

The ***Polar Bear Express***

March 2015

“Poly Drives Students
to Succeed”



Poly Drive Elementary School

Kevin Croff, Principal
2410 Poly Drive
Billings, MT 59102

Phone (406) 281-6217
<http://www.billingschools.org>
croffk@billingschools.org
polydrive.weebly.com
polydrivepta.com

Dear Poly Drive Families,

This month will hold the third quarter mark for the school year- amazing how fast the year goes. This month also marks the delivery of the state-mandated test and the district growth model assessment, which will be administered March through May. It is important that all students are present for the assessments and they do their very best so we have an accurate picture of how we can drive instruction to meet the needs of our clientele. Here are some suggestions to help your child perform their best on any test:

- Be to school on time.
- Have a good breakfast each day of the testing.
- Get plenty of rest during the testing period.
- Remind them that taking tests is a part of life. We take tests to get into college, get jobs, obtain driver's licenses, hunter safety classes, etc.
- Encourage your child to do their best. We want the tests to reflect their true potential.
- Some studies even show that dressing up for a test can improve self-image and improve scores for students.

I would personally like to thank everyone involved in the Talent Show and Read-a-thon. These are two unique and spectacular events for Poly Drive. They both take a tremendous amount of time and effort but the results are awesome. As always, I was stunned at the level of performance and the support for the participants of the Talent Show and proud of the resilience of all students. The Read-a-thon inspired significant hours of reading for students and raised nearly \$12,000 for the school. Congratulations to everyone involved.

We had a great discussion at the last Pizza with the Principal and I think several parents learned some facts about the district that they were not aware of previously. If you are able to spend some time with me at noon on Thursday, March 27th I will supply a drink & pizza and some info about school related issues. Please email me at croffk@billingschools.org or call 281-6217 to reserve your spot.

Sincerely - Kevin Croff



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.

Thank you



TALENT SUCCESS

Our talented Poly Drive students performed to a standing room only crowd on February 26th at Senior High School and a great time was had by all!

Families enjoyed dinner courtesy of Poly Food Basket, who prepared a delicious meal again this year. Thank you to all of the families who donated cookies for dessert.

Guests were then able to see some of the talented artwork our Poly students created on the way to the auditorium to watch the show.

Camden Capser, Victor Greer, Olivia Myhra, and Kaylee Stubbs did an excellent job as our Master of Ceremonies and Mrs. Delaney pitched in to help with their script. We had many former students help backstage and with dinner.

Our teachers also volunteered their time to help with auditions, clean up, serving, and practice with the kindergarten and sixth grade dancers: Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Whittmeyer, Mrs. Saur, Mrs. Reas, Mrs. Whisenand and Ms. Brown.

We are so appreciative to all the people who helped make this night a success, especially, Mrs. Carroll. It just wouldn't be possible without her dedication.

Thanks to Rimrock who printed all of the programs and to Shane Fairbanks who recorded the show.

Thank you to Senior's activities director, Mark Sulser and the Senior High custodians who were so helpful and allowed us to use their school.

Anyone who is still interested in buying a DVD can contact Christine Klepps at 651-9329 to order one. The cost is ten dollars.

Lastly, I want to thank my amazing committee: Paige Jette, Terry Stapleton, Kristi Schied, and Callie Thompson. This was our fourth year on the committee. I've enjoyed working with them and appreciate all the time they donate to this evening. It was a bittersweet night for some of us as our children are sixth graders. On that note, anyone interested in chairing this event should contact me at 651-9329.



POLY READERS

By Tori Hepp

Over 70 students participated in Poly Readers this winter, reading and discussing some great books!

Thanks to the students who faithfully attended each week, the teachers who offered their rooms, and the facilitators who guided the discussions.

Our wonderful parent facilitators were Julie Lien, Cassey Smolenski, Lisa Chapel, Briana Bergeron, Tori Koch, Ben Duncan, Darci Hertz, Rebecca Parkins, and Christine Klepps. Thank you!

Keep on clippin' those Box Tops



Remember to keep clipping and turning in those Box Tops for Education! This year Poly Drive has already received almost \$720 from the redeemed Box Tops. Another \$371 has been collected, and we'd love to add to that amount before they are submitted again in May. Bonus: The class that collects the most Box Tops for the 2014-15 year will get a party later this spring!



