

The *Polar Bear Express*

February 2019

**“Poly Drives Students
to Succeed”**



Poly Drive Elementary School

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Dear Poly Drive Families,

February is “I Love to Read” month but loving to read extends well beyond one month - it is a lifelong skill we want children to develop. We continue to foster the joy of reading at school with an extra emphasis this month. The Poly Drive PTA is once again sponsoring Poly Readers for students in first through fifth grades. Students that registered in January will be attending a grade level book club during their lunch time every Tuesday during the month of February. Parent volunteers will be leading the book discussions. Thank you PTA for offering this great opportunity to our students.

Last Friday, our school supported the backpack meal program for students in our district by donating a dollar to wear their favorite team jersey. The event was sponsored by the United Way and the Billings Education Foundation.

The 28th marks the end of the 2nd Trimester and means we are 2/3 through the school year - report cards will come out the following week on Friday, March 8th. A reminder that report cards are standards based for math and reading, meaning that students will receive marks of Emerging, Nearing Proficient or Proficient based on their progressions through a series of specific skill sets. The goal is to have students reach proficiency on these skills by the end of the school year. If you have questions about the targeted standards or how evidence of learning is collected, I encourage you to contact your child’s teacher.

We have just completed our Winter Benchmark assessment of every student at Poly Drive and am happy to report we saw school wide growth in math and reading. This is a combined effort from home and school, so please continue to help your child by having them read or read to them every night. Practicing math by counting objects or reviewing facts at home is also a huge help to them. The less time students have to think about the basic computation, the more time they can focus on problem solving.

Have a great Valentine’s Day and spend time reading during “I Love to Read” month.

Sincerely,

Lorrie Wolverton, Principal



MANNERS ARE A TRUE REFLECTION OF OUR CHARACTER...

Poly Drive Manners of the Month

- √ Be proud of your accomplishments without bragging
- √ Follow adult instructions
- √ Put -downs to others are not acceptable
- √ Take responsibility for your actions

Please refrain from sending your child Valentine gifts to school. Save those special flowers, balloons, stuffed animals and such to be enjoyed at home.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

We are inviting parents to register their child **now** so that we can begin planning for next year. Please don't wait. This can be done in one of two ways:

1. Come to the school office and request a registration form.
2. Log on to www.billingsschools.org Click on "Parents" tab, and print a registration form (3 pages).

The requirements for kindergarten have not changed. The child must be five years old by September 10th, we need to have a copy of the complete immunization record, and a copy of the birth certificate.

If you have any questions, please call the school at 281-6217.

LOST AND FOUND

A Lost and found box/table is located in the hallway near the gym. All coats, boots, lunch boxes and other large items can be found here. Students are reminded to check the Lost and Found box. If the box

overflows the articles are given to charity. Any small lost items such as jewelry and keys are kept at the office.



SCHOOL CALENDAR

February

5-26 PTA Poly Readers
8-11 NO SCHOOL
12 PTA Meeting 3:15
22 Spirit Day- wear Poly gear
28 **End of 2nd Trimester**

March

6 Class Picture Day
8 PTA March Madness
Family Fun Night
8 Report Cards Go Home
10 Daylight Saving Time Begins
Set clocks forward 1 hour
12 PTA Meeting 6:15

April

8 NO SCHOOL – PIR DAY
12 Talent Show

TALENT SHOW TID BIT

We are excited to announce the annual Poly Drive Talent Show will take place Friday, April 12 at 6pm.

Auditions for the talent show will be held Tuesday, March 26th. (More info to come.)

Please contact Tricia Falder at 765-243-3577 with questions or to volunteer.

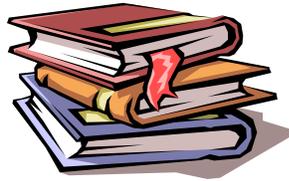


MORNING WALK

Poly Drive, along with many other schools in Billings has participated in morning walk for students. Students should arrived in the morning between 8:10 and 8:20 they will be expected to walk around the blacktop area of the playground. If you stay with your child until the bell rings, we encourage you to join them walking. After walking, parents are asked to allow their children to enter the building with their class so instruction can begin. Please refrain from entering the building unless you have checked in at the office and obtained a 'visitor' sticker.

