



June 2009

High Plain Headliner

From the Principal's Office

Calendar of Events



Dear High Plain Families,

June is always marked by a special air of excitement as we complete our curricular goals, celebrate fond traditions, prepare for next year and anticipate summer vacation. Please be sure to review our calendar of upcoming events and join our celebrations of a wonderful school year!

Thank you for your tremendous support throughout this year and the past seven years. As parents, you have been key contributors to our school community and students' success. From building our playground to working as ELF, Everyday Math, Writers Workshop and Literacy Volunteers, you have been active partners in the life of our school. Your generosity of spirit, time commitment and resources has been felt and valued by all our team.

Next year will bring many new opportunities and changes. We look forward to Dr. Bach's appointment of High Plain's new principal. Special thanks to the Search Committee for nominating three outstanding candidates, and to all of you who were able to come meet with the candidates and share your reflections with the superintendent. Between now and the end of the school year, I hope to have the new principal join us in several events and activities to extend a warm HPE welcome and to support an easy transition.

Next year will include several curricular and programmatic changes. As a result of the budget deficit, instrumental music – band, orchestra, and the third grade strings and recorder program will not be offered during the school day. Health Education and Technology classes have also been eliminated, but look for new interdisciplinary models of instruction. Physical education will return to two forty five minute classes per week in grades one through five and includes a focus on wellness. The Wellness program will be under development next year. Federal stimulus monies anticipated in the coming year will also be targeted to design a new media and technology interdisciplinary curriculum. As we face the great challenges of the current economic conditions, please know we are committed to working collaboratively to seek alternative strategies and opportunities to support all our students' achievement, safety and well being.

Currently we are looking for three new parent representatives for our School Council. The Council has the very important responsibility of developing a School Improvement Plan to continue our growth and progress as a school community. The PTO will be conducting an election next

End of Year Events 2009

- 6/8 – 6/12 Spring Book Fair
- 6/8 Spring Instrumental Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- 6/9 Parent Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast, 8:15 a.m.
- 6/10 Early Release Day, Dismissal of All Day K through 5th Grade at 11:45 a.m., Regular dismissal time of 11:15 a.m. for morning Kindergarten, No afternoon Kindergarten session
- 6/11 Third Term Ends
- 6/11 Kindergarten Play, 9:30 a.m.
- 6/11 Ice Cream Social, 5:30-7:30
- 6/12 Flag Day Ceremony
- 6/15 – 6/23 Grade 5 Olympics
- 6/16 Shawsheen Move-Up Day
- 6/19 All School Picnic
- 6/25 Gr. 5 Celebration of Learning Ceremony, 9:00 a.m.
- 6/26 Time Capsule Ceremony

WANTED – School Council Representatives

Each year, our School Council writes a School Improvement Plan to target specific areas for continued growth.

We are seeking three new members of the team. Please return your application by Friday, 6/5. The elections will be held the week of 6/8-6/12. Any questions, please speak to Brenda or Heidi Nash.

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week. Please let me know if you are interested in being a representative.

On a personal note, I want to thank you and our PTO for the truly lovely end-of-year reception at Salvatore's. Our PTO's, past and present, have selflessly committed themselves to supporting the best educational opportunities and enrichment offerings for all our students. Your friendship, hard work and tireless energy have meant the world to me. I believe the joint efforts of the PTO and our staff fundraising will allow us to purchase two additional interactive SMARTBoards. Our goal is to bring this important technology tool to every classroom.

Lastly, but most importantly, thank you for the privilege of learning with and from your children for the past seven years. I have had the great honor of being an educator in Andover and a once in a lifetime thrill to be part of opening a new school community. I won't say goodbye because it sounds so final. Rather, I wish each of you every happiness, health and joy.

With my heartfelt thanks,

Brenda



Last Call for Lost & Found Items

We have many jackets, sweatshirts, lunch boxes, etc. looking for their owners. Please stop by the Lost & Found in the cafeteria before June 24th to find any missing items. All unclaimed items will be donated to our local shelters.

HPE Book Fair Shopping

Monday, 6/8 through Friday, 6/12

Before School - 8:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

During Lunch - 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

After School - 2:45 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.*

OPEN ALL DAY on THURSDAY, JUNE 11th!

*After School Hours on Wednesday, 6/10 - 11:30-12:30 p.m.

No After School Hours on Friday, 6/12 - Book Fair ends at 1:15 p.m.



Remember to save your **LABELS FOR EDUCATION** proofs of purchase (that UPC code!) on the back of Campbell's Soup. We are saving the labels to get free playground balls and other outside equipment for recess.

There are 150 participating products including:

- Campbell's soups
- SpaghettiO's pasta
- Prego pasta sauces
- Swanson broths
- Pepperidge Farm cookies, crackers and **GOLD-FISH!**
- V8 Splash beverages

Visit labelsforeducation.com for a complete list of products. Keep your eyes out for the **LABELS FOR EDUCATION** start clipping today!



Box Tops for Education/Tyson Project A+

Send in all collected boxtops by June 12. The student with the highest redemption will receive a gift certificate to Barnes and Nobles. All entered will also be eligible to win a certificate to Dunkin Donuts. High Plain earns \$0.10 per boxtop label and \$0.24 per Tyson label. Be sure to visit <http://www.boxtops4education.com/> and <http://www.tyson.com/projectaplus/> for examples and a list of products.

