

The  
***Polar Bear  
Express***

December 2015

“Poly Drives Students  
to Succeed”



**Poly Drive  
Elementary  
School**

**Kevin Croff, Principal**  
2410 Poly Drive  
Billings, MT 59102

Phone (406) 281-6217  
<http://www.billingsschools.org>  
[croffk@billingsschools.org](mailto:croffk@billingsschools.org)  
polydrive.weebly.com  
polydrivepta.com

**Dear Poly Drive Families,**

One of the things I love about Montana is the changing of seasons. Cold weather has officially started and we are noticing the chill during the morning walk. Please make sure your child is coming with appropriate winter gear each day.

We are still in need of some backup help for the lunchroom and crosswalk and we will need a full time person next year. If you can spare a couple of hours each day (and you even get paid) please let us know. We'll gladly accept job sharing or other ideas that you can think of.

**Now that elementary and middle school redistricting is finished, the district is looking at high school boundaries. The next meeting for community input is Dec. 12 at the Lincoln Center. You can look at maps, complete an input form and check out the time lines at**

**<http://www.billingsschools.org/high-school-redistricting.html>**

This always seems to be the busiest month of the year for me. No soccer for my girls but there is shopping, basketball, concerts, parties and, of course, more shopping. Despite the rushing around I usually end up in a good mood and look forward to the time spent with loved ones. I hope you take time this month to truly enjoy the season and some quality time with family and friends.

Sincerely - Kevin Croff



## **HOLIDAY MUSIC PROGRAMS DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> and 17<sup>TH</sup>**

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders will be performing a holiday concert on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders will be doing a holiday program this year on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. The times of the programs will be 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. It will be the same program performed twice.

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade music students will be doing a guitar performance in January.

## **SELECT CHOIR NEWS**

Students in grades 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> interested in Select Choir need to attend a meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. in the library. This meeting will include information on how to audition and student expectations.

Rehearsals will begin January 5<sup>th</sup> and be held every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:45 am.



## **KINDNESS & COMPASSION CLUB**

The KC Club has put together a "Giving Hands" wreath to collect items to give to Poly Drive children and families for Christmas.

You can take a hand from the wreath that is hung by the main office. The hands each have an item listed on them that is to be purchased and then returned to Poly Drive by Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

The items range from specific girl/boy items to general health care items. You may choose to wrap the more specific items if you wish, attaching the Giving Hand to it so it can be identified.

## **FOOD DRIVE**

KC Club food drive  
December 14 – 18. Please bring a non-perishable item. Which class will bring the most?!

Thank you for all of your generosity and support!

## **LIBRARY NEWS**



## **5WAYS TO BE SMARTER THAN THE SMARTPHONE!**

1. Be a parent and a resource. Establish clear guidelines, including time limits and consequences for inappropriate behavior, but be open so your child will come to you with any problems.
2. Set up password protection. This will keep everyone but you and your child from accessing personal information stored on the phone.
3. Update the operating system. New versions often contain important security fixes.
4. Approve apps before they are downloaded. Make sure you understand their capabilities and approve their content.
5. Understand location services. GPS features are useful when using maps, but you'll want to disable location-tagging when your child posts anything online.



## SCHOOL CALENDAR

### December

- 4 Butter Braid Orders Due
- 10 Holiday Music Program 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>  
8:30 & 10, same performance
- 15 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Orchestra Concert  
2:25 in gym
- 17 Holiday Music Program K-2  
8:30 & 10, same performance
- 17 Butter Braid delivery  
2-3:30 in the gym
- Dec. 23- Jan 3 NO SCHOOL

### January

- 4 School back in session
- 12 PTA meeting, 6:30 library
- 15 End of Quarter
- 18 NO SCHOOL for students
- 19 Coffee with Croff, 1:30  
Please RSVP
- 20 Report Cards go home



By Mrs. Reas

PEAK Flag Football was a blast! Thank you to all of the students who participated and brought home the second place trophy.

Fitness Club will continue on Mondays and Wednesdays for all interested 4th, 5th, and 6th graders.

Dodgeball practice will also be held on Wednesdays from 3:05-3:35.

Dodgeball competitions are scheduled as follows.

**Friday December 4th**  
Poly Drive vs. Boulder and Canyon Creek @ Canyon Creek at 4pm

**Friday December 11th**  
Poly Drive vs. Arrowhead and Canyon Creek @ Canyon Creek at 4pm

**Wednesday December 16th**  
Poly Drive vs. Highland @ Highland at 4pm

PEAK Basketball will start in January

### Attendance Matters

Here's a shout out to students with perfect attendance for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of school!

