

The  
***Polar Bear  
Express***

January 2019

“Poly Drives Students to  
Succeed”



**Poly Drive  
Elementary  
School**

Lorrie Wolverton, Principal  
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Billings, MT 59102

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<http://www.billingsschools.org/wolvertonl@billingsschools.org>  
[polydrive.weebly.com](http://polydrive.weebly.com)  
[polydrivepta.com](http://polydrivepta.com)

**Dear Poly Drive Families,**

Happy New Year! Can you believe that it is 2019???? I hope you had a great break and students are rested up to start the second part of the school year strong.

Students will be busy completing mid-year benchmarking assessments in reading and math. The assessments will show teachers if students have made growth since the beginning of the year. The testing results will help teachers determine student strengths and areas that they need more support in. Testing reports will be sent home the end of the month in the Wednesday Watch folder.

I know that many of you have noticed the Star Student bulletin board when you walk in the school. Every Friday, teachers send 1-2 students to the office that have been recognized in the classroom for either positive behavior choices or academic growth that has happened during the week. I meet with each student and congratulate them for being the weekly star. Students put up their star and I take their picture for our slideshow that is played on the monitor by the office. Star students are put in the monthly drawing for a Krispy Kreme donut. If your child tells you they are a star student, I hope you have a chance to stop by and find their name on the board. The second trimester stars will be displayed until the end of February.

Thank you again for all of your support and being involved in your child's education. If I can answer any questions or you have any suggestions, please don't hesitate to call or stop by the school.

Sincerely,  
Principal Lorrie Wolverton

## **KINDNESS & COMPASSION CLUB**

By Mrs. Tatum

The Gifting Tree was a huge success! Every stocking was taken from the tree and the items brought back were enough to create and fill several back packs. These packs were given to Poly Drive students and families that could use them.

Thank you for all of your generosity and support!



### **Poly Drive Manners of the Month**

#### **January**

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



### **SCHOOL CALENDAR**

#### **January**

- 2 School Back in Session
- 9 PTA Meeting 6:15
- 14 PIR - NO SCHOOL
- 22 Select Choir Performance  
7:45am in the gym
- 22 5<sup>th</sup> gr Band Concert 2:30, gym
- 25 Spirit Day

#### **February**

- 8-11 NO SCHOOL
- 12 PTA Meeting 3:15
- 28 End 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester

Code. Concepts explored were sequencing, problem-solving, creating and computer programming. For a list of tools students used to code, visit [polydrivelibrary.weebly.com/coding.html](http://polydrivelibrary.weebly.com/coding.html)

### **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](http://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 10<sup>th</sup>, 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.



#### **tasting month!**

Students will get the opportunity to sample new books to find their next favorite read! This is a fun activity presented to the students as if they are dining out...except the menu contains some great books for students to discover.

#### **The Hour of Code was a Huge Success**

Students at Poly participated in the international event, Hour of





**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.

Anger is the only emotion that never exists on its own. This is how it is in all of us. It's a human thing, not a deficiency thing. It exists to block other more difficult emotions from rising to the surface. They are the emotions that can make any of us feel smaller or more vulnerable, but it can take time for our children to learn how to feel them and express them in a way that feels safe for them. In the meantime, anger will act like a shield that stops those emotions and vulnerabilities from surfacing.

Empathy softens their shield. Curiosity softens ours. The question to ask is, 'What might they (or I) be feeling right now if anger was out of the way?' Shame? Disappointment? Anxiety? Disconnection? Fear? Then - and this is tough - if you can, see through the anger to the need or feeling that might be underneath it.

The idea is to respond in a way that makes it safe for the shield to go down and for their vulnerabilities to peek out. 'I can see how angry you are. I really want to understand what's happening for you. Can we talk about it? Whatever you're feeling is okay with me. I just want to understand what you need.' Think of it as making space for uncertain, beautiful, powerful things.

Anger is a valid feeling and it's okay for it to be there, but when it shows itself fiercely it can send the feelings and needs it is protecting deeper under cover and further out of reach.

Dealing with difficult feelings takes time for our kids to learn, and that's okay. Many of us are still learning ourselves. (Does the learning ever really stop?) Over time, if we give them enough of the experiences they need to feel those feelings and to open up to us (and we don't need to get it right all the time) they will learn that it's okay for them to let their vulnerabilities peek out, come out and be soothed - by them, by time, or by the people who love them.

Written by Karen Young at [www.heysigmund.com](http://www.heysigmund.com)

School begins on  
Thursday  
August 23, 2018

**Class Times**  
Kindergarten -3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
8:20 - 2:20  
Wednesday dismiss at 1:20  
4<sup>th</sup> grade & 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
8:20 - 3:05  
Wednesday dismiss at 2:05

*No School*  
**Labor Day Weekend**  
September 3

No School  
**Teachers' Convention**  
October 18  
October 19

K-6 Parent-Teacher  
Conferences  
(12:00 p.m. dismissal)  
November 7  
November 8  
November 9  
*No School*  
**Thanksgiving**  
November 21  
November 22  
November 23

**Winter Break**  
December 24  
December 25  
December 26  
December 27  
December 28  
December 31  
January 1

**PIR Day (No School)**  
January 14

**Vacation Days**  
February 8  
February 11

**PIR Day (No School)**  
April 8

**Snow Day**  
April 18  
This will be a vacation day unless we are required to make up a school day lost due to poor weather earlier in the year.

**Vacation Days**  
April 19  
April 22

**Vacation Day**  
May 3

**Memorial Day**

**Weekend**  
May 27

**Last Day of School**  
May 31



The last day of school  
is Friday  
May 31, 2019