

Family Newsletter

October 2018

# The Heights Community School

1863 E. Clear Ave.  
St. Paul, MN, 55119

Phone 651-293-8815  
Fax 651-293-8977  
Attendance Line 651-744-2273

[www.spps.org/heights](http://www.spps.org/heights)



## October Events:

### OCTOBER

#### National Principals Month

Thursday, October 4, 2018

Club's Choice Fundraiser Ends  
AM/PM PreK:

Take Your Parent to School Day

Monday, October 8, 2018

6:00pm Plaza Movie Night

Wednesday, October 10, 2018

5:30-7pm Zones of Regulation  
Family Night

Thursday, October 11, 2018

5:00-7pm PTA Kick-off Meeting

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

3:00-9pm Chuck E Cheese Fundraiser

Thursday, October 18 &

Friday, Oct 19, 2018

NO SCHOOL State Teacher Meetings

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Picture Day

Thursday, October 25, 2018

8:45am Chat w/the Principal

9:45am CARES Program: PreK, 3-5

2:10pm CARES Program: PreK, K-2

5:30-7pm Family Math Night, Flu Clinic  
& Title I Annual Meeting

Friday, October 26, 2018

NO SCHOOL Conference Prep Day

November events continue on  
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## A Note from Principal Jones

As we continue to build on the great start to the school year, I would like to give some tips on how to help your child be successful at school. Talk to your child about how important school safety is. At The Heights Community School, we expect every student to show CARES: Cooperation, Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy and Self Control. Ask your child to explain what these expectations look like at school.

Please get to know your child's teacher. The partnership between family and teacher is extremely important. When the teacher and parent/guardian have a strong partnership, kids do better in school. Set school goals with your child. These goals can either be short term or long-term goals. Set routines for your child. Have a regular homework and bedtime. Also, set a consistent morning routine. Kids work much better when things are predictable. Rituals and routines are very important at home and school.

Ask questions each and every day of school. This shows your child that you are interested in their school and what they are doing. Insist on them giving their best effort. If your child knows that school is important to you, it will be important to them.

By now many families have received a call from your child's classroom teacher and some calls from our specialists. Teachers have been asked to introduce themselves and check in to see how the first weeks of school are going. If you have not heard from your child's teacher please feel free to reach out to him/her as well.

My challenge for each parent/guardian at The Heights is to know the name of your child's teacher and the letter of the bus your child rides to and from school. Don't be surprised if I randomly ask you these questions as I pass you in the hallway or see you at a school event.

Thank you for partnering with us!

Principal Chreese C. Jones

## Parent Info on The Heights Website

Please check out our website at [www.spps.org/heights](http://www.spps.org/heights). The **Calendar-At-A-Glance** is posted, as well as a family friendly **Family Engagement Plan (FEP)** and **School Continuous Improvement Plan (SCIP)**. The information will also be available in the school office and the family resource room.

Please read and discuss the **Family Handbook** with your students at: <https://www.spps.org/domain/13882>

Look for revisions and more information newsletters and flyers sent home in **Thursday Folders**.

For interpreting needs, please call 651-293-8815:

Hmoob - Dennis Xiong

Español - Herbert Mancilla Lima

**The Heights Community School**  
**651-293-8815**

## 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. Please give a detailed  
reason.

**651-744-2273**

The attendance line is available 24/7!

## PreK Parents

Pre -Kindergarten parents mark your  
calendars! Thursday, October 4 is **PreK  
Take Your Parent to School Day**.

PreK parents are invited to visit their  
child's classroom and learn about their  
day. Look for more information from your  
child's classroom teacher.

## Classroom Celebrations

We promote food-free classroom  
celebrations. Due to food allergies and  
dietary food restrictions, we will not be  
allowing cupcakes or sweet treats to be  
shared with classmates in ALL classrooms at  
The Heights.

Ask your teacher for an approved snack list.  
Please see our family handbook for more  
information on our website at:

<https://www.spps.org/domain/13882>

## Volunteer Information

Parents can volunteer in a variety of ways:  
join PTA, help at family events, help in the  
classroom, chaperone field trips etc.

