## Family Newsletter
### February 2018

### FEBRUARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, February 9, 2018</td>
<td>5:15-7:15pm Sts North Roller Skating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, February 12, 2018</td>
<td>National Af-Am Parent Involvement Day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:45am Program PreK, grades K-2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:10pm Program PreK, grades 3-5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:00pm Plaza Movie Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, February 19, 2018</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL Presidents’ Day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00am Cares Program: PreK, K-2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:45am Cares Program: PreK, 3-5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:10pm Cares Program: PreK, K-2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:30-7-7pm I Love to Read Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 28, 2018</td>
<td>8:45am Cares Program: PreK, 3-5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:10pm Cares Program: PreK, K-2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:30-7pm I Love to Read Night</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, February 26, 2018</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL Presidents’ Day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00am Cares Program: PreK, K-2</td>
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### MARCH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, March 2, 2018</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL Conf Prep Day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday, March 8, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:00-7pm PTA Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 11, 2018</td>
<td>Daylight Saving Time Starts</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring ahead 1 hr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, March 12, 2018</td>
<td>6:00pm Plaza Movie Night</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Friday, March 16, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3:00-9pm Chuck E Cheese</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tuesday, March 20, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4:30-7:30pm Evening Conferences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 22, 2018</td>
<td>PreK NO SCHOOL-Conferences</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00am-7:30pm PreK Conferences</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4:30-7:30pm Evening Conferences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, March 23, 2018</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL Conferences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:00am – 3:00pm Conferences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 28, 2018</td>
<td>9:45am CARES Program: PreK, K-2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:10pm CARES Program: PreK, 3-5</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Friday, March 30, 2018</td>
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<td></td>
<td>NO SCHOOL Prof Dev Day</td>
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Find the complete 2017-18 Family Calendar and Handbook on The Heights’ website.

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**A Note from Principal Jones**

Greetings Heights Community School families! We have many opportunities this month for families to come together at our school and we don’t want you to miss out. Our family calendar, which you can find on our school’s webpage, is a great way to keep you informed of these upcoming events. Please mark your calendars and consider attending future events being hosted at your child’s school. I strongly believe that when a school and community come together in positive ways, our scholars greatly benefit. I’m looking forward to seeing you and your family!

Teachers have completed their assessments in reading and are working to create new small groups and lessons that are tailored to your child’s academic needs. It’s a great time for you to connect with your child’s teacher and to see how things are going. The best ways and times to contact your child’s teacher can be found on your child’s class newsletter or on their teacher’s webpage. Thank you in advance for your continued partnership with our teachers.

Infinite Campus is a system our school uses to access information about our scholars and their families. It is important that all family contact information entered is accurate and current. When our office sends out information about school events and/or updates through text messages, phone calls, and/or email the system we use pulls and uses the home/cellphone number and email address that is currently in that system. During the winter storm event last Monday, I sent a text message to families with children on buses B and C informing them of their status and when they departed from school. This put many families at ease and there were less calls into our office. There were however, families that did not receive the text message due to an inaccurate contact number in Infinite Campus. Please review and update your contact information online at [www.spps.org/parents](http://www.spps.org/parents) and select One Stop. If you need assistance please call our office.

It is our family’s responsibility to review and know the contents of our Family Handbook. Please review these pages in its entirety with special attention to the following sections: Cellphones/Electronics/Toys, Family Vacations, Classroom Celebrations and Breakfast and Lunch. Also, unless your scholar has a physician’s note that specifically states to stay inside for recess your child due to medical condition your child will be expected to join his/her class outside. Families can find a digital copy of our family handbook on our school’s webpage.

We care about your child’s academic & social/emotional needs and we appreciate partnering with you throughout the year to meet these needs. Thank you parents/guardians for sending them every day!

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**Do you know…**

What your child’s teacher’s name is?
What bus letter your child rides to and from school on?
How your child is progressing in reading, math and writing?
When spring conferences this year are and when your child’s been scheduled?

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**Time to Reflect**

An educated child only at school is an uneducated child –George Santayana

Principal Chreese C. Jones
The Heights Community School
Morning Schedule

8:15   Cafeteria opens for FREE Breakfast to Go
8:30   All students must be in their classrooms or they will be marked tardy.

Reminder:
Call the attendance line before 7:30 am when your child(ren) will not be in school.
(651)-744-2273
The attendance line is available 24/7!

National African American Parent Involvement Day

Monday, February 12 is National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID). We invite all parents and extended family members to visit The Heights any time during the day.

Our theme this year is: “Watching Our Scholars Shine!” Look on our website and for the flyer for the day’s schedule.

Conversation Corner #4

A conversation with your child is a great way to encourage children to increase vocabulary and gain confidence with speaking. Mrs. Galowitz and Mrs. Johansen have worked together to give you some ideas to help you get more than a “yes”, “ok”, or “no” answer when asking your child about their school day.

On the way home, at dinner or even bedtime is a great time for these simple questions.

1. Did you learn something you didn’t understand?
2. Who inspired you today?
3. What was the best and the hardest thing today?
4. What was your least favorite part of the day?
5. Was anyone in your class gone today?

As answers develop using a phrase such as, “tell me more” will help your child make more connections to school. It is a busy day full of learning and we hope children begin to talk more about the wonders of their school day.

Order T-Shirts Online!
stores.inksoft.com/heightscommunityschool
Hello Parents,

Thank you parents who made it possible for scholars not to be excluded due to immunizations. You worked hard and got your scholars immunizations up to date. I am very proud of you!

Parents should please continue to make sure that their children dress according to weather when coming to school. If anyone has a pair of size 2 or 3 girls boots to donate, we’d really appreciate it!

