

Family Newsletter

December 2017

The Heights Community School

DECEMBER

Thursday, December 7, 2017

6:00-8pm Saints North Roller Skating

Monday, December 11, 2017

6:00pm Plaza Movie Night

Friday, December 15, 2017

Junior Achievement Day

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

9:45am CARES Program AM
PreK, grades 3-5
2:10pm CARES Program PM
PreK, grades K-2

**Friday, December 22, 2017 -
Tuesday, January 2, 2018**

NO SCHOOL Winter Break

JANUARY

Wednesday, January 3, 2018

Classes Resume

Monday, January 8, 2018

Paraprofessional Week
January 8-12
6:00pm Plaza Movie Night

Wednesday, January 10, 2018

10:00-11am Open House for
New Parents

Thursday, January 11, 2018

5:00-7pm PTA Meeting

Monday, January 15, 2018

NO SCHOOL Martin Luther
King Jr Day

Friday, January 19, 2018

3:00-9pm Chuck E Cheese
Fundraiser

Saturday, January 20, 2018

9:30am-2pm School Choice
Fair

Friday, January 26, 2018

NO SCHOOL Prof Dev Day

Wednesday, January 31, 2018

9:45am CARES Program AM
PreK, grades K-2
2:10pm CARES Program PM
PreK, grades 3-5
5:30pm Multicultural Family
Night

Find the complete 2017-18 Family
Calendar and Handbook on The
Heights' website.

Principal Chreese Jones

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St. Paul, MN, 55119

Phone 651-293-8815

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Attendance Line 651-744-2273

Website: heights.spps.org



A Note from Principal Jones

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Thank you families for your participation in your child's Parent/ Teacher Conference. I trust your partnership with our teachers is continuing to strengthen as you discuss ways to support our scholars in their education at home and in school. If you missed your child's conference please reschedule with the classroom teacher as soon as possible. Our goal is to always have 100% participation.

Listed below are other ways you can support your child's learning:

- ⇒ Read together-stock your house with books or other reading materials
- ⇒ Quiz your child on learning
- ⇒ Share favorite poems or songs with your child
- ⇒ Review your child's homework
- ⇒ Go to the library together
- ⇒ Give your child choices and let them decide
- ⇒ Tell family stories
- ⇒ Play board games
- ⇒ Limit the amount of screen time
- ⇒ Ask questions and discuss their responses.

Having good attendance in school is very important. Scholars attending school everyday means s/he will not miss out on learning opportunities. Please try to schedule appointments and family trips outside of school hours. If your child is asking to miss school, please ask questions about why they want to miss. Let them know that they have to be in school unless they are truly sick.

Many new families have joined us this year at The Heights and it's been wonderful getting to know everyone. We are interested and considering hosting a school event in our community where families may feel better about attending school events and coming together. We looking for ways to increase family participation at our evening events. It's also an opportunity for our Heights staff community to get to know and learn more about our Eastside community.

If you have suggestions for a great location for us to host one of our school community events please send me an email at chreese.jones@spps.org.

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!

Attendance-Vacations

If your student will be missing school due to a planned vacation, send a note to school stating the reason the student will not be in school and the days the student will be absent. The principal will make the decision as to whether or not the absence will be excused.

Attendance – The Law

Once enrolled in a public school, a child 5 years old to 18 years old, (unless already graduated from high school), must attend school all day, every day, on time, unless lawfully excused.

PTA News

The next PTA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 11, 2018 from 5:00-7pm.

Please join us!

Saints North

Family Skate Center

1818 Gervais Ct, Maplewood

(651) 770-3848

Thurs, Dec 7 6:00-8 pm

Fri, Feb 9 5:15-7:15 pm

Tues, April 17 6:00-8 pm

Chuck E Cheese

445 Commerce Dr, Woodbury

Fri, Jan 19 3:00-9 pm

Fri, March 16 3:00-9 pm

Fri, May 11 3:00-9 pm

Keep collecting:



Box Tops for Education

Ms Vang's class won the fall contest with 342 box tops! Congratulations! Your class will be getting a popcorn party!