Alissa	Armstrong
Talen	Barrington-Miller
Sean	Batiste
Amari	Batiste
Brady	Bechtold
Karsten	Bell
Lucas	Bergeron
Jackson	Bergeron
Dylan	Berry
Ashlyn	Blades
Kyrie	Blades
Solai	Blakesley

Hadley	Blakesley
Armin	Borhan
Quinn	Byrd
Ava	Byrd
Parker	Cantwell
Severen	Cellan
Lilah	Chapel
Trystin	Chapel
Kearstin	Chapman
Breena	Collett
Eli	Conver
Caleb	Conver
Nimya	Cooper
Isaiah	Daugherty
Emerald	Daugherty
Molly	DeBusk
Kimberly	Deffinbaugh
Sarah	DeLeon
Ethan	DeLeon
Faith	DeVries
Jace	Dostal
Olivia	Dostal
Riley	Dowd
Kaden	Dowd
Jordan	Dreikosen
Peyton	Dreikosen
McKenna	Engebretson
Kyle	Erlenbusch
Phoebe	Ewing
Margarett	Ewing
Carmen	Federico
Baelyn	Feeley
Ella	Gallagher
Iris	Gallagher
Jace	Gallagher
Jordan	Greer
Morgan	Grover
Camila	Gutierrez
Sebastian	Gutierrez-Ramirez
Antolina	Heil
Thomas	Howard
Alexis	Ives
Alyvia	Jardine
Ryan	Jenks

Margaret	Jenks
Henry	Kelling
Caroline	Kemner
Rei Cedrich	Kepa
Rei Dylan	Kepa
Briella	King
Dain	Kipp
Camberlee	Koch
Brendan	Koch
Ella	Koch
Nicholas	Koch
Jackson	Koch
Bailey	Kurns
Kevin	Kurth
Destiny	Lave
Lyndin	Marble
Madeline	Marble
Michael	Marble
Danilynn	Massey
Allison	Massey
Reed	McAuliffe
Alexis	McManamen
Sadie	Meier
Samuel	Merchant
Elie	Miller
Teagan	Murphy
Alice	Nathan
Tanner	Nelson
Emma	Ormsby
Leela	Ormsby
Lydia	Parkins
Emery	Peel
Alexander	Peel
Andrew	Pellandini
Ella Grace	Pellandini
Makayla	Radue
John	Rentz
Trek	Roan
Elaina	Robinson
Julia	Roccisano
Lily	Rolle
Allie	Rukstad
Samantha	Saylor
Jake	Shelden

Ella	Shelden
Malikye	Simpson
Paramveer	Singh
Sydney	Sivertson
Larson	Stavnes
Elliot	Stricker
Jasmine	Trerise
Jadon	Trerise
Sophia	Tuss
Ava	Walker
Joseph	Waller
Elijah	Weatherby
Poppy	Westerman
Nathaniel	Whiteman
Easton	Wriedt
Lauren	Wright
Trevor	Wright



***"Tis the season:  
Box Tops & Labels for  
Education***

The holiday season is upon us, and many of us use products that contain BOX TOPS and Labels for Education.

Please remember to clip the logos and send them to school. The more we collect, the more funding Poly Drive will receive. The class that collects the most box tops over the year will win a popsicle party! This passive fundraising effort

brought in \$1,225 for Poly Drive last year. Thank you for your support of Poly Drive School.



**PTA NEWS**

Imaginations are flying with the PTA Reflections program. 12 students have been meeting weekly, filling sketch books with their unique creative visions. Teaching art in a way that slows their active bodies and creates a space to dig deep and truly stretch their imagination muscles! Their final works will be judged and presented to the State Competition in February of 2016.

Step aside Bill Nye, we have a new science guy! Peter Smolenski is leading a new Science & Engineering Fair Club at Poly Drive, open to 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and now 4<sup>th</sup> grades. It is not too late to join, contact Peter or Casey at 694-3008.

We had a great Bookfair at Barnes & Noble. Mrs. Caskey and her students impressed us with their mad tech toys, Grandmama's French students shared a beautiful "Cantique de Noël" and Mrs. Langiers' Music students showed off their music reading, guitar playing, song singing talents

with fun spirited tunes for the season. Thanks to all parents who brought their performers and those who came to support the library and music programs at Poly!

Other great events that happened in November: Skate Night, another successful Veteran's Day Breakfast, a PTA/STEM committee continues to progress formulating a plan to supplement the new Project Lead the Way curriculum.

