

The *Polar Bear Express*

January 2016

**“Poly Drives Students
to Succeed”**



Poly Drive Elementary School

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Dear Poly Drive Families,

Dear Poly Drive Parents,

Welcome back – I hope the break has you rested and excited for the New Year.

January 15th will officially signal the half-way mark of the year and the end of the 2nd quarter. We will be finishing Winter Benchmarking this month, which means every student will take a screening assessment (K-2nd – FAST and 3rd-6th MAP & FAST) that will help us assess growth since Fall assessments. Look for a report in your child’s report card or upcoming Wednesday Watch folder.

I scheduled “Pizza with the Principal” for 1:15pm on Friday, January 22nd hoping to catch some of you before you pick up your kiddos after school. This will be right after report cards come home so I plan to address questions regarding reports, assessments and measuring student progress, as well as any questions you may have. Please RSVP to me at croffk@billingsschools.org or call Miss Vicki at 281-6217 to let us know you are attending.

We are continuing our tradition of Respect & Manners during Monday announcements, so please take some time to talk to your children about January’s list and why they are important:

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

Thank you for letting us work with your most precious assets and for helping make Poly Drive the finest school around.

Sincerely,
Kevin Croff, Principal

KINDNESS & COMPASSION CLUB

By Mrs. Reas

The Giving Hands Wreath was a huge success! Every hand was taken from the wreath and the items brought back were enough to create and fill several back packs. These packs were given to students and families that could use them.

The food drive competition was amazing! Over 800 items were donated and picked up by the Billings Food Bank. Grades 4th – 6th edged out the other classes by bringing in over 100 more items.

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

Thank you for all of your generosity and support!



LIBRARY NEWS

By Mrs. Caskey

Thank you to all that participated in the Barnes & Noble Book Fair! We had a great turn out and raised over \$700, which was received in the form of a gift card. I have already

purchased some new books for the library. You can check out the new arrivals by visiting the Poly Drive Library website -

polydrivelibrary.weebly.com

and scrolling down to the slide show of book covers!



SCHOOL CALENDAR

January

- 4 School back in session
- 7 PTA Skate Night 5-8pm
- 12 PTA meeting, 6:00 library
- 14 5/6 Guitar Concert 2:00
- 15 End of Quarter
- 18 NO SCHOOL for students
- 20 Report Cards go home
- 22 Pizza with the Principal
1:15, RSVP
- 25 Collect sponsors for Read A Thon
- 29 Spirit Day; wear Poly t-shirts

February

- 1-5 Read A Thon
- 9 PTA mtg 3:30 pm
- 11 Early Out – 12:00
- 12 No School, Vacation Day
- 15 No School, Vacation Day
- 24 Coffee w/Croff 8:30 RSVP
- 25 Talent Show @ Senior High
5:00 Dinner, 6:30 Show Time
- 26 Spirit Day, wear your Poly Drive shirts



Poly Drive's Got Talent **February 25th, 2015**

It's that time of year again! Time to show off your talents at Poly Drive's annual talent show!

Audition forms are now available at the office. This form must be turned

into Mrs. Langeliers by January 26! Try outs will be after school on Tuesday, February 2 and Thursday, February 4.

The show will be at Lewis and Clark Jr. High School this year.



By Mrs. Reas

We have Poly Drive PEAK (*Providing Enhanced Activities for Kids*) Fitness Club t-shirts available for only \$2. They are a light weight dry fit silver comfortable fitting shirt. The shirts are available to all interested students in size Youth Large. (only a few left) Thank you for your support and dedication to help keeping our kids active and healthy!

Congratulations to all PEAK dodgeball teams on edging out the other four schools and bringing home the trophy!

Basketball is the next upcoming sport starting in January. Weekly competitions will be held on Fridays, locations to be determined.

Remember, PEAK Fitness Club will continue on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:00 – 3:35.

15 THINGS YOU CAN DO

To Engage in Your Child's Education in the Home, School and Community

There are many ways to play an active role in your child's education. To keep engagement top of mind year-round, post these simple reminders in your home or office.

