

The *Polar Bear Express*

March 2018

“Poly Drives Students
to Succeed”



Poly Drive Elementary School

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Dear Poly Drive Families,

I am staring out my window at a four foot snow drift – March is now in session so I’m hoping to see it start to shrink. Even though the superintendent called a snow day last month, we will not need to make it up on the 29th, meaning we still get a 5 day weekend at the end of the month.

March also marks the start of the state-mandated test and the district growth assessment, which will be administered at different points 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 at school and on time
- Have a good breakfast
- Get plenty of rest
- Remind your child 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.

If you have any questions regarding the assessments or the process, please contact me.

In light of the events happening in schools across the nation, I want to ensure parents we are being diligent about keeping our children safe. The district is installing a dedicated radio system in all schools for emergency communication, all doors are locked and visitors must be buzzed in, staff are extra aware of people on-site, we review emergency scenarios and we regularly practice emergency drills. One of the most critical pieces in school emergency situations is that adults make good decisions quickly and students listen to & follow adult requests. Along that line we need your assistance as well:

- Remind children that Poly Drive is a safe place where adults are looking out for them
- Remind children to follow adult requests
- All visitors need to check in at the office and get a visitor sticker/badge
- Don’t put staff or students in a bad position by asking to come in doors other than the front

If you have any questions regarding safety procedures here at Poly Drive, feel free to give me a call.

If you are able to spend some time with me at noon on Wednesday, March 21st for Pizza with the Principal I will supply a drink & pizza and some info about school related issues. We will discuss class placement, new PLC structure and superintendent searches – in addition I would like some feedback on testing, conference timing, traffic and school safety. Please email me at croffk@billingschools.org or call 281-6217 to reserve your spot.

Sincerely, Kevin Croff, Principal



LIBRARY NEWS

By Mrs. Caskey

March 2nd is Read Across America Day

Poly Drive library and classrooms will be celebrating this event with different lessons and activities.

Visit bit.ly/polyreading to find some great tips for anyone who wants to support and promote reading!

Reading Is Essential

You can get a library card too! And...once you do, check out our digital library at bit.ly/bpselibrary.

Parents - **Epic!** is offering an exclusive 25% OFF discount to families in our library

when you sign up at www.getepic.com/teacheroffer. You'll be given a FREE 30-day trial and instant, unlimited access to the Epic! If you decide to continue using Epic! after 30 days, the exclusive teacher offer price is \$5.99 per month. Sign up at www.getepic.com/teacheroffer to get instant access to Epic!'s amazing library and encourage your child's love of reading and learning.

If you have questions or want to see how Epic! works visit with Mrs. Caskey!

SCHOOL CALENDAR

March

- 2 Talent Show 6pm L&C
- 7 Class Picture Day
- 9 Report Cards Go Home
- 11 Daylight Saving Time
Set clocks forward 1 hour
- 13 PTA Meeting 6:15
- 21 Pizza/Principal noon rsvp
- 23 PTA March Madness
- 28 Spirit Day – wear poly shirt
- 29 This will be vacation day unless an additional snow day is taken up to this date. If an additional snow day is taken, this date become a school day.
- 30 No School – Vacation Day

April

- 2 No School – Vacation Day
- 9 No School – PIR Day
- 10 PTA Meeting 3:15
- 20 Coffee with Croff,
8:30 RSVP
- 27 Spirit Day-Wear your Poly Drive shirt.

staff member was surprised with one of these creative and thoughtful messages.

A huge thanks go out to our parent volunteers, Mrs. Bell and Karsten, and all the KC Club members who spent time creating and distributing these thoughtful gifts.

Don't forget, we are collecting small essentials for our Care Package project. We will be assembling these and giving them to the Montana Rescue Mission to distribute to homeless individuals.

Items of need are: travel size kleenex, hand sanitizer, snack bars, hand warmers, socks, cleaning wipes...all items should be travel size to fit into a quart sized ziplock bag.



KC Club Shares the Love

You might have seen a heart come home with your child. The Poly KC Club shared the love on Valentine's Day.

