Welcome back! And if you are new to Highland Park this year, welcome!!

What a difference a year makes! Last fall we were scrambling to get into the new classrooms and offices, and learning how to navigate our newly expanded building. This year, with a year of the new building under our belts, we were able to start off with an arsenal of rituals, routines, and systems that are working well in our classrooms, cafeteria, hallways, and playground. We have freshly painted halls with pops of bright color and have begun to add student work, projects, and murals to add vitality to the walls. It’s now starting to look and feel a lot more like home to all of us.

We have a few staffing changes from last year. Daria Caldwell, our former physical education teacher and Devin Ayers, one of our former fourth grade teachers both earned their administrator license and found jobs as deans in suburban districts. Ellen Tronnes, a teacher from Minneapolis with a wealth of experience, has joined us as a fourth grade teacher. We are still trying to fill our physical education position. We have another candidate interviewing this week, so keep your fingers crossed.

I also want to introduce our new counselor, Lori Sundelius, most commonly known around here as Ms. Sunny. Ms. Sunny has been a counselor in St. Paul Public Schools for many years, as well as being the lead counselor for the district. She is here five days a week! Highland Park is very fortunate to be part of the district’s Personal Learning Project, which Ms. Sunny outlines in her article in this newsletter. Rejoining us this year is our social worker, Ryan Donnelly. Mr. Donnelly took a sabbatical last year to work in Costa Rica, and is now back with us on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays.

We also welcomed our new ELL teacher, Bobbi Nguyen, who teams with Mr. Bogenschultz in the afternoon every day, and Norys Figuero, our new pre-kindergarten aide.

We are focusing academically this year on math review, phonics, and guided reading as part of our IB PYP curricular focus. Math review is a 15-minute lesson that helps students develop their skills and abilities in mathematics by experiencing math through tangible and contextual means that deepens their conceptual and procedural understanding of rigorous mathematics standards. Guided reading groups allow students to practice reading for fluency, accuracy, vocabulary, and comprehension at their own level with their teacher in small, flexible groups. New this year is a phonics program for students in kindergarten through second grade that will also be used to improve reading achievement.

We have a lot of great events on the calendar for this year, starting with our ever-popular fall festival on Thursday, October 24. Hopefully, I’ll see all of you at this fun annual event!
I hope to give you some good information about our International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program here at Highland Park Elementary in our monthly newsletters. We commonly refer to the program as IB and PYP. **International Baccalaureate (IB)** strives for international mindedness and provides opportunities for learning where students can make connections and find commonalities in the human experience. The **Primary Years Program (PYP)** is the IB program in an elementary school setting where we build a framework for learning the essential parts of the IB program to move on to the Middle Years Program (MYP). (Highland Park Middle School is an MYP school.)

Teachers and students started out the year creating **Essential Agreements** for their classrooms. These are what we would consider the classroom rules and expectations. These essential agreements incorporate the **Learner Profile** which are the characteristics that we want the learner to embody. The learner profile is integrated into everything we do here at HPE. Ask your child to tell you about each of the attributes:

- Inquirer
- Knowledgeable
- Thinker
- Communicator
- Principled
- Open-minded
- Caring
- Risk-takers
- Balanced
- Reflective

The IB program is organized by six **Transdisciplinary Themes**. Your child’s first **unit of inquiry** is based around one of these themes. The students will explore, and engage in activities and lessons that surround a **central idea** supported by big concepts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who we are</th>
<th>Where we are in place and time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How we express ourselves</td>
<td>How the world works</td>
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<tr>
<td>How we organize ourselves</td>
<td>Sharing the planet</td>
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A huge component of IB is **Action**. The idea is for students to take what they are learning, their knowledge and questions and act on it. As students are engaged in their units of inquiry, they are encouraged to find ways to apply what they are learning or look for answers/find solutions to their questions. We want to encourage students to show action at school and at home. I have started an “Action Alley” in the ramp near the library. I am looking for students showing action to add to our alley. If your child shows action at home by extending his/her learning from school, please take a picture of him/her and send it to me so I can add it to our “Action Alley”! (Michelle.strecker@spps.org) Examples would be of a child who is studying the human body and finds an article about medical research in the paper, reads it and cuts it out to share at school. It could be a student who is learning about balance and motion and builds a ramp with Legos. Students have gone home and taught younger siblings about the Learner Profile. We are looking for students who are excited about learning, making connections, asking questions and acting upon it!

*BOLD words* are IB terms.

More info about these IB terms can be found on the HPE website. [https://www.spps.org/highlandel](https://www.spps.org/highlandel)
English Learner News

I am excited to let you know that Ms. Bobbi Nguyen has joined our English Learner team. She comes to HPE from Hamline Elementary. She will teach in the morning at Horace Mann Elem. and at HPE in the afternoons. She will work with some kindergarteners and second-fifth graders. I will work mainly with kindergarten-fourth graders this year.

I will soon start Take Home Reading books. I will send a note home for parents and students (1st grade and up) to sign before beginning leveled book check out. Students will take one book home in a ziplock bag and return it for a new book when they are finished. If you have any books at home that are labeled Mr. B. or ELL, please send them back to school so other students can also enjoy them.