!!Coming Soon!!
Heights Gear!

Heights T-shirts and Apparel will be available soon!

PTA is working with Avenue Shirt Works for our Heights Gear needs year round.

Look online for additional colors and sizes!

Use the order form or shop online at:

stores.inksoft.com/heightscommunityschool.com

Save the Date!

Attention Families!

The Heights will be having a **Multicultural Family Night on Wednesday, January 31.**

We'd like your input and help!

We'd love to have as many of our diverse backgrounds represented at this event as possible.

Think about the talents of your household such as music, dance, art, crafts, traditional dress, demonstrations, etc. and how you might be willing to share these talents during the event.

Look for a flier with a survey and sign up sheet the first week of January or call Julie Wellman at 651-293-8815 with your ideas!

Students will be working with Ms Allal and displaying geography projects.

Cell Phone Use Reminder

Students should not be bringing cell phones to school, unless it is required for a safety concern, before or after school. Please help us remind our students not to bring cell phones or other electronic devices to school. We want our students to focus on their studies, not their devices.

Please check out more guidelines in our Family Handbook at www.spps.org/heights.

The Heights Community School
651-293-8815

News from the Health Office

Dear Parents, please check the immunization records your children brought home. Please make an appointment to have your child/children complete all the required immunization before end of December.

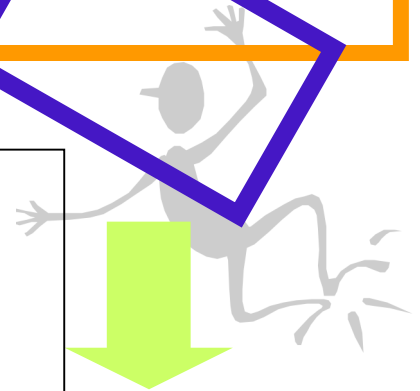
My goal this school year is for our school to have zero exclusion.

Thanks for all your support in seeing that this goal is achieved.

Again, Together we can make a difference in our children's lives.

Thanks,

Ms Obasi (School Nurse)



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.

Winter Weather Plan

COLD

School will be canceled if the forecast for 6 a.m. the following morning shows:

Wind Chill is below -35 degrees Fahrenheit OR

Air Temperature is below -25 degrees Fahrenheit

Decision will be made by 6:30 p.m. the night before a cancellation.

SNOW

The decision to cancel school for snow or hazardous driving conditions will continue to be made by 5 a.m. the morning of a cancellation.

Families can view the complete winter weather plan at spps.org/winter. Translations are available for download.

PreK and Kindergarten School Choice Fair

The Pre-K and Kindergarten School Choice Fair

Saturday, January 20, 2018

9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Washington Technology Magnet School

The School Choice Fair will focus on early childhood, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten opportunities for Saint Paul families. All schools that serve students in Pre-K and/or kindergarten will participate, as well as selected departments and community partners.



Specialists' News

Physical Education-Mr. Guthrie

In physical education, we are finishing up our flag football unit for 3rd-5th grades. We learned how to throw and catch a football the proper way, as well as how to run a receiving rout. In K-2nd, we have been focusing on dodging and chasing. Students have worked on not only what it means to dodge and chase, as well as how to do it safely in the gym.

Science-Ms. Rhoads

K- Being weather scientists and using our senses
1st- Being rock scientists and learning how to observe
2nd- Learning about animals groups and life cycles
3rd- Learning about parts of plants and their functions
4th- Learning about force and magnetism
5th- Learning about the scientific process using pendulums

Enrichment-Ms. Allal

December News for Ms. Allal:

I am beginning to work with some third and fourth grade students for reading. My schedule has changed, and all GT services are happening on Fridays. Chess club, Destination Imagination, Student Council, and GT grade level groups.

