

The
***Polar Bear
Express***

December 2018

**“Poly Drives Students
to Succeed”**



**Poly Drive
Elementary
School**

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Dear Poly Drive Families,

Thank you so much for attending your child’s conference. It is so important to work together to help each child reach their potential. I heard many positive comments about using the online scheduler to register for conference times. Please let me know how the online scheduler worked for you.

You should have received your child’s standards-based report card last week. You will notice that “grades” are marked with an E, NP or P for English Language Arts and Math – remember that the goal for the end of the year is to have P (proficient) in all areas. A mark of E or NP indicates the student is still developing mastery of that skill, which is to be expected. If you have questions or would like some clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the teacher or myself.

We are once again coordinating a “Gifting Tree” in which you can help out a family in need by grabbing an ornament from it and providing the item requested. This project directly benefits Poly Drive families and any assistance you can provide is appreciated. Look for the tree by the office.

Our holiday music concerts will all be held on the same day this year, so put December 18th on your calendar. Look in this newsletter for exact times for each grade.

December is always such a busy month for all with lots of shopping, baking, concerts, decorating and time with friends and family. Hopefully, we do not have too much snow that it makes it difficult for us to navigate the streets of Billings to get our things done. In the craziness of the hectic month, please enjoy this wonderful time of year. I hope you take time this month to truly enjoy some quality time with family and friends.

Sincerely - Lorrie Wolverton



HOLIDAY MUSIC PROGRAMS

Tis the season for fun holiday music performances from our amazing Poly Drive students.

Schedule of Performances

NOTE TIME CHANGE for 3rd, 4th, and 5th from the November newsletter:

General Music
Tuesday, December 18
Kindergarten - 8:30
1st grade - 9:15
2nd grade - 10:00
3rd grade – 1:00
4th & 5th grade – 2:15

Band and Orchestra will perform after the first of the year.

Watch for more info to come home in your child's Wednesday Watch



KINDNESS & COMPASSION CLUB

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

You can take a stocking from the tree that is displayed by the main office. The stockings each have an item listed on them that is to be purchased and then returned to Poly Drive by Friday, December 14th.

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 stocking to it so it can be identified.

HALLOWEEN CANDY COLLECTION YELDED OVER 125 POUNDS OF CANDY! WOW!



LIBRARY NEWS

Barnes & Noble Bookfair!

December 8th,
from 1-5pm

Hey parents! This year students will have the opportunity to do a **READER'S THEATER SKIT!** You can visit bit.ly/rtheaterskits to explore different sites that have skits to download. If you are participating, please

visit bit.ly/PolyBNbookfair to sign up for a time. The times are 15 minutes in length. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Caskey at caskeyd@billingssschools.org.



VISITING AUTHOR

Author Michelle Nelson-Schmidt is a children's author and illustrator. She travels to schools, sharing her books, talking about her journey, and encouraging children to follow their dreams! "I love showing children that life is what you make it, that persistence and hard work will overcome almost any obstacle. And I make sure they know reading is the key to it all, no matter what the dream."

Visiting with K-3rd grade classrooms on Dec 4th.

You can find more information about her and her books on the Poly Drive website.

Poly Drive Will Participate in the Hour of Code

We live in a world surrounded by technology and we know that whatever field our students choose to go into as adults, their ability to succeed will increasingly depend on understanding how technology works. But only a tiny fraction of us are learning how technology works. Fewer than half of all schools teach computer science. That's why our entire school is joining in on the largest learning event in history: The Hour of Code, during Computer Science Education Week (December 4-10). More than 100 million students worldwide have already tried an Hour of Code. Our Hour of Code is making a statement that Poly Drive is ready to teach these 21st-century skills. If you are interested in learning what we are doing for this event, you can visit polydrivelibrary.weebly.com/coding.html



Poly Drive Manners of the Month

December

- √ Arrive to school and appointments on time
- √ Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze
- √ Volunteer to help



SCHOOL CALENDAR

December

- 8 Barnes and Noble Book Fair 1-5
- 11 Butter Braid Delivery 2:30-4:30 in the gym
- 18 Music Programs
- 24-Jan.1 No School

January

- 2 School Back in Session
- 8 PTA Meeting 6:00
- 14 PIR - NO SCHOOL
- 25 Spirit Day



"Tis the season: Box Tops & Labels for Education

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

Please remember to clip the logos and send them to school. The more we collect, the more funding Poly Drive will receive! Thank you for your support of Poly Drive School.

SUBSTITUTE HELP NEEDED DURING LUNCH

A General Duty Aide (GDA) is a person who assists our students through lunch and recess times; 10:50-12:50. A sample of the duties include opening milk cartons, wiping down tables, and taking students outside for recess and supervising them.

Poly Drive has wonderful GDAs! Occasionally one of them may need a day off and our current sub list is quite short.

Please talk to Ms. Vicki or Mrs. Wolverton if you would be interested in becoming a GDA substitute!

BPS School Counselors



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 and target is NOT EQUAL.

Why Children Need Your Presence and Not Your Presents

*** 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