Dear HPE Families:

Great news! We’re finally at a place where we can allow families back into our school to visit and volunteer. While we would like to open our school to everyone, there are some stipulations. All visitors and volunteers must submit a form acknowledging their Covid-19 vaccine status or weekly negative test results. The link to that form is: https://commedspps.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_263HnO0KQi6z1qu

Once you have submitted the form you can make an appointment to visit the school. Visitors are required to wear a mask at all times while inside the building or out on the playground.

To make an appointment, call the office at 651-293-8770 and specify the day, time, and where/who you will be visiting in the building.

We are excited about finally emerging from our cocoon and hope that you will visit us soon. And speaking of visiting, for the first time in two years, we are able to offer in-person conferences, and many of you are coming for a face-to-face conference later this month.

We are hoping to add some family events toward the end of the year. Check our website at spps.org/highlandel for upcoming events.

Hope to see you soon – in person!

Sincerely,

Nancy Flynn, Principal
**Parent Teacher Conferences** – Tuesday, March 22 and Thursday, March 24 (4:45-7:45 PM) and Friday, March 25 (7:30-11:30 AM)

Families have the choice to meet in person or virtually and can request an interpreter, if needed. If you have not received confirmation of your child’s conference date and time, please call the school office at 651-293-8770. Conferences are a great opportunity to check in with your child’s teacher and see your child’s work. This is also an excellent time to ask the teacher any questions you may have about your child’s progress and develop goals for finishing out this school year to prepare your child for the next grade level.

**PTA Meeting** – Wednesday, March 23, 7:00-8:00 PM

All families are invited to attend. Translation will be available in Somali and Amharic. PTA meetings give parents/guardians an opportunity to connect and work together with teachers and school administrators to discuss school events, fundraising efforts, and other important school issues. In addition to regular PTA business, this month’s meeting will include the following:

1. Midyear check-in on HPE’s School Continuous Improvement Plan (SCIP)

2. Opportunity for families to provide suggestions for staff professional development about working with families.

Join PTA Zoom Meeting [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84292132417](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84292132417)

**HPE Staff Conference Potluck** - The PTA is bringing back their semi-annual tradition of providing the hardworking staff a potluck dinner for the upcoming long conference nights. If you are able to donate food or money to provide food to our wonderful staff please click on the following link: [HPE Staff Conference Potluck Sign Up](#)
LOST AND FOUND
ITEMS…GET THEM BEFORE THEY’RE GONE!

Reminder: **Label** your child’s jackets, snowpants, hats, mittens, sweatshirts, lunchboxes, water bottles, etc. Our Lost & Found is overflowing and we just do not have room for all the “lost” items. We will put everything out in the common area during conferences for students and parents to find their lost items before everything gets donated at the end of the month.

HPE PYP News
PYP Coordinator - Mrs. Strecker

**PYP Books**
We were approved for an Ecolab Grant to purchase books that connect to our IB PYP units of inquiry. The PTA also used the Scholastic Book Fair proceeds to support our endeavor to provide culturally relevant guided reading texts for our IB PYP units of inquiry.

STEAM News
The Pre-K through first graders worked on describing objects by their properties. They used color, shape, size and texture to describe and draw snowmen and rocks.

GYM NEWS
Hello Families,

We have been covering a lot of new games and activities and having a lot of fun in the process! We use frisbee and floor hockey. We have been working on our ability to work together. The units we have covered are parachute activities and stunts and tumbling, and ultimate with others, problem solve, and perform various gross and fine motor movements. The IB learner profiles we have covered during these units are being thinkers and open minded.

Thank you, Annie Schoeben.

ART WITH MR. SETH
Hello HPE Families,

We are having a blast in art and welcoming the new spring season!

Kindergarten: We are writing our own superhero books and illustrating them!
First: We are exploring clay by making animal faces. We are learning how to attach clay and add texture.
Second: We are using papier mache to make masks. It is a wild and messy process, and we are loving it.
Third: We just wrapped up our endangered species unit using oil pastels. We learned about drawing with color and shape.
Fourth: We are making stop animation films that are lighthearted and meant to make the viewer laugh.
Fifth: We are learning about how to design and produce an alphabet mural for the kindergarteners.

Welcome back the nice weather and have fun with some art this month!

Mr. Seth