In the Home:

1. Develop a consistent routine for studying and homework.
2. Discuss your child's school day and homework daily.
3. Provide a quiet, well-lit place with basic school supplies for studying.
4. Assist with homework, but avoid doing it for your child.
5. Praise your child's efforts and encourage them to serve in student leadership positions.

In the School:

6. Attend parent-teacher conferences and make appointments, as needed, to discuss your child's progress or concerns. Meet your child's teacher(s), school principal and school nurse.
7. Establish the best way for your child's teacher to contact you (phone, email, backpack notes, etc.) to help reinforce school rules and expectations.
8. Attend your PTA meeting or start a PTA to voice your support or concerns.
9. Visit your school's website to stay informed on important information and events.
10. Attend school meetings on learning expectations, assessments and grading procedures.

In the Community:

11. Meet your child's friends and get to know their parents.
12. Learn about school district policies and practices that affect your child.
13. Raise awareness with local agencies and businesses about events taking place at your school.
14. Recruit parents and community members to be PTA volunteers.
15. Write, call or visit local or state decision-makers to support or oppose proposed legislation that affects your child.

And a few more ideas:

January 7 SKATE NIGHT

January 12 PTA MEETING 6pm Poly Library ****PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE**

January 25 Start collecting Sponsors for the READ-A-THON

February 1-5 READ-A-THON

February 2 and 4, Auditions for the Talent Show (February 25, SAVE THE DATE)

February 9 PTA MEETING 3:15pm Poly Library

February 25 TALENT SHOW Lewis and Clark Auditorium

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.

Setting New Years "Goals" with Your Family

For many of us, the New Year means it's time to take stock of our lives and work on things we'd like to change. Whether it's our diet, exercise routine or tendency to procrastinate, there is always room for improvement! We not only benefit from New Year's goals; our children can also learn a lot about self-discipline and the value of setting goals. Here are some tips on how to help your kids benefit from making goals.

Keep it in the Family

The best way to teach your children the importance of New Year's resolutions is by making it part of the family tradition. Sit down each December and reflect on the past year, discussing your accomplishments and goals, as individuals and as a family. In your resolution conversation you can each talk about what worked this year and what didn't.

Each family member gets a turn sharing something they are proud of and something they want to improve. It may help for parents to go first, to give children a model. If your child is old enough to write, he or she should write down their accomplishments and goals, and you can help your younger child by writing theirs down.

Resolutions for the entire family might include taking a monthly hike, playing board games twice a month or committing to more volunteering activities. Try to limit the number so they are more doable and more meaningful. You can make a master list to hang in a public spot, like a bulletin board in the kitchen.

Make it Age Appropriate

What your child needs to work on depends on your child. If you are concerned about his diet, then encourage healthier eating habits for him as well as the whole family. If your daughter's room is a mess, try to help her commit 10 minutes a day to cleaning it. As your child ages, he can be more active in coming up with goals, which will mean more to him when he achieves them.

Serve as a Role Model

No matter what age your child is, he or she is more likely to understand the value of goal setting if you take the lead. Just as with everything else you do, your child is watching. Think of how you can include your child in your resolution. "I'm going to drink more water this year, because water is good for me. Do you want to join me?" If you are finding yourself checking your e-mail when you should be spending time as a family, consider incorporating that into a goal. "I'm going to turn off my phone when I get home. Can you remind me and also remember to keep your computer in your room until after dinnertime?"

Rewards Are Long Lasting

We all know the feeling of meeting a goal, whether it be losing five pounds, quitting smoking or putting in extra hours to earn a promotion. Children also relish that thrill of accomplishment, especially when their parents are acknowledging it. As you go over the family list of resolutions each month or quarter, take time to acknowledge the successes, along with reinforcing the resolutions. When you sit down to review resolutions, this is not time for punishment, however. It's important to be flexible and understanding, especially if the child is making the effort. However your family arrives at resolutions, the best part is that you're doing it together and learning how to manage your role not only in the family but also in the larger world.