There are many benefits to this activity such as:

- Reduced behavioral issues
- Students are more awake and prepared for instruction when they enter the building
- Reinforces healthy habits
- Provides a sense of unity
- Helps students stay warm on colder days
- Allows students to interact with others across grade levels
- Opportunity to reinforce Respect & Manners Philosophy



LIBRARY NEWS

By Mrs. Caskey

New in the library - audiobook check out

The library has a new program called Tales2Go that lets you (or your child) check out audiobooks. This is a great tool to assist students with their fluency and comprehension skills. Listening to words introduces new vocabulary and helps strengthen listening skills as well. There is a large collection of audiobooks to choose from so if you are interested in trying this new tool, please see Mrs. Caskey or email her at caskeyd@billingsschools.org.



February is I Love to Read Month

At Poly we will be doing different activities to share our love of reading. Here are some things you can do at home:

- Let your child see you read.
- Encourage your child to read on her own at home
- Keep a variety of reading materials in the house
- Make sure to have reading materials for enjoyment as well as for reference.
- Encourage your child to practice reading aloud
- Write short notes for your child to read

For more ideas to encourage your child to read, visit www.readingrockets.org/article/encouraging-your-child-read

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.

Helping Your Child to be a Good Sport

Sportsmanship isn't just about how you handle winning and losing. Good sportsmanship is: playing fair, respecting the rules, respecting the people in charge (like coaches or referees) and respecting other players.

Here are 4 ways to start you down the path to helping your child learn to be a good sport:

1. Play games with them

As you play with them take this opportunity to mindfully model sportsmanship. Show your respect for the rules, enforce the rules, and show respect for the other players. Any game you choose to play is fine. And, tempting as it may be, don't let them win all the time. Learning how to lose is important in developing sportsmanship. Then coach them through some sportsmanship self-talk: "I thought it was neat when you drew two double purples in a row", "I got lucky here when I ...", "I had fun playing with you."

You can also learn sportsmanship by watching sports or other performances on television and look for examples of sportsmanship. Point out what makes someone a good sport. Just as important, point out when someone isn't.

2. Sign them up for activities that emphasize teamwork

Playing on a team or joining a group gives your child others to commiserate with or celebrate with. Having that network of support and peers to mirror also helps develop sportsmanship. Soccer and basketball are classic team sports that teach sportsmanship. Often those leagues even have a sportsmanship focus and policy. But it doesn't have to be a sport in order to teach teamwork and sportsmanship! Orchestra, dance, and theater are great team activities that also teach sportsmanship. Plus "success" doesn't necessarily equal "winning." Success is each individual doing their part to their best ability and seeing it come together as a whole.

3. Go through the play-by-play

Appreciative inquiry is a way of analyzing situations using positively worded statements to talk about tough topics. Saying *What can I improve on?* instead of *What went wrong?* makes confronting failure feel less unpleasant and more constructive.

For example, say to your child:

- * Hey! You won (or lost)! (*Acknowledge the outcome.*)
- * What do you think was your best moment? (*Look at what went right.*)
- * Why do you think that was your best moment? (*Why did they go right?*)
- * What would you want to go better for next time? (*What didn't work?*)
- * What do you think you want to do about that next time? (*How can you improve on what went wrong?*)

Appreciative inquiry allows kids to celebrate their successes while learning to build upon them. It also allows the child to find the little successes inside their failures.

4. Compete Against Yourself

One way to build sportsmanship is to stop comparing yourself to others and start comparing you against yourself. Swimming, running 5K's and other sports that involve racing are great ways to teach this to children.

Excerpted from an article written by Malinda Carlson (afineparent.com)