



Hawk Talk Newsletter – November 2017

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Important Dates to Remember

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| ☐ November 6-17 | Stuff the Turkey |
| ☐ Friday, November 10 | No School – Teacher Conferences |
| ☐ Wednesday, November 15 | Picture Re-Take Day |
| ☐ Wednesday, November 15 | Accountability Meeting (6 pm) |
| ☐ Thursday, November 16 | Hungry Hawks – Dawg Haus (Arapahoe and Peoria) |
| ☐ Wednesday, November 22 | No School |
| ☐ Thursday, November 23 | No School – Thanksgiving |
| ☐ Friday, November 24 | No School |
| ☐ Thursday, December 7 | Student Council Crazy Hair Day |
| ☐ Tuesday, December 12 | PASS Meeting (3-4:15) |
| ☐ Friday, December 15 | Giving Tree Distribution (4:30-6:30) |
| ☐ Friday, Dec. 22 | Classroom Winter Parties |
| ☐ Dec. 25-Jan. 8 | Winter Break – No School |



Dear High Plains Families,

We are finishing up with parent-teacher conferences and I cannot say enough how lucky I am to be the principal of High Plains Elementary. Parents, thank you for attending your child's conference, and thank you for engaging in conversations that will support home-school relationships as we all work together for your children. The high attendance in parent-teacher conferences shows the staff at High Plains that everyone is dedicated to our vision of "Every Child, Every Day." Moreover, thank you to our teachers, who tirelessly work to provide instruction and make decision about individuals and not groups of kids. I know that when you have a staff who have servant leadership hearts, combined with a high IQ of teaching pedagogy, you get High Plains Elementary. Our teachers are professionals who reflect on their craft and work with their team to talk about "our kids" and not "my kids." The teachers and I are far from perfect, but our actions are driven by a collective passion to make a difference, not only in the lives of children, but in society as well. Thank you, teachers, for your commitment to continuous learning and high expectations for all kids.

I would like to thank April Besanceney and Allyson Ross for a fun community auction night that not only raised money for our school, but also created an atmosphere where we all socialized and connected on a human level. April was also our chair for the Run4Funds campaign so she has been quite busy! I recognize the time she spent and sacrifices she and her husband have made for High Plains Elementary. Thank you, April, for all of your hard work!

I wish to continue the thoughtful conversations you started this week, either individually, or at a future accountability committee meeting. Our next accountability meeting is 11/15/17 at 6pm....shameless plug. You will hear from me and from our psychologist, Dr. Lisa, about social emotional wellness. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me by email, by phone, or by simply stopping by the main office to see if I am available.

Thank you for your on-going support and partnership.

Derek



Attendance Procedures

If your child will be absent or late to school, please either call before 8:00am either our **attendance line at 720-554-3637** (**NOT** the front office), or use our new High Plains app. Simply click on the blue menu box, click on attendance form, and complete the information. If you have not filled out the attendance form on the app, or called the attendance line before 8:30 am, a call home is made to ensure the safety of the children.



Stuff the Turkey – Please Donate by November 17

The community Service Committee invites you to make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate families in our High Plains community. In keeping with High Plains' tradition, we hope to provide a full Thanksgiving dinner to those that may otherwise go without. If you would like to contribute (or your kids want to donate from their piggy banks), please place your donation in the "turkey" located at the front desk. Cash is great, or checks are payable to High Plains PTCO. Thanks for making the difference of an abundant Thanksgiving for some of our families.

Cross Cultural Survey

Dear High Plains Community,

My name is Christina Heese and I am a Junior at Cherry Creek High School. I am a member of the DECA club at Creek. I am working on a project as a DECA member and the 2017 Girls Leadership Council with the aims of educating others about the cross-culture kid community through creating a platform for storytelling to highlight personal experiences of people within these communities. Linked is a survey with the aims to learn more about cross-cultural interactions within your community, most importantly from the parental perspective. I want to thank you in advance for your responses.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GFGZ3BJ>

Sincerely,
Christina Heese

High Plains Hawk

Our mascot, the High Plains Hawk, has a name. "Hawkeye" is the lucky winner. Thanks to everyone who voted. We look forward to seeing Hawkeye soon!

