

The
***Polar Bear
Express***

January 2020

“Poly Drives Students
to Succeed”



**Poly Drive
Elementary
School**

Lorrie Wolverton, Principal
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Dear Poly Drive Families,

My name is Melissa Soucy and I am excited to be working at Poly. With Mrs. Wolverton's reduced work week, I will be the interim principal in her absence. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to work side by side with Mrs. Wolverton and continue all the hard work she and the amazing staff have started this year. I am honored to join the Poly Drive Elementary community, which is known for its dedication to driving students to success and most importantly its determination to meet the needs of all students.

Over the past 17 years, I have worked in Billings Public Schools as a teacher, counselor, and administrator. It is my goal to be able to spend a lot of time getting to know all of our students and learn about their unique individual personalities and learning styles. I plan to visit classrooms frequently looking for opportunities to collaborate with teachers and staff to support learning opportunities for our students. I love to celebrate student success, both large and small, and help foster an environment that makes every child feel welcome and valued at school.

I am also looking forward to beginning to work with the families and staff at Poly Drive. It truly takes a village to raise a child and I am thrilled to be able to learn about your child through your eyes, and in turn, would love to be able to share the great things they do at school with you. If there is ever a concern you have about your child's education, I will be here to help find solutions and navigate them to a successful educational experience.

**Warm regards,
Melissa Soucy
soucym@billingschools.org**



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 4th and 5th Ukulele Concert
- 13 PIR - NO SCHOOL
- 16 2:30 5th gr Band Concert
- 20 Maker Space Monday
- 31 Spirit Day

February

- 11 PTA Meeting 3:15
- 13 3rd Gr Music Performance
1:45-2:15
- 13 Select Choir Performance
2:30-3:00
- 17 NO SCHOOL
- 28 End 2nd Trimester



LIBRARY NEWS

By Mrs. Caskey

Makerspace Monday - Jan 20th 5:30-6:30

Focus - Science

We will have a variety of science activities, and a special guest to help us learn about space science.

*Children must be accompanied by an adult

Barnes & Noble Bookfair a Success

Thank you to all who were able to attend the Barnes & Noble Bookfair in December. I don't have an amount earned yet, but I know it will be BIG! I will use the gift card to purchase new books for the library.

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.

A WORD FROM SD #2 NURSE

Dress children warmly for outdoor activities. Several thin layers will keep them dry and warm. Always remember warm socks, boots, gloves or mittens, and a hat. The rule of thumb for young children is to dress them in one more layer of clothing than an adult would wear in the same conditions.

Set reasonable time limits on outdoor play to prevent hypothermia and frostbite. Have children come inside periodically to warm up.

Frostbite happens when the skin and outer tissues become frozen. This condition tends to happen on extremities like the fingers, toes, ears and nose.

If frostbite occurs, bring the child indoors and place the frostbitten parts of child's body in warm water. Do not rub the frozen areas. Give child something warm to drink. If the numbness continues for more than a few minutes, call your doctor.

Stay safe on the slopes. Sled feet first or sitting up. Wear a helmet to sled, ski or snowboard. Choose hills away from traffic, trees and fences.

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.

Growing Great Kids

By Wendy Young,

In parenting, as in many things, the tried-and-true, simple things are often the best. It's been said that good parenting isn't rocket science...and I would wholeheartedly agree. It's much more challenging...because there's not one single formula that works with all kids. Still, we don't have to go out on a limb to raise great kids. There are some things that we know help raise honorable, well-adjusted kids...and we've collected a few tried and true ways.

***Show kindness and compassion in good times and when times are tough. * Show physical affection. Hug and kiss your kids. * Be aware of your own behavior and the examples you're setting. Create a calm family. * Speak respectfully and gently to your children. * Know that all feelings are okay. Give your children the skills to deal with them. * Compliment your kids. Celebrate their efforts and accomplishments, no matter how big or small they seem. * Encourage healthy sleep, exercise and eating habits. *Spend quality time together. Do things everyone can enjoy. * Encourage positive choices about the way free time is spent. * Play with your children daily. * Help your children learn ways to problem-solve and teach them how to make positive decisions. *Allow mistakes and celebrate them as learning experiences. * Give your children the responsibility and freedom they earned. * Let your child overhear you speaking positively about him to others.**

Don't Stop There Clearly, this list is just a start. There are many more items we could add to this list. These things are great for all kids. Some kids just need MORE. That's why we created The Joyful Parent (TJP). This program takes up where the basics leave off...and helps parents do a deep-dive into better understanding the challenging, difficult, easily upset and inflexible child. When you know how to best help your child calm their behavioral intensities, there's more JOY for everyone in the family.

AT A GLANCE

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL VACATION DAYS 2019-2020

School begins on
Thursday
August 22, 2019

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

No School
Labor Day Weekend
September 2

No School
Teachers' Convention
October 17
October 18

**K-6 Parent-Teacher
Conferences**
(12:00 p.m. dismissal)
November 6
November 7
November 8

No School
Thanksgiving
November 27
November 28
November 29

Winter Break
December 23
December 24
December 25
December 26
December 27
December 30
December 31
January 1

PIR Day (No School)
January 13

Vacation Days
February 17

PIR Day (No School)
March 30

Snow Day
April 9
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 10
April 13

Vacation Day
May 1

Memorial Day Weekend
May 25

Last Day of School
May 29 (Early Release)



The last day of school
is Friday
May 29, 2020