Thanks!
Mrs. Obasi (School Nurse)

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### Specialists’ News

**Science-Ms. Rhoads**
- K- Being Scientists with Seasons
- 1st – Learning about Balance and Motion
- 2nd - Learning about Habitats
- 3rd - Learning about different types of Energy.
- 4th - Learning about the Human Body
- 5th - Learning about the scientific process using boats

**Enrichment-Ms. Allal**
Third Grade Enrichment students are working on geography presentations using research and ipads to present. We are studying countries of the world.

**Kindergarten Enrichment**:
We are practicing Skills for Learning, Listening, Self-Talk, Assertion, and Focusing through puppets, art, literature, k’nex, and math activities.

**Reading Groups**:
Third and fourth grade reading groups are working on comprehension skills (predicting, questioning, summarizing, and clarifying.)

**GT Fridays**:
First and Second Grade GT students are writing a play involving a trip to another country.

**Fourth and Fifth Grade GT**:
We are finishing up geography projects and interest based projects. We are starting to form teams for the Stock Market game. We will be researching different products, companies and stocks to make the best choices for our virtual portfolios. This game will run through April.

**Chess Club**
Fourth and Fifth grade chess members meet on Fridays to practice strategies and use chess etiquette.

**Student Council**
Student council consists of fourth and fifth grade students who applied and were recommended by teachers. We meet every Friday to plan new events for our school. I hope you all enjoyed Spirit Week! Look for information about Pennies for Patients coming soon.

**CoGAT Testing and Portfolios**:
The portfolio deadline was Jan 19. Letters will be sent to parents from the TDAS office in the beginning of February. Remember to nominate your child next fall to take the test again if you do not get accepted into the program. Thank you parents and teachers who took the time to fill out a portfolio for those who requested.

**Destination Imagination Fifth Grade Team**:
Practice will be Thursdays until 4:30, and select Fridays. See your permission slip for details. Tournament is Saturday, March 3 at Harding High School. Everyone is welcome!

**Lego League**:
Congratulations for winning the Spirit Award at the tournament! We are so thankful for our parents volunteer, Tim Miller, and our own staff member Mr. Engelking for coaching during EDL sessions. The team created a robot, built the lego challenge, and presented a project on Water. Many life lessons are learned during Lego League. Great work!

**Hmong Dancers**
Hmong Dancers have been working on their dance for Multicultural Night. Look for them at other events during the school year.
What to do when your child witnesses bullying.

Many children are observers or “bystanders” in cases of bullying at school. It is important that even students who are bystanders in a bullying situation take action to get help, so the bullying stops. If your child talks to you about the bullying that he or she witnesses at school, you are encouraged to do the following:
- Teach your child how to get help without getting hurt.
- Encourage your child to verbally intervene if it is safe to do so, by saying such things as: “Cool it! This isn’t going to solve anything.”
- Tell your child not to cheer on or even quietly watch bullying. This only encourages a child who bullies—who wants to be the center of attention.
- Encourage your child to tell a trusted adult about the bullying. Talking to an adult is not “tattling”—it is an act of courage and safety. Suggest going to an adult with a friend, if that will make it easier.
- Help your child support others who tend to be bullied.
- Teach your child to include these children in activities.
- Praise and reward “quiet acts of courage”—when your child tried to do the right thing to stop bullying, even if he or she was not successful.
- Work with your child to practice specific ways he or she can help stop bullying. For example, role-play with him or her on what he or she could say or do to help someone who is being bullied.

Ramsey County Supervision Guidelines

**Ages 7 and younger:** Children should not be left alone for any period of time.

**Ages 8-10:** Children should not be left alone for more than 2 hours. It is acceptable for children to be at home while parents run an errand or to be home alone before and/or after school until parents return from work.

**Ages 11-13:** Children should not be left alone for more than 8 hours. It is acceptable for children to be alone all day until parent returns from work, but it is assumed a parent, guardian or caretaker will be there in the evening.

**Ages 14 and Older:** It is acceptable for children to be home alone for 24 hours or more provided they have knowledge of where parent is and how to reach them or a designated caretaker can be reached if needed.

**Ages 11 to 14:** It is acceptable to babysit younger children all day with the expectation that parent/guardian/caretaker will be returning to supervise children later that same day.

**Ages 15 and Older:** It is acceptable to babysit younger children for more than 24 hours.

Save the Dates: Parent Academy Seminars

**Seminar #1 - offered in English & Spanish**
**Date: Monday, February 26, 2018**
**Expectations and Structure Help Children Learn**

This seminar will help families explain how family expectations and home structure work together to support children’s success in school.

**Topics and Key Activities**
- Importance of setting clear and reasonable expectations
- How to provide a regular routine
- Structure and homework

**Objectives: Families will:**
- Identify the key elements of setting expectations of school success for their children
- Set one new expectation for school success
- Identify the key elements of structure in the home for school success
- Commit to at least one new strategy to build structure for school success

**Seminar #2 - offered in English & Spanish**
**Date: Monday, April 16, 2018**
**Understanding Student Data**

Standards, assessments, progress reports, grades, and rubrics can all be confusing. This seminar will provide tips to help parents understand the information about their child’s work in SPPS.

**Topics and Key Activities**
- Relationship between standards, assessments, and curriculum
- Tips for monitoring student progress
- Information to help navigate the system and communicate with educators
- EL and SpEd supplemental info

**Objectives: Families will:**
- Receive and review a copy of the parent guide to grade level standards
- Understand what different types of student data are describing
- Practice communication skills for discussing progress with teachers
- Recognize SPPS supports available