Third Grade Enrichment:

We are continuing to work on geography skills. Since third grade will not be having chess club on Fridays, I will take some time to teach and review chess with students in class. If anyone has extra spiral or composition notebooks, please let me know. I would appreciate any donation possible. Thank you!!!

New Kindergarten Schedule:

I am also working with a different teacher each week in the classroom before Enrichment time. During enrichment time, we are using our skills for learning to help us listen to stories, follow directions, and make art projects.

Student Council:

Student council will have the first meeting for new members on Dec. 2. All applications have been reviewed. The meetings will also take place on Fridays at 2:15-2:45.

Testing is over!

CoGAT testing for Gifted identification is over! All kindergarten and second grade students were tested. Any students in first, third, fourth and fifth who were nominated were tested as well. Scores will come in the mail and should be here in January. No date has been given.

Conversation Corner #3

A conversation with your child is a great way to encourage children to increase vocabulary and gain confidence with speaking. Mrs. Galowitz and Mrs. Johanson 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. What is the most popular game at recess?
2. What was the best thing that happened today?
3. Did you help anyone today?
4. Did you tell anyone “thank you?”
5. Who did you sit with at 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.

Translations & Interpreters

School documents can be translated upon request or interpreters made available.

Āmarinya (Amharic)

yeti / bēti senedochi bet'iyak'ē weyimi āsiterigwamiwochi literegomu yichilalu.

Myanmar (Burmese)

kyaungghcaraote hcarwathcartammyarr taunggsomhuko

shoetmahote m r shinine lote hcakarrypan aapawshoet bharsarpyan htarrsaw nineparsai .

Hmoob (Hmong)

Cov ntaub ntaav tom tsev kawm ntaav tuaj yeem muab txhais ua lus los yog tau txais kev pab txhais lus.

Nēpālī (Nepali)

Anurōdhamā skūla kāgajātarū anuvāda garna sakincha vā vyākhyākartāharū upalabdha garā'una sakincha.

Español (Spanish)

Los documentos escolares se pueden traducir a pedido o los intérpretes están disponibles.

Excellent Eagle Rider Tickets

Bus drivers will hand out **Excellent Eagle Rider** tickets to students who follow bus expectations.

Students will write their name and teacher on ticket.

Students will return tickets to their teachers and they will put in bus bucket located in the copying room.

Ms. Leko will draw 7 tickets on Friday morning and those winners will be announced during Monday morning announcements.

The students who had their name called will report to The CARES room for their positive bus behavior reward.

We will be starting this positive bus behavior Monday, December 4th!

The Heights Community School 2017-2018 Family Friendly SCIP

At The Heights Community School, we will create a strong community with focused instruction and critical partnerships that effectively meet the academic and social needs of all students.

One of the tools we use to continually improve our school towards that mission is the district's SCIP (School Comprehensive Improvement Plan) process. In our SCIP document, we review our school-wide data and create a strategic plan for the school year ahead.

This year, we have three main areas of focus in our SCIP, keeping a strong theme of culturally relevant, personalized learning practices at the core of all that we do:

R E A D I N G	<p>We will focus on improving our scholar's reading levels by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Differentiating small group Instruction Co-Teaching with Special Education/Multiple Language Learning teachers Conferring with students to differentiate instruction and provide feedback Teachers providing data driven phonics instruction
M A T H	<p>We will focus on improving our scholar's math abilities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers personalizing learning through differentiated instruction with flex groups and activities based on each scholar's needs. Teachers providing specific language supports which emphasizes students' speaking and writing with accurate math vocabulary Teachers enhancing students' number sense and computational skills where they have gaps or misunderstandings through daily Math Review and Mental Math. Teaching math facts (adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing) using a variety of ways to improve fluency.
C C u l t i m u a r t e	<p>We will strengthen our school-wide implementation of our Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> teaching staff to utilize components of Morning Meeting and Closing Circle daily teaching staff will be trained in and use Innocent Classroom strategies staff receiving training and providing instruction for emotional self-regulation strategies (Zones of Regulation) As a PBIS Team, we will monthly review our classroom procedures, feedback/acknowledgement systems, and discipline policies school-wide.

