Dear Families,

Our school patrol rocks! And rolls with whatever the weather throws at them. Many of you might not know that we have a school patrol that walks students who live within a half mile to and from school every day. This is a huge responsibility that they take very seriously, as they are crossing multiple children across streets, some of which have no traffic light or stop sign. Our patrols receive training and practice so that they become familiar with their route and where the walkers live. They meet their walkers every day on time at their homes and walk with them to and from school regardless of the weather. As an IB PYP school, we take pride in student action that reflects the attributes of the Learner Profile, and school patrols epitomize many of those attributes, including caring, communicator, knowledgeable, principled, risk-taker, and thinker.

We’re always on the lookout for students taking action in positive ways. If your child is taking action that helps others, improves a situation or the environment, let us know. We are showcasing action on our wall inside the front door.

Sincerely,

Nancy Flynn

Principal
IB/PYP NEWS

Mrs. Strecker

I am the PYP Coordinator at Highland Park Elementary IB World School. Highland Park Elementary is an International Baccalaureate World School (IB). We are the elementary age program for IB, called the Primary Years Programme or “PYP”. My job as the PYP Coordinator is to be a resource for teachers, students and families. IB/PYP strives for international mindedness and to provide opportunities for learning where students can make connections and find commonalities in the human experience.

Highland Park Elementary IB World School has had a PYP programme since 2003. We were the first PYP school in the midwest. Last year, HPE concluded our virtual evaluation visit for reauthorization. The IB evaluators observed our teachers and students in videos and live Google Meets. The evaluators meet with teachers, parents and students to find out more about HPE and our PYP programme. We submitted student work samples, reflections, assessments and portfolios. The evaluators were impressed with our enthusiasm and commitment to PYP. Thank you to all who helped make the evaluation process a success.

Michelle.strecker@spps.org

New to HPE this year : S.T.E.A.M.

Hello Friends!

My name is William Bauer, and I am thrilled to be the new Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (S.T.E.A.M.) teacher at Highland Park Elementary! Your students and I have been hard at work getting to know each other, asking big questions, and thinking about new things. From animals and insects with Pre-K, to the Great Paper Airplane Experiment with 2nd-5th grades, we are wrapping our heads around this thing called the Scientific Method, and how we can use it to shape our future. S.T.E.A.M. at its core is the standard Minnesota Science curriculum, but it’s becoming much more than that. Students are coming forward with huge ideas and questions about a myriad of subjects, many of which have been developing while away for summer holidays or distance learning. S.T.E.A.M. is becoming a haven for the inquisitive mind and spirit. My promise to every Highland parent is that your student will be given the opportunity and resources to learn something beneficial in their daily lives and futures again and again. I can’t wait to get to know you and your students this school year!

William.bauer@spps.org
Upcoming Events at Highland Park Elementary:

**Picture Day** - Lifetouch has postponed our picture day (originally scheduled for 10/7/21) due to photographer staffing shortages. They will be rescheduling us for a later date. We will let you know as soon as our event is rescheduled.

**PTA Read-a-thon Fundraiser** – October 18 – 27 This fundraiser not only helps raise money for HPE but also promotes the joy of reading. Watch for your child’s Read-a-thon packet with more information about this fundraiser that will be coming home soon. Read-a-thon packets should be turned in to your child’s teacher or the school office between October 28 and November 1. Thank you for supporting your child in this important event!

**Virtual Annual Title 1 Meeting** – Monday, October 25, 6:30 – 7:00 PM All families are encouraged to attend this meeting to learn more the Title 1 program and how these funds are used to support student achievement at HPE. A link for this Zoom meeting will be sent out later this month. Interpreters are available upon request. Please call the school office (651-293-8770) by 10/15/21 to request an interpreter for this meeting.

**October Virtual PTA Meeting** – Monday, October 25, 7:00 – 8:00 PM

HPE students benefit when families, 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 opportunity to meet some school staff and other families while becoming familiar with what is going on at HPE. Your voice and ideas are important to HPE’s PTA. Attending meetings will allow you to make a difference in the education of all HPE students. A link for this Zoom meeting will be sent out later this month. Interpreters are available upon request. Please call the school office (651-293-8770) by 10/15/21 to request an interpreter for this meeting.

Important Reminders:

**The Weekend Backpack Food Program** provides nutritious food to HPE students over the weekends, free of charge. This program is sponsored by Gloria Del Church. If you would like your children to participate in the program, please complete the Weekend Backpack Program form, if you haven’t already done so. If you need a form, please call the school office at 651-293-8770 and we’ll send one home with your child. Forms should be returned to your child’s teacher or the HPE office. Only one form is needed per family.

- SPPS has changed the district calendar to make Tuesday, November 2 (Election Day) a **Digital Learning Day**. Students should plan to learn from home on this day.
Welcome Fadumo Adle, our new E.A. and Somali Interpreter!

Salaan

Magacaygu waa Fadumo Adle.

Waxaan ahay kaaliye waxbarasho oo cusub dugsiga hoose ee Highland Park Elementary. Waxaan caawiyaa qoysaska u baahaan turjumaan Somali ah. Fadlan ila soo xiriir haddii aan kaa caawin karo wax aad u baahan tahay. Lambarka taleefankaygu waa 651-744-8033 iyo cinwaanka iimaylkayga waa fadumo.adle@spps.org

Greetings

My name is Fadumo Adle. I am a new educational assistant here at Highland Park Elementary. I assist teachers and students and am also available to help any families that need a Somali interpreter. Please feel free to contact me if I can help you with anything. My phone is 651-744-8033 and my email address is fadumo.adle@spps.org

5th grade has started the year learning about "Who We Are". In this unit, students have been learning about writing personal narratives, or "memory stories". Students will write a final draft story that shares about an experience that is important to them. We are also starting a Culture/Country research project.

Our next unit of inquiry will focus on Native American history. The Bdote field trip is planned for November 23rd. Students will learn about important sites to Native Americans around the Twin Cities.

Jordan Ringquist & Mary Alexander  Jordan.ringquist@spps.org  Mary.alexander@spps.org