A Note from Principal Jones

Thank you, parents, for joining us on National African American Parent Involvement Day last month. Our theme, “Watching Our Scholars Shine” showcased our scholars at every grade level and they did a wonderful job presenting. I also want to thank the parents/guardians that joined me for the “Chat with the Principal”. It’s always a treat to meet with families to chat about our programs and what’s on your minds.

Newsletters and progress notes are two forms of communication we expect our teachers at The Heights Community School to prepare and send home to families regularly. At minimum, families should be receiving a monthly grade level newsletter from your child’s teacher or grade level team. You should be receiving regular progress notes about how well your child is doing behaviorally and academically. You should have received at minimum so far this year two to three phone calls checking in to see how things are going at school for your child. Our specialist should have called you at least once. If you are a parent/guardian that has not received any of these communications please contact your child’s teacher(s) right away. You should not have any surprises at conferences about behavior and/or academic status in any area nor in any class. It is important that a partnership be established with our teachers and that it is informative and focuses on your child being successful at The Heights Community School throughout the school year.

Speaking of children being successful, Parent-Teacher Conferences are just around the corner. Conferences for all Heights scholars will be held on March 20, 22 from 4:30pm-7:30pm and on March 23 from 8:00am-3:00pm. As always, our goal at The Heights is to have 100% participation from our families to meet with our staff during conferences to discuss the wonderful learning that has taken place this year. It’s also a time to set goals, put plans in place to ensure your child will be successful and if necessary, re-establish you and your child’s teacher’s partnership. We know conferences are just as important for you as it is for us. See each of you at conference time.

INSpirational Quote:

Parents are the ultimate role models for children. Every word, movement and action has an effect. No other person or outside force has a greater influence on a child than the parent.

- Bob Keeshan
**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.

Remember:

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!

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**Early Admit to K & 1st grade**

Early Admission to Kindergarten or First Grade

At the request of a parent or guardian, a child whose birthday falls between Sept 2 and Dec 31 may be screened and evaluated to determine readiness for placement in kindergarten or first grade. Screenings led by licensed teachers will be scheduled in May and held at the Office of Early Learning. Families will be contacted by the Office of Early Learning.

Applications will be available at the Student Placement Center. If you have questions about the Early Admission to kindergarten or first grade process, please call the Student Placement Center at 651-632-3760.

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**Conversations Corner #5**

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.

6. Who did you play with today?

7. Tell me something you know today that you didn’t know yesterday.

8. What is something that challenged you?

9. How did someone fill your bucket today? Whose bucket did you fill?

10. Did you like your lunch?

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.

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**PTA News**

The next PTA meeting is Thursday, March 8, 2018 from 5:00-7:00pm.

Please join us!

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**Box Tops Competition**

!!Available Now!!

PTA is working with Avenue Shirt Works.

Look online for additional colors and size chart!

No deadline! Order all year round!

Samples sizes available in the Parent Resource Room.

Use the order form on The Heights website at spps.org/heights (please send exact change with order form) or shop online!

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**Sign Up for Chocolate Bar Sales**

PTA will be having a fundraiser for families to sell Hebert Candy Bars. Each box has 60 candy bars. The flavors are: Caramel, Crisp, Almond, Dark Chocolate and Toasted Coconut and sell for $1.00 each.

Fill out the yellow sign-up sheet or call Julie Wellman to order boxes to sell by March 7.

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**Order T-Shirts Online!**

stores.inksoft.com/heightscommunityschool

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**SAINTS NORTH**

**Family Skate Center**

1818 Gervais Ct, Maplewood

(651) 770-3848

Tues, April 17 6:00-8 pm

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**Chuck E Cheese**

445 Commerce Dr, Woodbury

Fri, March 16 3:00-9 pm

Fri, May 11 3:00-9 pm

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**PTA Newsletter**

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Stay tuned! Soon we’ll be moving toward a paperless newsletter delivered electronically to email addresses. Please make sure your email address is up to date!
Parent Reminder

Parents please remember that if your child has had a fever (over 100), diarrhea or vomiting; please wait 24 hours of symptoms free before you send your child back to school.