All volunteers who wish to chaperone field  
trips are required to have completed a  
background check. **The cost is \$15 (cash  
only). The background check is good for  
one year only.**

Please allow 2 weeks for processing.

Parents can still volunteer in the building and  
in classrooms by simply filling out a  
volunteer form.

Please see our family handbook for more info  
at:

<https://www.spps.org/domain/13882>

## EDL (Extended Day Learning) Information

**Extended Day for Learning (EDL)** features both math and reading  
instruction and opportunities for Grades 3-5 students to explore new  
abilities and interests, including instrumental music instruction for  
students in grades four and five. Your 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade child can choose  
the flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, drums, saxophone and violin.

Student qualifications include a need for math and reading instruction  
and applied academic (enrichment) experiences beyond the school  
day. Participation is voluntary and provided free of charge.  
Transportation and a snack are provided.

Sessions are 3:00-4:45 after the regular school day, on Tuesday and  
Thursday Students participate in both academic reading and math and  
applied academics (enrichment) activities during each program  
session.

Ask your child's teacher about the program.

## November Events:

### Sunday, November 4, 2018

Daylight Saving Time ends,  
fall back 1 hour

### Monday, November 12, 2018

6:00pm [Plaza Movie Night](#)

### Thursday, November 15, 2018

[PreK NO SCHOOL Conferences](#)

8:00am-3:00pm [PreK Conferences](#)

4:00-8:00pm [Evening Conferences](#)

### Friday, November 16, 2018

**NO SCHOOL**

8:00am-12:00pm [Conferences](#)

### Tuesday, November 20, 2018

4:00-8:00pm [Evening Conferences](#)

3-6:00pm [Fundraiser Pick Up](#)

### Wednesday, November 21, 2018

[Picture Retake Day](#)

### Thursday, November 22, 2018

**NO SCHOOL** [Thanksgiving Break](#)

### Friday, November 23, 2018

**NO SCHOOL** [Thanksgiving Break](#)

### Thursday, November 29, 2018

9:45am [CARES Program PreK, K-2](#)

2:10pm [CARES Program PreK, 3-5](#)

For the entire 2018-19 Family Calendar  
go to our website at:

[www.spps.org/heights](http://www.spps.org/heights)

## Health Corner

Hello Heights Community Parents,

It is my honor to welcome you back to our new school year. There are a couple of things I would like to share with you.

**Medications:** As the weather is changing, I am encouraging parents whose child/children have asthma to please send asthma medications to the school with the paper work. I know these papers were sent home at the end of school year. If you do not know where your package is, we will give you another one. We need an asthma action plan every new school year. For those who have anaphylaxis/food allergies, we need an EpiPen and Benadryl and anaphylaxis action plans as well.

**Vision screening:** The Philips eye institution will be coming for screening sometime this fall to do vision screening for all the students in kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, and 5th grades. We will let you know as soon as the date is finalized.

**Immunizations:** This is a flu season, be sure to have your child/children vaccinated. Also check their immunization records to ensure that they are up to date with all the required shots. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact the school health office.

When we have all the necessary supplies we need at school to take good care of our scholars, they remain healthy and stay in school to learn. My goal this school year is to eliminate school absence due to illness by 10%.

Thank you for taking time to read and act on the important information in this newsletter. Have a blessed year.

Mrs. Obasi (School Nurse)  
Mrs. Galvez Nery (Health Assistant)

## School Attendance Matters

### On Time. Every Day. Every Class.

It is important for students to be in school the entire time that school is in session.

All students should be in their classroom from 8:30 am until their teacher dismisses them at the end of the day at 3:00 pm.

Tardy students and students that are picked up early are distracting to the entire classroom.

Students leaving early may miss last minute instructions given by the teacher.