Members of the club created conversation hearts that had positive and encouraging messages. Every student, teacher and

LUNCH ACCOUNTS

Did you know you can check your child's lunch account balance online? Go to billingssschools.org, click on PARENTS tab, choose MealTime Online. From there create a profile with your login information. You will need your student's ID number. If you don't know it, you may call the office and Ms. Vicki will give it to you.



**Reflections
Arts Program**
By Deva Gallagher

This year, the 12 students created a visual arts piece for the Reflections Arts competition, based upon the theme "Within Reach".

Aubri McDowell and Ronan Gallagher's art advanced to state for the Primary Division.

Emery Peel, and Maren Rice's art advanced to state for the

Intermediate division.

At the state level, Ronan Gallagher and Emery Peel each received a Judges Award.

All of the Reflections work will be on show at the Toucan Gallery for the week beginning April 16. There will be an opening reception at the Toucan on Saturday April 14 at 2:00.

Participating students...

Kindergarten-Ronan Gallagher

First grade -Aubri McDowell

Second grade- Kamber

Kuzara, Ava Walker, Ella

Gallagher, Alice Nathan

Third grade- Sadie

Rongstad, Emma Ormsby,

Ruby Lammers, Iris

Gallagher

Fourth grade-Maren Rice

and Emery Peel

A special thank you to our Poly Drive Judges- Ev

Bergeron, Mike Casky, and Kelly Ewing for coming in to evaluate the work.

For questions, or to be added to the email list for next year, please contact chairperson Deva Gallagher at gdevatom@yahoo.com or on Facebook at Art With Deva.



**Poly Drive Manners
of the Month**

March

✓ Apologize and accept apologies

✓ Show an attitude of respectful, active listening with others

✓ Are hats for wearing outside only

✓ Interrupting others is impolite

News to Use

Look in next week's Wednesday Watch for the green **Poly PTA**

Connection Newsletter!



MARCH is MARVELOUS!

👉 **TALENT SHOW: March 2, 6 p.m.**

Lewis & Clark Middle School

Bring dessert to share and check out the Art Shows & Talent Showcase

👉 **MARCH MADNESS: March 23,**


5:30-8 p.m. @ Poly Drive School Family Fun with Food, Games, Prizes

Lots of volunteer opportunities for both of these Poly traditions!

Get more info! Find us on:

 facebook.com/polydrivepta



 **remind** text @polypta to 81010

www.polydrivepta.com

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.

Why Does My Child Chew on Things?

By the age of 3, children have typically completed the teething stage. This is when they chew on objects or fingers to mitigate the pain they're feeling as teeth break the surface of their gums. Damp sleeves, wet collars on shirts, or constantly chewing on objects that are not typically supposed to be in the mouth can be everyday occurrences for some older children who have difficulties processing sensory information. Many parents wonder "Why do they do it?" and "How can I help?"

While no two children who have challenges processing sensory information are alike, oftentimes, kids who chew on their clothing or other extraneous objects enjoy the input they receive through their jaw bones and oral musculature with the pressure of each "chomp." As a result, you may notice the frequency of "chewing" to increase during exciting situations or during situations that your child perceives to be new, challenging, or stressful. By chewing on their clothing, kids may be attempting to provide their oral musculature and joints with proprioceptive input in order to self-regulate. The concept is very similar to the way adults may squeeze a stress-ball during times of high frustration or angst.

It isn't uncommon for parents to feel effects of a social stigma when other adults or kids notice their child chewing on objects beyond the typical teething age range. They hope to find other ways for their child to self-regulate in a way that is considered more socially acceptable. Various online shops sell products that children can more discreetly chew on at home and at school. Products include everyday items such as pencil toppers and jewelry. Other options for children who chew as a means to improved regulation, include participating in games or activities that provide input to their oral musculature. Examples include drinking through straws, chewing gum, eating crunchy foods, blowing up a balloon, and blowing bubbles.

If you find that these socially appropriate avenues are not meeting your child's oral needs then contact a speech and language pathologist, occupational therapist or your primary care physician to determine the best possible course of treatment and/or to eliminate other medical concerns.

Article from North Shore Pediatric Therapy