Things to look forward to in January:  
Talent Show Auditions, save the show date February 25, 2016  
Read-a-thon kick off January 25, 2016

If you are thinking that things sound amazing at Poly Drive, you are right on! These are opportunities not afforded to many kids in their elementary years. They are made possible by the exceptional efforts of the teachers and parents of Poly Drive. Organized

through the PTA, parents and teachers have a chance to meaningfully impact the education of our children and allow them experiences they may not otherwise have. Which brings us to BUTTERBRAIDS, the second largest fundraiser for Poly PTA. Funding for these programs and experiences comes through your financial support of the PTA. On that note, BUTTERBRAID sales run through December 4 with pickup on December 17 from 2-3:30 in the gym. Please support this fundraiser by asking friends and family if they would enjoy this holiday favorite. THANK YOU!

**Dec 1 Social Media Awareness for Parents 5:30 to 6:30pm Poly Library**

**Dec 2 Reflections Art Program**

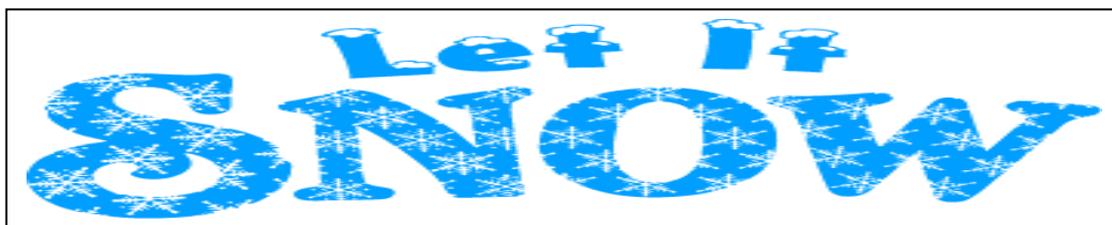
**Dec 3 SKATE NIGHT 5:00-8:00pm**

**Dec 4 Butterbraid Orders Due with Payment**

**Dec 8 NO PTA MEETING IN DECEMBER**

**Dec 17 Butterbraid Pickup 2-3:30 in gym**

You can find out more at [www.polydrivepta.com](http://www.polydrivepta.com) or check us out on Facebook!



BPS School Counselors



**Why C** and target is NOT EQUAL.

**BULLYING:** Bully behavior occurs when there is deliberate intent to harm, dominate, inflict pain, exclude or otherwise cause distress to the person being targeted. The person who bullies purposefully misuses his/her power (size, age, popularity, confidence, verbal ability), usually repeatedly. The balance of power between the bully

**This holiday season, rather than spending money on family, spend TIME with family.\***

It is no secret that children love new toys. They love Christmas and birthdays because of the multitude of gifts they receive. However, the most important gift any child could receive is the continual presence of his parents in his life. As a parent, giving your time, energy and love to your child is one of the most important things you can do. Here are a few reasons why presence is more important in your child's life than the latest and greatest present.

### **Children need your example**

Home is the place where children learn basic skills such as how to speak, walk, use the toilet, hold a fork, manners, etc. Children learn these skills from watching others. Parents set an example to children. If a child sees a parent performing a certain task, the child feels it is also OK to do it. When you are present in your child's life, you help shape your child into the person you know he can become. Children look up to you their entire lives and your actions speak much louder than any amount of money. Show your children, by your example and your actions, that you want what is best for them.

### **Children need your physical touch**

When children fall and hurt themselves, or they are sick, there is nothing like a kiss from their mom or a snuggle from their dad. Physical touch is a powerful thing. Take the time to snuggle your children, let them sit on your lap while you read them stories and give them hugs before bed each night, etc.

### **Involvement helps build a child's self-esteem**

When you are involved in your child's life, you help him gain confidence and build up his self-esteem. When parents make it a priority to attend a child's choir concert or basketball game or even make sure her homework is complete, it brings feelings of security and love to a child. This is important to a child's mental health. When these feelings do not exist, the child is more likely to be insecure and have feelings of low self-worth.

### **A strong relationship builds a child's communication skills**

When parents are present in a child's life, they spend more time talking to the child. Whereas, when a child is just given a gift, they are usually by themselves for an extended period of time. Communication with parents is essential for establishing critical skills. Vocabulary, grammar and even basic socializing skills can all be learned through constant communication between a child and a parent.

At first, presents may seem like a great way to win your child's love but they will never take the place of being present. Children grow up too quickly. Don't let their childhood slip by without being involved and letting your actions show your child how much you care.

- Excerpts of this article originally written by Family Share website, 2015