

# The *Polar Bear Express*

February 2017

**“Poly Drives Students  
to Succeed”**



## **Poly Drive Elementary School**

**Kevin Croff, Principal**  
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## **Dear Poly Drive Families,**

I'm looking out my window right now at a four foot pile of ice thinking that warmer weather is just around the corner - hopefully. On some days that colder weather makes us want to just hunker down at home. That being said, instruction cannot happen without students being present in class. Last year we saw a drop in our attendance data and this year we have over 30 students that have "severe" or "chronic" attendance issues as set by our district standards. Our first bell rings at 8:20 followed by students say the Pledge outside- they then go into class and learning is starting by 8:25. Please help us make sure your child is not missing any instruction and is in class on time.

A giant "thank you" to our PTA for two new iPad labs that are running in our kindergarten classes. By next year we will be a 1-to-1 school, meaning that every child will have a device assigned to them for learning opportunities. Technology is a significant part of our world and we want every child to have the opportunity to learn how to use these tools.

After report cards we often have parents ask, “What can I do to continue to support my child in school?” Research indicates that automaticity with recall of basic sounds, words, numbers and facts provides a critical foundation for learning. That means practicing letter sounds, sight words and basic facts at home so the kids know them in under three seconds really helps. Also, reading with your child each night is something I cannot stress enough. Take turns reading (if they are able to read) and discuss the story so they are thinking about what they read. We also have several online tools that you can access at home to provide your child more learning experiences – just ask the teacher how to access them. Your support at home is always appreciated.

Safety is one of our top priorities at Poly Drive. Each year we practice several types of emergency drills including fire, lockdown and shelter in place. This spring we may also practice an evacuation drill at an alternative sight. We will keep you updated if we are able to coordinate with our partners.

On February 23rd at 1pm you can get lunch and learn a little more about Poly Drive at Pizza with the Principal. This is the time to share questions or concerns with me and find out what is new and exciting at Poly and Billings Public Schools. I always try to share info that you may not hear through other avenues so I encourage you to attend. Just email me at [croffk@billingschools.org](mailto:croffk@billingschools.org) or call Miss Vicki at 281-6217.

Sincerely,

Kevin Croff, Principal



## KINDNESS & COMPASSION CLUB

By Mrs. Reas

The KC Club is continuing to meet weekly and are working on several upcoming events.

KC Club plans on taking over the school with "Share the Love", a Valentine's special event.



By Mrs. Reas

PEAK kids are busy participating in team handball. The students have been divided up into teams. Competition dates are as follows:

### TEAM 1

Feb. 16 @ 4:00 Arrowhead

### TEAM 2

Feb. 17 @ 4:00 Poly Dr.

### TEAM 3

FEB 23 @ 4:00 Poly Dr.

Not sure what team you're on? Ask Mrs. Reas.

### NO PEAK MARCH 27-31

PEAK Sports Club continues on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:00 – 3:45.

Friday mornings from **8:00 – 8:15** 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders can participate in Fitness Club. **Meet outside at door #3.**



## I Love to Read Month

February is I Love To Read month - no better time to support a love for reading. Here are a few tips from Reading Rockets to help your child become an avid reader.

- \* Let kids pick out their own books
- \*Set goals and reward reading
- \*Let your kids see you read
- \* Make reading together fun and memorable
- \* Create positive, loving associations with books and reading
- \*Place books **EVERYWHERE** the car, the bathroom, the kitchen, the living room...
- \*Turn off...set aside the digital devices (including the TV) and **READ!**

If you would like suggestions for books (for yourself or your child), feel free to contact Mrs. Caskey. She would be happy to help you find books you and your child can love!



## Lights! Camera! Action!

Please join us for the **20th Annual Poly Drive Talent Show!**

Friday, February 24, 2017  
Lewis & Clark Middle School 6:00pm - 8:30pm

The evening will feature song, dance, comedy and lots of surprises! Showtime is 6:00pm, immediately followed by a Dessert Reception and Art Show. Please bring a dessert or snack to share! Drinks will be provided.

Don't forget - auditions are coming up soon!  
Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>

This is a fun event for the entire family, celebrating Poly kids. We can't wait to see you all there!

If you have questions, would like to join the committee or volunteer, please let us know. We'd love to have you join the fun!



## SCHOOL CALENDAR

### February

- 9 EARLY OUT Noon dismissal
- 10-13 NO SCHOOL
- 14 PTA Meeting 3:15
- 22 Midterms 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades
- 23 Pizza with Principal 1:00
- 24 Spirit Day – wear Poly Shirt
- 24 Talent Show  
6pm, Lewis & Clark School

### March

- 6 Class Picture Day
- 12 Daylight Saving Time Begins  
Set clocks forward 1 hour
- 21 Music Program  
5<sup>th</sup> grade – 2:00  
6<sup>th</sup> grade – 2:30
- 24 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Ends
- 31 PTA March Madness

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.

# Teaching Tolerance

Dear Parents,

Much of what we learn in this world comes directly from you. Whatever your message is, it will become part of us forever. Please teach us to *accept* one another, teach us to *respect* one another. Please do not fill our minds with hatred. Do not expose us to bigotry. Do not teach us to judge each other by race, religion, orientation or the color of our skin. Teach us the concept of tolerance. Teach us to *understand* one another. Teach us to *accept* people of different cultures and persons with different beliefs than yours. Please help us to create a world where every man, woman and child is *treated equally*.

Dear parents, please don't teach us words of hate. We learn from you every moment. If you use a certain word, which might be hurtful to others, we will repeat that word. Please don't show us acts of hate. If you act against people of different faiths, we will repeat your actions.

Dear parents, we are your children and we are relying on you to help us create a world where every person is *tolerant* of one another.

**Taken from Tolerance PSA: "Dear Parents"**