SCHOOL CALENDAR

March

- 2-6 Read Across America
- 6 All School Reading 8:40
- 9 3rd Grade Math Club
- 10 PTA MTG 6:30-7:30pm
- 12 Papa Johns Night
- 17 Fuddruckers Night
- 20 Healthy Cook Off 8:30am
- 23 NO SCHOOL
- 27 Spirit Day
- 27 Pizza With Principal
- 27 PTA March Madness

April

- 2 Early Out Dismiss at 12
- 2 NO SCHOOL
- 6 NO SCHOOL
- 8 Report card go home
- 8 PEAK Pizza Ranch Fundraiser
- 9 Papa John Night
- 17 Coffee with Croff 8:30am
- 21 Fuddruckers Night 6-9pm
- 24 Spirit Day



By Mrs. Reas

The following are dates for the Primary PEAK Conditioning Club
1st – 3rd Grades, 2:20-2:50:
Friday March 6th
Friday March 13th
Friday March 20th (LAST ONE until April or May, date TBD)

Friday March 20th- Healthy Recipe Cook-Off for all interested 4th, 5th, & 6th Graders

Wednesday April 8th- Pizza Ranch PEAK fundraiser, workers/volunteers would be greatly appreciated!

Friday May 8th- PEAK Track competition vs. multiple Elementary Schools at Colton Track after school
Friday May 29th- Field Day Primary 9:00-11:00 Intermediate 1:00-3:00



LIBRARY NEWS

April is Maker Month

What is Maker?? The Maker movement in education is a STEM initiative that involves creativity and creation

projects with science, technology, engineering and math concepts. We will be adding art to our Maker Month - full STEAM ahead!

Watch the Poly Drive Library website for more details - polydrivelibrary.weebly.com



MARCH MADNESS

MARCH MADNESS IS ON ITS WAY

Remember to save the date for Poly Drive's March Madness Spring Carnival! Join us on Friday, March 27, from 5:30-8 p.m. for an evening of fun sports games, minute-to-win-it games and the amazing prize room where you can redeem tickets for fabulous loot! Visit the gym where you'll find pizza for purchase, silent auction baskets to browse and bid on, and Mr. Croff...in jail!

Silent auction basket items are needed for each classroom, as are parent volunteers to staff the classroom games for a shift or more. Room moms will continue to seek parents' assistance with these areas. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact

Briana Bergeron at 876-2220.

Wristbands are \$10 each before the carnival and \$15 at the door. They will go on sale in mid-March. The collection buckets to Jail Mr. Croff will also be in classrooms in mid-March, so save up that extra change now!

Proceeds from this PTA-sponsored event will go toward purchasing a Chromebook computer lab for students' use throughout the coming years and help support on-going activities, such as field trips and accelerated reader programs.

Look for more March Madness highlights on the Poly Drive PTA Facebook page.



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.

Fostering Independence in Your Child

As parents, it is hard to believe there will come a day when the child that needs you for every aspect of his or her survival, will also clamor for independence. Our ultimate job as caregivers is to prepare our children for that day.

Independence, like many attributes of successful adults, is something that must be cultivated – it does not happen overnight. There are steps you as a parent can take to support the development of independence, even from infancy.

Encourage problem-solving:

Instead of swooping in and “rescuing” your child as he struggles to push his foot through the bent leg of his pants, step back and give him time to figure it out. If he starts to show signs of frustration, offer suggestions and express confidence in his ability to figure out a solution. Even babies can determine the way out from under a chair or how to reach a toy with time and our encouragement. The goal is that children develop a sense of self-efficacy: the belief that they have the ability to figure things out. This sense is key as a child navigates his way in the world.

Give choices :

Part of being a competent and independent adult is the ability to make good choices. If a child is going to make good choices, we have to give her practice in making them. Making the choice between the red shirt or the blue shirt, or which book to read before bed sets the foundation for weighing options and living with the result. Older children can be given the choice of which vegetable to serve with dinner, or even what route to drive to school (past the church or past the park).

Expect participation:

A family (no matter the size) functions best when all members take an active role in the work and play of the household. Even very young children can help with chores around the house. Toddlers will love throwing clothing into the washing machine. Most children can clear their plates after dinner. Older children can push the recycling bin to the curb for pick-up or help match those pesky mismatched socks. Children gain a sense of competence when they contribute to the wellbeing of the family.

Develop systems :

There are many steps involved in brushing one’s teeth or making sure a child has everything needed for the school day. Create systems that support your child in doing these tasks independently. Post pictures in the bathroom that demonstrate the steps for brushing teeth. Place a checklist on the door that shows everything that needs to be in the backpack before heading out for the day. These tools develop your child’s ability to care for himself.

Provide a solid base :

The most important thing you can do is be a solid launching pad and secure landing spot for your child. Create the launching pad by giving your child space and time to figure things out, take appropriate risks, and try new things. Be the landing spot by being there to support her if she fails, picking her up when she falls, and debriefing when things didn’t go quite as planned. Most of all, surround your child with a love that lets her know that you believe in her.

Today, you are the sustaining force that provides for your child’s needs. But, before you know it, that child will step forth into the world. Steps you take now will help you feel assured that you are releasing into the world a young person ready for the independence they so desire.

By Michelle Salcedo, M.Ed., Sunshine House Chief Academic Office