Future Bruins Night

Future Cherry Creek Bruins Night is Thursday, November 16th. Please arrive to the Fine Arts Theater by 6 pm. Cherry Creek High School will be hosting an Open House for prospective Bruins in grades 5-8. Students and parents will have the opportunity to:

- * Take a Campus Tour
- * Meet Teacher and Department Coordinators
- * Attend Activities and Athletic Fair
- * Visit Post Graduate Center
- * Attend Classroom Experiences/Course Offerings with CCHS Faculty

If you have an 8th grade student, this event is not to be missed as it is a great way to see the opportunities available at Creek! For more information, please visit <http://cherrycreek.cherrycreekschools.org>. Sign up is only necessary for the classroom breakout sessions.

Parking will be available on the north side of the campus, entering the lots off of East Union Avenue or South Dayton Street. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Hill at Julie_danos_hill@hotmail.com.

Student Council Spirit Days

The following are the Student Council spirit days:

December 7:	Crazy Hair Day
January 11:	PJ Day
February 1:	Dress up like a Grandparent
March 8:	Dress up like who you want to be when you grow up
April 5:	Dress up like your favorite decade
May 4:	May the 4 th be with you



Changing Colorado Weather

Please make sure you send your child with a sweatshirt/coat to school. We are at that time of year that the weather can change quickly. Don't forget to label each item with your child's name!



A note from Nurse Renee - Influenza Vaccine

We are approaching influenza season once again. The best step that we can take to protect ourselves and our families is to get our annual influenza vaccine.

The CDC recommends that everyone ages 6 months and older receive an influenza vaccine during the 2017-18 flu season. The month of October is typically when influenza vaccine will start to become available at your physician offices and pharmacies. Many offices do not require appointments to receive your vaccine and they are available on a walk-in basis. If you have concerns about yourself or your child receiving the flu vaccine, please reach out to your health care provider.

This is a good time for reminders to use good handwashing and to cover our coughs. These are simple steps that we can all take to keep the High Plains Community a healthy one this winter.



Crosswalk Safety – Very Important

Please make sure your children cross the street at the crosswalks, **and NEVER cross between cars or in the middle of the street.** Children model our behavior. Please make sure you follow the safety rules of the road.

Please also remember to **NEVER** make a u-turn in a school zone. This is very dangerous to both cars and pedestrians. Thank you for your help.



Breakfast

If your child is having breakfast here at High Plains, please do not have them here before 7:25 am. Thank you.



We love our Pets

We understand our pets are part of our family, but please be mindful of others and keep your pets at home when you drop off and pick up your children.

WALK, BIKE OR ROLL TO SCHOOL

As part of CCSD's Safe Routes to School grant, we encourage you to consider the many benefits of safe, active transportation to and from school for you, your children and our community!

Students who walk, bike or roll to school

- Exhibit increased concentration on academics after getting physical activity
- Help reduce traffic congestion, pollution and stress during school drop off and pick up times
- Are more likely to get the recommended 60 minutes of daily moderate to vigorous physical activity
- Develop a better sense of direction and connection to their community
- Gain confidence and independence when old enough to travel alone or with friends
- Spend quality time with a parent or caregiver when accompanied by an adult

What can you do to support safe, active transportation to and from school?

- Teach children rules of the road, use crosswalks and practice safety at all times
- Always wear a helmet when biking, riding a scooter or skateboarding
- Organize a walking school bus where a group of students meet and walk together with adult supervision
- If you live far away, park a distance from school and walk the rest of the way
- Walk, bike or roll to school at least one day a week with your child or encourage them to go with friends
- Learn more by checking out the links below

Click the topics below for research summaries and more information:

Safe Routes to School Programs

Pedestrian and Bicycle Information

Educating Pedestrians and Bicyclists

Physical Activity and Academic Performance