Please check out the Box Tops for Education Marketplace <http://www.boxtops4education.com/>. Box Tops has partnered with many of the most popular stores on the Web like JCPenney, Lands' End, Barnes and Noble, Best Buy, and Target. When you shop through the Box Top Marketplace we earn cash donations with qualifying purchases.

Send in labels with your child to school and be sure to **include student's name and teacher**. Feel free to contact Linda Ritchie (978-687-0263 or wjlmritchie@aol.com) with

Letter from the PTO

It seems almost impossible, yet we are already in our last month of school. What an exciting spring we have had, there is so much more to come. First, thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who give countless hours, ideas and enthusiasm to enrich the lives of the students every day. Your energy helping in the classrooms and in support of PTO events and programs are a huge part of what makes HPE such a special place to learn. On that same note, thank you to our amazing teachers and staff, you are truly the heart and soul of High Plain.

Last month, ELF volunteers wrapped up the final session of the year, White Tailed Deer in Winter. The students had the opportunity to learn about these animals in depth, using hands on lessons and games depicting the life and survival skills deer need in winter.

Spring events kicked off with the Grades 4/5 Funfair. The kids participated in fun games and prizes. Thank you to all the volunteers who came out to help make this an exciting afternoon.

This year's annual teacher luncheon was once again celebrated during teacher appreciation week, the first week in May. Our wonderful teachers and staff were treated to an exciting Mardi Gras themed event, finished off with desserts sent in by parents. Thank you to the Luncheon committee for such a nice way to honor our fantastic staff.

This May, the girls of HPE danced the night away at the 7th annual Father Daughter Dance. Nearly 200 girls came out in their beautiful spring dresses for a memorable evening with their fathers. They danced, played games, talked, giggled and snacked. Educational family adventures passes were raffled off and new games were led by the DJ. Thank you to the entire dance committee's efforts in making it a very special evening and to all of you whom sent in delicious little treats to keep the girls' energy up as they danced and played.

Throughout the year, the PTO provides funding for educational programs chosen to supplement the curriculum. This year funds raised have gone to support programs such as author visits, fossils, McAuliffe Planetarium, Tanglewood Marionettes, Fun with Science, Techsploration, Art Quest, Historical Perspectives, Canadian Consulate and the Seacoast Science Center.

The PTO year-end event drew a huge turnout for Brenda O'Brien's farewell celebration. We will miss out beloved Principal as she retires from career in the Andover Public School system. She is truly an exceptional leader and her commitment and passion for the High Plain community will be appreciated and remembered always.

Annual Ice Cream Social



Thursday, June 11, 2009

5:30-7:30 HPE Caf 

contact: holliroberts@comcast.net



SPECIAL PROJECT - SUBMISSIONS DUE JUNE 1

As we prepare to say farewell to our beloved Mrs. O'Brien, we invite all students and parents of the High Plain and Wood Hill community to participate in a special project. We would like to create a special scrapbook with submissions from all who wish to participate.

What's required? It's simple. On a piece of 8 1/2 x 11 paper, capture your favorite memory of Mrs. O'Brien through a poem, a drawing, a letter...you decide! Get creative!

What to do:

- Create your special document, making sure to include your name and grade on the back (so she knows who it's from!)
- You can use colored or special paper—just make sure it is no larger than 8 1/2 x 11.
- Submit in an envelope no later than June 1st. Send to the attention of Christina Luconi, "Goodbye Project." There will be a box under Mara Rubino's desk where they will be collected (got to keep it hidden!)

We look forward to seeing all the wonderful memories, and preparing this special keepsake for Mrs. O'Brien!

Thank you in advance for your participation. If you have any questions, contact Christina Luconi at 978-863-8648 or cluconi@aol.com

ANDOVER GIRL'S SOFTBALL

Dear Softball Players,
If you are currently in Kindergarten, Grade 1 or Grade 2, you are eligible to play in-town softball this summer in Andover Girl's Primary League! The season will start on June 15 and will run until the first week of August. There will be two games a week, all weeknights.

You must register on-line.
Please visit <http://www.sportsmanager.us/AndoverGirlsSoftball.htm> to register.



The deadline to register for the Summer Season is **June 1st!**

Hope to see you out on the fields this summer!

PTO WEBSITE UPDATES!

In addition to PTO contact and event information, the HPE PTO website now includes even more information. We now also have a "community event" link you may go to for townwide postings. These postings have been approved by the superintendent's office and are included when forwarded from there. Some examples include: softball, soccer, concerts, extracurricular activities, etc. To find out more about this and other upcoming events around school go to www.highplainpto.org. We also include Parent to Parent and SEPAC links when requested.

PENTUCKET PLAYERS YOUTH THEATRE – JUNE 26-28

Pentucket Players Youth Theatre Presents
"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat"

Fri. & Sat. June 26, 27 @ 8:00 p.m.
Sun. June 28 @ 1:00 & 5:00 p.m.

Basement Theatre
Church of Christ the Teacher
Merrimack College, North Andover

All seats \$10.00
For tickets 978-521-9259; www.pentucketplayers.org

ATTENTION 4th GRADE PARENTS

It has been a tradition that 4th grade parents volunteer to help out at the 5th grade graduation celebration. This year's celebration will be held on Thursday, June 25th from 9:15 - 11:00 am.

Duties include setting up four tables outside of the cafeteria (weather permitting), placing 4 watermelon bowls, 4 - 6 cookie trays and 4 punch bowls on the tables. You will also be asked to stand by a table and replenish cups of fruit and lemonade and clean up.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact Pam Wilkie at pwjamo@aol.com or Cheryl Johnson at johnson-family01810@verizon.net.