

# Family Newsletter March 2024

# The Heights Community School

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<https://theheights.spps.org/>



## Important Dates

### MARCH 2023

8 No School, Conference Prep  
19 PTA  
28 2:30-6 Conferences  
29 No School, 8-3 Conferences

### APRIL 2023

1-5 Spirit Week  
8-12 No School, Spring Break  
15 Classes Resume  
23 PTA

Lus tseem ceeb rau cov niam thiab txiv hmoob.

### MARCH 2024

8 Tsis kawm ntawv  
19 PTA  
28 Muaj conference thaum 2:30-6:00 teev tsaus ntuj  
29 Tsis kawm ntawv, muaj Conferences thaum 8 - 3 teev tav su.

### APRIL 2023

1-5 Spirit Week  
8-12 Tsis kawm ntawv, yog Spring Break  
15 rov qab pib kawm ntawv dua  
23 PTA



## World's Finest Chocolate Bars

Coming the first week in April!

Families will be able to help raise money for The Heights by selling World's Finest chocolate bars. Information will be sent out with dates for selling, how to order your boxes, submit your collected money and win prizes later this month.



## The Heights website NEW!

Please check out our updated website at

<https://theheights.spps.org/>

Please read and discuss the Family Handbook with your students at:

<https://theheights.spps.org/families/family-handbook>

Click the link below for Title I information regarding:

School Continuous Improvement Plan (SCIP)

Family Friendly SCIP

Family Engagement Plan (FEP)

Compact

Parent's Right to Know

<https://theheights.spps.org/about/title-i>

Title I information will also be available in the school office and the family resource room.

## Stay Healthy!



Please help keep everyone healthy.  
d your child to school if sick with the following:

\***Fever** 100.4 degrees or higher

\***Throwing up/diarrhea** in the last 24 hours  
**OR**

\*If **medications** have been given to  
fevers down in the last 24 hours

\*Cold Symptoms, Cough or other concerns –  
send/bring your child to school and have our  
health team assess your child. We're here to help!



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

**School  
Attendance  
Matters**

**9 Days or Less =  
School Success!**

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 7:30 am until their teacher dismisses them at the end of the day at 2:00 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.

**School Hours 7:30-2:00**  
**Office Hours 7:15-2:45**



**7:15 Cafeteria opens for FREE  
Breakfast to Go**

**7:30 All students must be in their  
classrooms or they will be  
marked tardy.**

**Please, always use the Attendance Line  
to call in an absent student!**  
(use even during regular school hours!)

**651-744-2273**

**The Attendance Line is Available  
24 Hours a Day/7 Days a Week!**

**Time Change**

Spring forward  
Sunday, March 10!



**PreK Information**

Spring Family Day will be coming soon at The Heights to provide information on developmental skills needed for Kindergarten.

**PTA**

**Virtual PTA & SCIP Update Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 19**

**5:30-6:00pm**

Topics for Title I include:

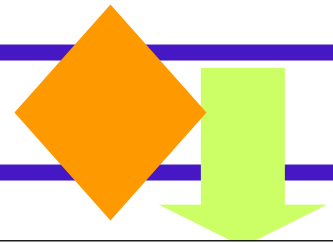
- SCIP evaluation and planning
- Budget Planning for next year
- Review Family Engagement Plan & School-Parent Compact.

Topics for PTA include:

- T-shirts & Hoodie Fall Sale
- 2024-25 PTA Budget
- Recruitment & Officers
- Fundraising

A link to our Spring Parent Survey will be sent out after Spring Break. Please fill it out for a chance to win Target gift cards!

A link to the meeting will be sent out before March 19.



## **News from the Specialists**

### Science: Mr. Welke

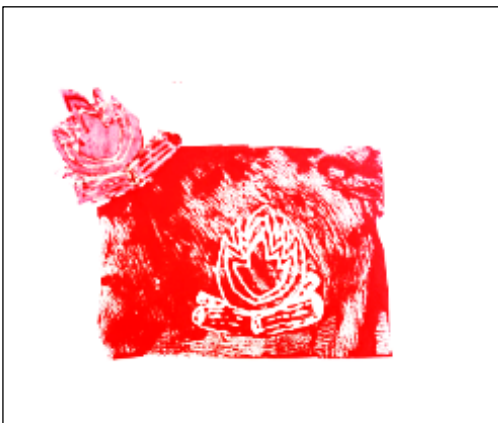
5<sup>th</sup> Grade is starting a new unit on the importance of water to our Earth.  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade is finishing their unit on energy resources available on Earth.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade is understanding how animals live and survive in different environments.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade is working with understanding the properties of different materials.  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade is starting a new unit about shadows.  
Kindergarten is learning about force and how it affects us!

### Art: Mx. Rosno

All Art Classes have been full of experiments in watercolor! We've discovered that we can make art as a community! 2nd-5th were able to try Printmaking with foam plates!