To avoid being referred to the School Attendance Matters Program do not pick up your child(ren) early from school unless:

**\*they are ill**

**\*they have a medical/dental appointment**

**\*there is an extreme family emergency**

**Parents/guardians MUST communicate every time a child is absent. Please note not all absences will be excused.**

**Call in or send a note to the main office, state reason for absence. Be specific.**

**Documentation may be required to excuse these absences.**

### Parent Reminder

Parents please remember that if your child has had a **fever (over 100 degrees), diarrhea or vomiting; please wait**

### 24 hours

**of symptoms free before you send your child back to school.**



## Cafeteria information

**Free/Reduced Lunch Forms** – The Heights offers Free breakfast and lunch to all students. **All** families must still complete the free/reduced lunch form every year even if you are exempt. If you are still in need of an application, they are available in the office. You can also apply on-line at [www.spps.org](http://www.spps.org).

Your child's meal account PIN is their SPPS student ID number. Please keep practicing the number with your child to ensure the line moves quickly and efficiently. **Students who bring a lunch from home and get a milk at school will have to have money in their account to pay for the milk. The cost for milk is \$ .50.**

The Fresh Fruit and Veggie Program runs October through April/May. Students at The Heights will receive a fruit or veggie snack on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

**Menus are available online only.** Go to <https://www.spps.org/ns>, click on "view school lunch menus" and check out Nutrislice, the online interactive menu! Families can view the menu for The Heights. It has a feature for parents of students with allergies to filter out the menu items containing each allergen. It also gives nutritional information and can help with counting carbs for diabetics. It's a great tool for parents to help educate their kids about their allergies!



## PTA News

The fall Clubs Choice Fundraiser began Thursday, Sept 20th and ends Thursday, Oct 4th.

Please return order forms and money by Thursday, Oct 4th.

The fundraiser delivery date is Thursday, Nov 20th from 3:00-6:00 pm.

Please keep in mind that you **must** pick up food orders on Nov 20th.

**We have no place to store items that need to be refrigerated.**

**Items will be returned to the company and will be delivered at a later date.**

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The PTA Kick-off meeting is scheduled for:

**Thursday, Oct 11  
5:00-7pm**

Please join us!

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### Saints North

#### Family Skate Center

1818 Gervais Ct, Maplewood  
(651) 770-3848

Tues, Sept 25 6:00-8 pm

Thurs, Dec 6 6:00-8 pm

Fri, Feb 8 5:15-7:15 pm

Tues, April 16 6:00-8 pm

### Chuck E Cheese

445 Commerce Dr, Woodbury

Wed, Oct 17 3:00-9 pm

Fri, Jan 18 3:00-9 pm

Fri, March 15 3:00-9 pm

Fri, May 10 3:00-9 pm

### Keep collecting:



### Box Tops for Education

### Order Heights T-shirts and jackets all year round at:

<http://stores.inksoft.com/heightscommunityschool/shop/home>

Many styles, colors and sizes to choose from!

Apparel is delivered to the school and passed out to the student to take home.



## Specialists' Corner

### Physical Education-Mr. Guthrie

For the month of October, 3rd -5 th grades will be finishing up our flag football unit, then moving into our bowling unit. In bowling, students will learn how to properly hold and roll a bowling ball, as well as how to score a game of bowling. 1st -2 nd grades will be finishing up our dodging and chasing unit. During that unit, we practiced safely dodging and chasing in a small space like our gym. We achieved this through games like Spiders and Flies, Bridge Tag, and Pac-man. Once we finish this unit, we will be starting our basic motor movement unit. This unit will consist of games and activities that promote the five basic motor movements (jumping, hopping, skipping, shuffling, and galloping). Kindergarten will be working on how to move safely in the gym. This can be a long process, so we spend two rotations working on this skill. We achieve this through games like Duck Duck Gray Duck, Red Light Green Light, and What Time is it Mr. Fox. If you have any question, I can be reached through email at [Jermaine.guthrie@spps.org](mailto:Jermaine.guthrie@spps.org), or my office phone at 651-744-2316, and cell phone 612-743-4508. Feel free to reach me any time.

### Science-Ms. Saunders-Pearce

Greetings Heights families. My name is Becky Saunders-Pearce. This is my 3<sup>rd</sup> year at The Heights. For the last two years I was a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. Prior to that, I was a science specialist at another school. I was given the opportunity to move into the science position this year and am very excited. In science class, scholars are learning the expectations, safety, and rituals and routines in the science lab. We are learning how to observe like a scientist, using our senses and a variety of tools.

