A Note from Principal Jones

2018 is right around the corner! The new year always brings new opportunities for success. We have the opportunity to create the best school possible for our scholars. The Heights Community School has a group of dedicated teachers and support staff who are willing to make changes so that our scholars are successful.

I am also hoping that in the new year our parent participation increases. We need you, we want to see you and we want to hear from you. Please dust off your family calendar and plan to attend family events we have planned this school year. We have an opportunity for parents/guardians to join our leadership team and offer input on the work we’re doing at our school.

All of our Heights families are invited to participate in this year’s Parent Academy offerings sponsored by our Office of Family Engagement and Community. We’ll be hosting at our school two seminars that are relevant for families with children in PreK-5th grade. The dates and descriptions are as follows:

Seminar# 1: Monday, February 26th, 2018 in English and in Spanish
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.

Seminar# 2: Monday, April 16th, 2018 in English and in Spanish
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.

Reminder: Toys at School

After the winter break students may wish to bring items to school to show their friends. While we know that children like to share their favorite items with one another, we must emphasize that bringing these items to school may have serious consequences as outlined in the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. This includes toys that look like weapons.

Please remember to check your child’s backpack daily to ensure that dangerous items, toys and non-educational items are left at home. Thank you for your help.

Enjoy a safe and happy holiday break.

See you next year!
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!

Conversation Corner

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. 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.

PTA News

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

St. North
Family Skate Center
1818 Gervais Ct, Maplewood
(651) 770-3848
Fri, Feb 9 5:15-7:15 pm
Tue, 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

Box Tops Competition!
Ms Vang’s class won the first competition. Collect now through May 11 to win the second competition!

Banner

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.

Reminder!
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.

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stores.inksoft.com/heightscommunityschool
Dear parents/guardians,
Most of you whose child/children are not up to date with their shot record have received multiple phone calls from us urging you to take the students to the clinic to complete their immunization. Exclusion starts January 1, 2018.

Our goal is to exclude no student. In order to avoid this, please make an appointment to make sure that the students get their immunization up to date before the end of December. If insurance is the issue, you can go to The Dept. of Public Health Center, 555 Cedar St, St. Paul, 55101 (651-266-1200) or pay $10/shot at the Student Placement Center, 2102 University Ave W, St. Paul, 55114 (651-632-3700).

Thanks for your co-operation and have a wonderful holiday.

Mrs. Obasi (School Nurse)

District 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.

Cold Weather Guidelines from the Family Handbook.
Our students have daily recess except in extreme weather conditions such as rain or severe cold/wind chill. Our cold weather policy is:
Students will have indoor recess on any day with a wind chill or actual temperature that is below zero.
Please consider these factors related to weather as you and your child make decisions for winter clothing. Students must have a WARM coat, hat, and mittens/gloves for outdoor recess. Boots, snow pants and scarves are highly recommended.
Please remember that you may need to allow extra time in the morning to get your student to school on time. Students are allowed in the building at 8:15am to line up for Breakfast to Go. Students not in their classrooms at 8:30am will be marked tardy.

Bad weather and cold temperatures are not accepted as excused absences.
Patrols will not be on duty when the temperature is below zero.

Find the complete 2017-18 Family Calendar and Handbook on The Heights’ website at spps.org/heights
School Bus Transportation

St. Paul Public School Bus Transportation is a privilege. It is offered to students if they can ride according to the School Bus Safety rules and if they are visibly waiting at their stop location 5 minutes earlier than the stop time. The School Administrator is the only person authorized to suspend this privilege.

In winter weather, students are still expected to be waiting outside at the stop location 5 minutes early and should not be held inside a car, house, or building waiting for the bus to arrive. This helps the driver keep on schedule.

Your driver is expected to drive safely, to be respectful and professional in their dealings with your child and you. Your driver is expected to comment on safe behavior in a positive way and to intervene into misbehavior in a firm and professional manner. Any concerns about your route or your driver should be addressed to your school administrator.

If you have questions about the behavior of your driver or your child, please contact your school administrator. In order for your driver to stay on schedule and to protect the privacy of your child, they are trained not to get into a discussion with you and politely refer you to the school officials with your concerns and questions about behavior.

Most school busses are equipped with video cameras. School officials can request video about incidents of concern. Privacy issues are respected, but the school can give you feedback about what they see on video.

Drivers are trained to not allow unauthorized persons onto the bus. Please help your driver by not entering the bus. Brief comments can be made at the open door, but, other than that, parents can call the school official with concerns.

Drivers are also trained to protect their riders from angry or aggressive persons at bus stops. Drivers are not expected to address issues or enter into conflict with parents. They are not trying to be rude if they close the door after stating that they must continue on with the route.

Drivers are expected to write incident reports on students whose behavior is not safe and who do not respond to a verbal warning and intervention made by the driver. That report goes to the school official who can inform you as to what safety concerns there may be for your child. You can support your child and driver by checking in with your child and school officials about “how things are going on the bus ride”.

Please understand that Drivers cannot hear and see all that happens on a bus and is primarily paying attention to safe driving. You are in a powerful position to support the safety of your child by reviewing school bus expectations and encouraging your child to always follow the driver’s directions.

Parents can go to heights.spps.org/bus to check bus delays every day and/or download the app to access the information on your phone.

Become a Reading Corps Tutor

Get a Jump Start on your New Year’s Resolution - Now Hiring Reading Corps positions at The Heights Community School!

We are looking for Minnesota Reading Corps Tutors to start this January at The Heights. You would serve Kindergarten-3rd grade students every day during the school day to help them become successful readers!

We also have an opening for a 3-day/week Reading Corps position for individuals who are interested in service but cannot commit to a full-time position.

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 animal groups and life cycles 3rd - Learning about animal groups and life cycles 4th - Learning about force and magnetism 5th - Learning about the scientific process using pendulums

Enrichment-Ms. Allal
GT News: CoGAT /Portfolio Review: CoGAT results will be mailed to families in the next few weeks and our SPPS Portfolio Review process begins on Monday, December 11, 2017. If you wish to submit a portfolio review for your child, the deadline is Jan.19. Parents, community members, and teachers are able to submit a portfolio online. (More information to follow.) Fourth and Fifth Grade GT students are working on a geography project on Fridays. Please help them add more information at home over break. I would like to display projects that are complete at the Multicultural Family Night on Wednesday, January 31.