Some of you know that I wrote and won a teacher travel grant. I traveled throughout Ethiopia for 38 days this summer. It was interesting visiting the hometowns and also some relatives of our students and parents. I visited cities, national parks (Bale and Simiens) and historic sites in the capital of Addis Ababa, Oromia, the Amhara region and the Tigray region. The principal of the International Baccalaureate School gave Mrs. Yigletu and me a three hour tour of their school. We were lucky as it was the day first graders-fourth graders presented their research projects. The Camel Market operated by Somalis east of Harar and Babelle was quite fascinating! It was a very rewarding experience to see so many parts of this large and amazing country. At some point this year I will make a presentation to the PTA.

Ms. Nguyen, Mrs. Yigletu and I look forward to working with the English Learner students to improve their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills this school year. If you have any questions you can reach Ms. Nguyen at 744-4687, Mrs. Yigletu at 744-2631 and Mr. Bogenschultz at 744-2598. Mrs. Yigletu is at HPE daily from 8:45-noon.

Counselor Corner

– Lori “Sunny” Sundelius, HPE School Counselor

I am the new full time counselor at HPE and most students call me “Ms. Sunny”. You can visit my page on the school website if you would like to learn more about the counseling program at HPE or attend the October PTA meeting where I will be presenting.

I want to introduce the Personal Learning Plan Pilot at HPE. A Personal Learning Plan (PLP) is a PreK-12 tool that allows students to reflect on and monitor interests, goals, and long-term career aspirations. This plan supports students in preparing for life after high school. These PLPs align and will be a valuable addition to the IB portfolios. The PLPs are created using Career related curriculum which categories include: Self-awareness, career awareness, exploration and preparation, postsecondary education options, entrance and admission, and personal finances and financial aid.

If you have questions or want to become involved in the Counseling Advisory Committee, please contact me at lori.sundelius@spps.org.

EDL Afterschool Program for 2019-20

The Program has been postponed to start on Monday, October 21st. If you have any questions, contact Courtney.schluender@spps.org.

IMPORTANT BUS INFORMATION

MySPPS App

Stay up to date on what’s happening in Saint Paul Public Schools with the MySPPS app. Follow your school’s news, school bus status, view sports schedules, and much more. Just search “MySPPS” and download the MySPPS app from Google Play and the Apple App Store.

Free & Reduced Lunch Form applications

Application forms are online at: www.spps.org/schoolcafe

This is a quick, easy way to update the lunch forms that we request every year. If you have questions about this form, you can call Nutrition Services at 651-603-4950.
Hello HPE Families,

I hope the new school year is off to a good start for your family and that your students are adjusting well to their new grade, teacher and classmates. As the HPE Parent Liaison, each month in the newsletter I will highlight and summarize upcoming parent involvement events and activities for parent/guardians and their families. Please consider participating in the following family engagement activities during the month of October and early November.

- **PTA Meeting** – Monday, October 14, 6:00-7:30 pm in Room 1104 (Inquiry room near the main office) and free childcare in the gym. HPE students benefit when parents/guardians, school staff and the community work together. The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) helps bring these groups together to share thoughts and ideas about programs and activities that benefit HPE students and our school community. PTA meetings give families an additional opportunity to meet some school staff and other families while becoming more familiar with what is going on at HPE. Your voice, thoughts and ideas are important to HPE’s PTA. Attending meetings will allow you to help make a difference in the education of all HPE students.

- **Bring Your Parent to Pre-K Day** – Wednesday, October 23, 9:30 am-12:00 pm for Pre-K morning and Pre-K full day classes and 1:30-4:00 pm for Pre-K afternoon class. A great way to see a day in the life of your Pre-K student and learn more about the Pre-K model and philosophy.

- **Fall Festival and Flu Shot Clinic** – Thursday, October 24, 6:00-8:00 pm
  Join us for family friendly, fun activities for kids of all ages. All students will receive punch cards for activities/food from their teachers. Additional cards will be available for purchase or can be received in exchange for Box Tops for Education turned in at the carnival. The flu shot clinic allows everyone ages 6 months and older opportunity to get their annual flu shot. Families should bring their insurance cards and a photo ID. Families without insurance will receive vaccinations at no cost. Remember to wear clothing that provides easy access to the upper arm.

- **Annual Title 1 Meeting** – Thursday, November 7, 5:30-6:00 pm in Room 1104
  All parents/guardians are encouraged to attend this meeting to learn more about the Title 1 program and how these funds are used to support student achievement at HPE.

Other Important Information:

- **Fall Picture Day** – Thursday, October 10
  Picture order forms were recently sent home with students in their Thursday communication folders. Extra order forms are available in the main office. Orders can also be placed online at mylifetouch.com using the following Picture Day ID: EVTPZ6KDQ. Picture retake day is Thursday, November 7.

Please let me know if there is any way I can be of assistance to your family to ensure a successful school year for your child(ren).

Kara Kipfmueller, Parent Liaison
kara.kipfmueller@spps.org
651-293-8770