### Music-Mr. Claver

Hello Heights Families, and welcome back to another year in music! My name is Michael Claver, and I'm excited to return as the music teacher this year. We have so many wonderful activities planned for our scholars this year. In addition to our annual concert, we are excited to explore various performance opportunities. Music is a big part of the Heights Community School. We involve music in many of our school activities and routines. We learn music in a fun and engaging way to help our scholars become the best musicians that they can. This year, the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will explore recorder, while the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will spend time learning the ukulele. Please look for updates regarding Band and Choir as the year progresses.

### Enrichment and GT-Ms. Clardy

Hello my name is Ms. Clardy (C Lard Dee). After teaching in St Paul Schools for 21 years, I am thrilled to join The Heights Community! I am the new G.T. and Enrichment teacher. I have a Master in Education in Curriculum and Instruction: with an Emphasis in Elementary Reading. This helps me create a classroom which facilitates a high-quality learning environment.

In September, I met with your scholar three times. We focused on establishing a strong learning environment by learning rituals and routines. We also began with goal setting. In October, we will focus on Mindset, the brain and taking academic risk to grow. I am teaching all scholars in grades one-five once a week for 50 minutes. In addition, I will be working with students identified as Gifted and Talented, Student Council, Chess Club, Dominos, Hmong Dance, Destination imagination, Book Clubs and research projects.

Cogat7 Gifted identification testing will be between October 8-November 13.

All kindergarten students will be tested. All second-grade students who were NOT identified in kindergarten will be tested. Scheduled classroom testing days will be sent to parents before the test date. Teachers will also be nominating student from grades one, three, four and five.

Student Council: Applications have been passed to all fourth and fifth grade students. Results will be announced in October.

# Minnesota Reading Corps



Head back to school! Help our students build brighter futures.

We are looking for a Reading Corps tutor for the 2018-19 school year. You can work with K-3rd grade students every day during the school day and help them become successful readers!

Reading Corps provides comprehensive training in strategies proven to help students build reading skills. Tutors are paid a living allowance and are eligible for up to \$2,960 to pay tuition or repay student loans. Tutors 55 or older may gift the award to their child or grandchild. Tutors may be eligible for free health insurance and child care assistance.

Learn how you can get involved by visiting [readingandmath.net](http://readingandmath.net). You can also help by telling a friend or family member (grandparents make great tutors, too!) about openings at our school and statewide! Positions start in October for the 2018-19 school year. Send questions to [april.stensgaard@servetogrow.org](mailto:april.stensgaard@servetogrow.org) or call 612-460-8617.

## Title I Information – Parent's Right to Know

**ENGLISH: PARENT'S RIGHT TO KNOW TEACHER AND PARAPROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS** Under the *Every Student Succeeds Act*, parents have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of their student's classroom teachers and paraprofessionals. Parents who would like to receive this information should write to the Human Resource Department, Attn: ESSA Teacher Qualifications, Saint Paul Public Schools, 360 Colborne Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102-3299. You have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teacher(s).

- Information about whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- Information about whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
- Information about whether the teacher is teaching (subjects or content) in which proper certification is held by the teacher.
- Information about whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

**HMONG: NIAM TXIV MUAJ CAI PAUB TXOG COV XIB FWB QHIA NTAWV** Raws li txoj cai *Every Student Succeeds Act*, cov niam txiv muaj cai nug kom paub txog cov xib fwb qhia ntawv uas qhia ntawv rau lawv tus me nyuam thiab cov neeg uas pab tus xib fwb qhia ntawv seb lawv txawj thiab kawm ntawv siab npaum li cas. Cov niam txiv uas xav paub txog tej li hais no muaj peev xwm sau tau ntawv mus rau Human Resource department, Attn: ESSA Teacher Qualifications, Saint Paul Public Schools, 360 Colborne Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102-3299. Nej muaj cai nug txog cov nram qab no ntsig txog nej tus me nyuam tus xib fwb qhia ntawv.

