
Principal
GREAT NEWS

Attention 3-5th grade girls!

It is time for the spring session of Girls on the Run. Trained coaches lead small teams through our research-based curricula which includes dynamic discussions, activities and running games. Over the course of the ten-week program, girls in 3rd-8th grade develop essential skills to help them navigate their worlds and establish a lifetime appreciation for health and fitness.

This culminates in a 5k run on May 31st. Registration began February 1st and information was sent to each student outlining the program in more detail. Register now at www.gotrtwincities.org

Contact Seth Stratton with any questions. seth.stratton@spps.org

5th grade Ski Trip!

The PE department & 5th Grade have planned an all-day ski trip at Buck Hill for HPE 5th graders on Friday, March 13th. The purpose of this trip is for scholars to be IB risk-takers while participating in downhill skiing. The cost of the trip is $25.00, which covers ski rental, ski lessons, a lift pass and transportation. Scholars can bring money on the day of the field trip if they would like to buy lunch/snacks at the chalet. Bag lunches will be provided upon request. Permission slips will be sent home 2 weeks prior to the field trip. If you are interested in chaperoning, please indicate so on the permission slip. - Ms. Ryder, Mr. Ringquist, Ms. Schobein

HPE READ-A-THON!

Thanks so much to ALL who participated in the 11th annual HPE Read-a-Thon. Over 30% of students participated this year and we raised over $6,000 for HPE. If you donated books, helped support your child in their reading, or helped your child collect pledges, we thank you! Prizes and books will be awarded to students on February 13th!

Upcoming TOUR Dates

Thursday, February 13 - 2:15 PM
Tuesday, February 18 - 10:00 AM
Thursday, February 27 - 2:15 PM

SPPS On-Time Registration Deadline has been extended to Thursday, Feb. 28, 2020

EDL Afterschool Program News 2019-20

If you have any questions about the EDL program, please contact:
- Courtney Schluender, Email: courtney.schluender@spps.org or phone: 651-744-6034
Upcoming Parent Involvement Opportunities at Highland Park Elementary:

**Bring Your Parent to Pre-K Day** – Thursday, February 6
9:30 am-12:00 pm (for morning Pre-K and full day classes) and
1:30-4:00 pm (for Pre-K afternoon class).
An opportunity to learn more about transitioning to Kindergarten. Parent/guardians will also visit Kindergarten classrooms and learn more about Highland Park Elementary’s Kindergarten program.

**National African American Parent Involvement Day** – Monday, February 10
All HPE families are invited to join Dr. Flynn in the cafeteria from **9:15-10:00 AM** for coffee and treats. The 4th and 5th grade choir will perform for all visitors in the gym from **10:00-10:25 AM**. Then families are invited to visit their child’s classroom from **10:30-11:15 AM** to participate in their child’s learning. We hope you can join us for this important day.

**PTA Meeting** - Monday, February 10 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. in Room 1104
Free childcare is available. Attending PTA meetings provides parents/guardians the chance to learn more about what is going on at Highland Park Elementary. Meetings also provide an excellent forum to share your thoughts on what we can do to make HPE even better. Your voice matters and the PTA would like to hear from more parents/guardians. If you haven’t had a chance to participate in a PTA meeting but have been meaning to, please try to join us in February.

**Reminder:** For families that currently have 5th grade students or will have an incoming Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten student at HPE this coming fall:
The district’s Student Placement Center recently mailed letters to families of 5th graders, indicating which middle school their student has a reserved seat at for the upcoming school year. If you are planning to have your child attend that middle school, you do not need to take any action. You will receive a letter in April with information about how to register your student for classes at their middle school. If you want your 5th grader to attend a different SPPS middle school or if you do not live within the City of Saint Paul boundaries, you will need to complete an online or paper application by February 28, 2020.
Applications are also required for younger siblings of HPE students who want to attend Pre-K and Kindergarten at Highland Park Elementary in the fall.

The **School Choice Priority Enrollment deadline for grades Pre-K to 12 is Friday, February 28, 2020**. This is the district deadline to register for next year’s school enrollment. On-time enrollment is the best way to ensure your children are enrolled in your school of choice. You can complete an application at [apply.spps.org](http://apply.spps.org) or can pick up an application in the HPE office. If you have questions about the application process, please contact the Student Placement Center at 651-632-3760.

Kara Kipfmueller, Parent Liaison   kara.kipfmueller@spps.org

kara.kipfmueller@spps.org
What is a Central Idea?

During these first few months of school, your children have been immersed in their units of inquiry. Most grade levels are in their second or third unit of inquiry by now. Each unit of inquiry is developed around a “central idea”. You can think of the central idea as the big ideas or concepts that the teacher wants your child to discover, explore and understand during the unit. The central idea is relevant to a particular transdisciplinary theme (introduced in the December newsletter).

Ask your child to identify a central idea that he/she has worked on from the list below:

- Perspective influences creativity. (K)
- Citizen and government choices affect a community. (3)
- Geography and environment shape indigenous culture. (5)
- Uniqueness contributes to diversity. (1)
- Human actions impact the environment. (2)
- Electricity impacts society. (4)

The Great Kindness Challenge is next week!!!

The whole idea is: Have all of us practice doing little kind things and notice how warm and fun we, and the entire building feels!!

A parent letter and family edition checklist will be going home in the Thursday folders this week.

The Student Council is working with me on this and will be filming, taking photos and promoting kindness. We will be having theme days for each day of the week!

- Monday - Crazy for Kindness! wear crazy clothes and hair
- Tuesday - Hats off to Kindness! wear hats
- Wednesday - Dreaming of Kindness! Wear Pajamas
- Thursday - Tie one on for Kindness - Wear a Tie - everyone will be making one at school to wear.
- Friday - Hearts full of Kindness! Wear Red or Pink

Lori "Sunny" Sundelius
School Counselor, Highland Park Elementary
651-744-5187 lori.sundelius@spps.org