Art Studio Volunteers are going above and beyond to show compassion at the Heights and are being recognized with our school store's Eagle Bucks and new this month from the student council: Kindness Links!

To wrap up our "I Love to Read" contest, let's show the emotions that the books we read made us feel! Students will choose one of the books that they've been reading to make a portrait to either respond to a book or put themselves inside of the story. Discover the meaning of empathy by discussing the question: **How did the characters feel and cope with the conflict in their stories?**



### P.E.: Mr. Beason



HELLO HEIGHTS FAMILIES,  
  
OUR FOCUS IN MARCH WILL BE ON FITNESS SKILLS, BOWLING AND VOLLEYBALL AS WELL AS VARIOUS OTHER SMALL/LARGE GROUP GAMES.

CURRENTLY ALL CLASSES ARE PRACTICING FITNESS EVENT SKILLS.

IN THE APRIL NEWSLETTER I WILL INCLUDE INFORMATION FROM SAINT PAUL URBAN TENNIS ABOUT AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR CHILD TO HAVE "FREE", TENNIS LESSON AT THE HAYDEN HEIGHTS REC CENTER STARTING IN MID APRIL. ENJOY THE MILD WINTER. GET YOUR KIDS AND FAMILY OUTSIDE FOR FRESH AIR AND EXERCISE!

### Music: Mr. Anderson

Hello Heights Families,

Music is in full motion. We are singing, dancing and moving to the beat. Kindergarteners can tell you all about the steady beat now. 1st and 2nd graders are working on their melody and rhythm skills with all the various Orff instruments. 3rd grade has been learning to read and play music. 4th and 5th grade students have those Ukuleles to look forward to with our unit on string instruments. Thank you for such a great year so far and I look forward to all the ways we can share our hard work with you.

Have a great Spring!  
Mr. Anderson





Dear Families:

Get ready! The Scholastic Book Fair is coming our way (YAY!). Choosing their own books empowers kids and inspires them on their journey to becoming lifelong readers. AND—as always—every purchase at the Fair benefits our school.

Here's what you need to know about the big event, which will take place during school hours on Wednesday, March 27 and Thursday, March 28 and during conferences on Thursday, March 28 and Friday, March 29.

Say goodbye to cash and hello to **eWallet**—your child's digital payment account. Before the Fair, set up eWallet for worry-free, cash-free purchases. Anyone can contribute! Share each child's eWallet so friends and family can add funds and give your kids more books to enjoy. You can still use cash or credit cards to buy books at the fair.

If you can't make it to the Fair, then **shop at our school's Book Fair online**. Shop online March 25-April 7. All orders ship directly to your home, and shipping is free for book orders over \$25. Every online purchase will also benefit our school.

Visit our Book Fair homepage to learn more and get started with eWallet and online shopping:

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/heightscommunityschool1>

The countdown to more Bookjoy is on! Catch you at the Fair!

Happy reading,

Julie Wellman and Robyn Dittler  
Book Fair Organizers  
The Heights Community School

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**651-293-8815**

## Message from the Counselor



School Counselor  
Amy Robinson

Happy Spring! Weekly counseling lessons in March and April, will focus on students identifying what they like to do (interests) and what they are good at (skills) as well as learning after high school and different careers that match their interests and skills.

5th graders will get to put this information into action on March 15th, when they visit BizTown. At BizTown, they will have the opportunity to explore different careers in the business world and apply for jobs that interest them. On March 15th they will get to do one job in a business for the day to learn more about the skills and responsibilities needed for that career.

## MCA & MTAS Testing Information



### MCA & MTAS Testing 2023-2024

Each spring, the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) or the Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS) are provided to students in mathematics (grades 3-8 and 11), reading (grades 3-8 and 10), and science (grades 5, 8 and in high school upon completing biology). Most students take the MCA; however, some students who receive special education services and meet eligibility requirements take the MTAS. Both tests provide a snapshot of student learning of the Minnesota Academic Standards. The MCA and MTAS are used to meet federal and state legislative requirements. The Minnesota Department of Education and SPPS can use results to look across student groups, schools and districts to evaluate equitable learning opportunities for all students.

Assessments are designed to provide information about student learning, but there is no single assessment that can provide the full perspective of what a student has learned. These assessments provide one data point that should be considered in the context of additional evidence of student learning.

At the Heights Community School, students in grades 3- 5 will take the MCA or MTAS between **April 17 - May 2, 2024**. If you have questions about your student's participation in statewide assessments, reach out to Principal Moeller.

For more information on the MCA and MTAS please go to:

- SPPS MCA/MTAS Family Testing Information website: [spps.org/Page/46393](https://spps.org/Page/46393)
- MDE Family Testing Information website: [education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/tests/](https://education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/tests/)