- Kev qhia seb tus xib fwb txawj npaum li cas thiab puas muaj lai xee qhia ntawv raws li lub xeev txoj cai los qhia qib ntawv ntawd thiab qhia yam uas nws qhia.
- Kev qhia seb puas yog tus xib fwb ntawd los qhia rau lub caij maj ceev es thiaj li tsis tag txawj txawj thiab muaj lai xee raws li lub xeev txoj cai los tau.
- Kev qhia seb tus xib fwb puas qhia yam uas nws muaj ntawv pov thawj los qhia.
- Kev qhia seb tus me nyuam puas tau txais kev pab los ntawm cov pab tus xib fwb (paraprofessional). Yog tau no lawv txawj thiab kawm ntawv siab li cas.

**SOMALI: Xuquuqda ay Waalidku u leeyihiin inay Ogaadaan Macluumaadka Macallimiinta iyo Shaqaalaha Kale** Sida uu qabo qaanuunka loo yaqaanno "Every Student Succeeds Act" oo micne ahaan ah "Qaanuunka Guusha Arday Walba", waalidiintu waxay xaq u leeyihiin inay codsan karaan macluumaad ku saabsan xirfadda macallimiinta iyo shaqaalaha kale ee carruurtooda wax bara. Waalidiinta raba inay helaan macluumaadkan, qoraal ha u soo diraan qaybta shaqaalaynta mas'uulka ka ah oo la dhaho Human Resource Department. Codsigaaga halkan ku soo hagaaji: Attn: ESSA Teacher Qualifications, Saint Paul Public Schools, 360 Colborne Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102-3299. Waxaad xaq u leedahay inaad codsato macluumaadkan hoose ee ku saabsan macallimiinta ilmahaaga wax bara:

- In macallinka ama macallimaddu buuxiyeen shuruudaha maadada iyo fasalka ay dhigayaan la xiriira ee uu gobolku ka rabo islamkaana khibrad u leeyihiin maadada ay barayaan.
- In macallinka ama macallimaddu haystaan oggolaansho ku meel gaar ah inta ay soo buuxinayaan shuruudihii laga rabay ee dhinaca wax barista iyo in laga qaaday ama laga fasaxay shuruudahaas hadda.
- In macallinka ama macallimaddu ay barayaan maaddooyinka ay u haystaan shatiga islamkaana takhasuska u leeyihiin.
- In uu ilmahaagu helo kaalmada macallin-kalkaaliye, iyo weliba nooca waxbarashada kalkaaliyahaas.

**SPANISH: LOS PADRES TIENEN DERECHO A CONOCER LAS CALIFICACIONES DE MAESTROS Y PARAPROFESIONALES** Bajo el acta Cada Estudiante Triunfa, los padres tienen derecho a solicitar información sobre las credenciales profesionales de los maestros del salón de su niño y paraprofesionales. Los padres que deseen recibir esta información deben escribir al Departamento de Recursos Humanos (Human Resources Department), Attn: ESSA Teacher Qualifications, Saint Paul Public Schools, 360 Colborne Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102-3299. Usted tiene derecho a preguntar la siguiente información de cada uno de(los) maestro(s) del salón de su niño:

- Información sobre si el maestro cumple con las credenciales y licencias del estado para los grados y asignaturas que enseña;
- Información sobre si el maestro está enseñando con una licencia de emergencia o provisional, por la que el estado lo ha eximido de los requerimientos de credenciales o criterios para obtener la licencia.
- Información sobre si el maestro está enseñando (asignaturas o contenido) en la cual tiene una certificación apropiada.
- Información sobre si el niño recibe servicios de paraprofesionales, y si sus calificaciones.



**Saint Paul Public Schools** is faced with inadequate state funding, increasing educational costs and continued budget cuts.

The Saint Paul Board of Education unanimously approved a resolution asking voters to consider a school funding increase on the Nov. 6, 2018 ballot.

If voters approve the request, the funding would help:

- Invest more in schools and student needs at all grade levels
- Implement the district's Strategic Plan to increase achievement for all students
- Increase mental health and social-emotional learning support for students
- Create middle schools designed to meet the academic and developmental needs of this age group and set them on a solid path for high school and beyond
- Limit additional budget cuts

Learn more at:

<http://spps.org/referendum2018>