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

Physical Education - Mr. Guthrie
During the month of March in physical education, we will be focusing on the human body. Grades Kindergarten through second will learn about the five food groups, what foods go in them, and how they affect our bodies. We will also put together a meal plan that incorporate all five food groups. In grades third through fifth, we will be doing a unit called health and fitness. In this unit, we will learn about different muscles, their locations, and how to exercise them. We will perform different exercises and stretches that incorporate the new muscles that we learned about. We will also talk about calories, what they are, and how they affect our bodies. Finally, we will discuss the importance of a healthy diet, and some of the benefits of having one.

EDL Lego League
Congratulations go out to our very own EDL Lego League ‘Water Builders’. They competed in fierce competition against other St Paul EDL Lego League schools on Saturday, January 20. They won the Team Spirit award for their awesome display of professionalism and teamwork with one another. Our Lego League team members consisted the following 11 students from 4th and 5th grade: Aubrie, Lawson, Noah, Mallory, Chris, Hmoov, Troy, Cindy, Ruben, William and Nehiyu. They were coached by parent volunteer, Tim Miller, and Height’s TA Jon Engelking. Please look for the trophy in the display cabinets across from the office very soon.

Lego League is a fun and engaging after school enrichment program where the students learn team work, how to build ‘mission models’, complete research, learn presentation skills, and many other skills that expose them to the larger world of the sciences and engineering field of work.

Enrichment News - Mrs Allal
K-3 Old News:
All second and third graders learned how to play chess in this last rotation. Try playing at home. Students who are interested in chess will be rotated through my chess club on Fridays upon teacher approval.

Here are the topics for this rotation!

Kindergarten and First Graders are learning the Second Steps program to help teach thinking skills and emphasizing problem solving, empathy and self-talk to help us be better learners. We are using music, games, puppets, and art to help learn these skills.

Second and third graders are learning about the states. Second grade is beginning research about Minnesota. Gather any facts from home and bring them to school when I have your child’s class. Third graders will choose which state to research. The final project will be a poster/book/ or iPad presentation using the facts they gathered. Students who make a book may choose to read it to a kindergartener or first grader.

GT groups for fourth and fifth grades:

M-W Destination Imagination Team practice for those participating.

Thursdays: Student Council Meetings

Fridays: Chess Clubs- second and third graders will be joining when invited.
After the DI tournament on March 4, we will begin the regular GT schedule. The DI tournament is at Harding High School all day on Saturday. Good luck fourth and fifth grade Improv teams!
News from the Health Office

Please keep sick children home a full 24 hours after their last symptom of fever, vomiting or diarrhea before letting them attend school. Kids are still contagious and this will cut down on spreading illness to other students.

Please consider sending extra clothes on the days with melting snow especially if your child is drawn to puddles! The health office has a limited selection of clothes that is used for emergencies.

Finally, the health office could use more clothing especially for the older students. If you have extras, we’d love to have them!

Thank you!

Educational Asthma Training for 5th Grade Students and Parents

5th grade students will receive training that will provide tools and educational methods for asthma self-management. Students will learn about asthma disease, triggers, treatment and how to understand an asthma action plan on March 16, 23 & April 13 from 8:50-9:40am.

On April 20 from 8:50-9:40am, parents who have students with asthma are invited to attend an additional training with their students to come and observe what their students have learned.

Please look for a flyer with more details or contact the health office at The Heights.

Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair will be in the library during conference times

March 20th, 22nd and 23rd

Our Fall Scholastic Book Fair theme is:
Paws for Books Book Fair:
Come. Stay. Read a Great Tale!

Watch for a flyer to come home that will show some of the items that will be coming to our book fair.
(The flyer cannot be used to place an order, but you can visit the book fair online at scholastic.com/fair.)

Volunteers are needed! Please contact Julie Wellman (651-293-8815).

Save the Date: Parent Academy Seminars

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