For more information, you can find the complete version of our 2017-2018 SCIP document here on our website heights.spps.org

We appreciate your commitment to your child's success and your collaboration in this process. We look forward to another year of partnership with our school!

The Heights 2017-2018 Family Engagement Plan AT A GLANCE

The percentage of all students scoring proficient or higher in Reading will increase from 29% to 36% by Spring 2018 as measured by the MCA III Reading Assessment administered in April 2018.

The percentage of all students scoring proficient or higher in Math will increase from 28% to 46% by Spring 2018 as measured by the MCA III Math Assessment administered April 2018.

The Heights Community School will provide families:

- * a welcoming environment that promotes communication; identifies barriers that prevent racial equity; works with families as their children start and leave our school
- * a partnership that shares responsibility for student success; opportunities to build connections to school and each other; meetings and events available to every family; opportunities for parent leadership and advocacy; the foundation of parents' information and skills for becoming more involved in our school
- * information about student achievement in multiple ways; engagement in Personalized Learning; before and after school enrichment and support opportunities for students
- * community partnerships for additional support for students success; opportunities to build connections to school and each other; meetings and events available to every family; opportunities for parent leadership and advocacy; the foundation of parents' information and skills for becoming more involved in our school

EVENT	ACTION	DATE
Open House	School Program Review and Classroom Visits	Thursday, Aug. 31, 2017 5:00 - 7:00PM
Bully Prevention Information Night	Provide Information about the Bully Prevention Program	Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2017 5:30 - 7:00 PM
PTA Meetings Yearly fiscal budget information is presented and discussed at the April 19 meeting.	In addition to PTA information, parents are also given information regarding curriculum, standards, MCAs, attendance issues, etc.	Thursday, Oct. 12, 2017 5:00 - 7:00 PM Thursday, Jan. 11, 2018 5:00 - 7:00 PM Thursday, March 8, 2018 5:00 - 7:00 PM Thursday, April 19, 2018 5:00 - 7:00 PM Thursday, May 10, 2018 5:00 - 7:00 PM
Chat With The Principal	Open forum for parents to bring concerns, questions, etc. and learn about curriculum, standards, MCAs, attendance issues, etc.	Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2017 8:45 - 9:30 AM Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2018 8:45 - 9:30 AM Wednesday, April 25, 2018 1:30 - 2:10 PM
Title I Annual Meeting and Family Math Night	Present Information about Title I programs and explore hands-on math activities	Thursday, Oct. 26, 2017 5:00 - 7:00 PM
Parent/Teacher Conferences	Conduct a family/teacher conference during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement; -Provide frequent reports to families on their child's progress; and -Provide families with reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class activities.	Nov. 14 & 16, 2017 4:30 - 7:30 PM Nov. 17, 2017 8:00AM - 3:00 PM March 20 & 22, 2018 4:30 - 7:30 PM March 23, 2018 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Multicultural Family Night	Reading strategies paired with multicultural books available to support reading at home.	Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2018 5:00 - 7:00 PM
National African Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID)	Parenting tips available to support learning at home.	Monday, Feb. 12, 2018 All Day
I Love To Read Family Night	Supporting reading in the home (combined with I Love To Read month)	Thursday, Feb. 28, 2018 5:00 - 7:00 PM
Parent Academy	Parents are given the opportunity to learn the process of getting their students through Saint Paul Public Schools for graduation and beyond	Monday, Feb. 26, 2018 5:30-7:45 PM Monday, April 16, 2018 5:30-7:45 PM
Spring Budget and Parent Planning Forums	Parents are given the opportunity to review the current school year and given input to help plan for the next school year.	Budget: Tuesday, April 19, 2018 Planning Forum: May 2, 9, & 16, 2018
PreK and Kindergarten Registration and Orientation	Supporting transition by working with families of new students	Thursday, May 17, 2018 5:00 - 7:00 PM