

# The *Polar Bear Express*

March 2019

**“Poly Drives Students  
to Succeed”**



## **Poly Drive Elementary School**

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## **Dear Poly Drive Families,**

Boy, last month was brutal with the snow and frigid temperatures. I am actually working on this newsletter on our snow day. Hopefully, the weather will start to improve. I am looking forward to seeing signs of spring, especially since the first day of spring is March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Bring on the daffodils, tulips and spring sports!

March also marks the start of the state-mandated test and the district growth assessment, which will be administered at different dates from 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.**

A schedule of when classes will be testing will be coming out soon. If you have any questions regarding the assessments or the process, please contact me.

March Madness will be Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-8:00. It is a great time for our Poly Drive school community to come together for an evening of fun times and good food. I hope you are able to come for part of the evening. I have heard the dessert auction is amazing. Lots of yummy desserts up for auction.

Sincerely,  
Lorrie Wolverton Principal



## LIBRARY NEWS

By Mrs. Caskey

### 5th Grade Wax Museum

The 5th Grade Wax Museum presentations will be March 19th at 1pm in the gym. 5th grade students select a famous person that has made a positive impact on the world. They then conduct research and present a short biography in a wax museum style presentation. Please join us - it is a lot of fun and educational!



### Celebrating Dr. Seuss in the Library

March is a great month to celebrate Dr. Seuss. We will be doing all kinds of activities to learn more and explore the world of Dr. Seuss! What a great time to read some of his books at home!

## ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

Regular attendance is essential to success in school. A student not only misses work on the day of absence but also is not prepared for the next day because of missing instruction. Persistent absenteeism (8 or more in a trimester without a legitimate reason) creates a genuine hardship for a student and is regarded as a serious problem. If this is the case a letter will be sent to the parents as well as the truancy office expressing concern.

If a student is absent because of an emergency or illness, please call the office before 9am on the day of the absence. If communication with the school is not made by this time, the parents will be contacted through a school district phone call. In accordance with the Missing Children Act, we must know if a student is not at school.

The school appreciates knowing that your child is safe and you are aware of his/her absence from school. At the request of the parents, make-up work may be picked up at the office at the end of the school day.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

### March

- 6 Class Picture Day
- 8 Report Cards Go Home
- 8 March Madness Carnival
- 10 Daylight Saving Time  
Set clocks forward 1 hour
- 12 PTA Meeting 6:00
- 29 Spirit Day – wear poly shirt

### April

- 8 No School – PIR Day
- 9 PTA Meeting 3:15
- 12 Talent Show
- 16 4<sup>th</sup> gr Recorder Concert  
2:00, gym
- 18-22 VACATION DAYS
- 26 Spirit Day-Wear your Poly Drive shirt.

### May

- 3 VACATION DAY
- 24 Field Day  
K-2<sup>nd</sup> 9-11am 4-5<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm
- 31 Last Day of School



### Poly Drive Manners of the Month

#### March Manners

- √ Apologize and accept apologies
- √ Show an attitude of respectful, active listening with others
- √ Are hats for wearing outside only
- √ Interrupting others is impolite

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**.

### Nurturing a Growth Mindset

Over 30 years ago Stanford University Professor, Dr. Carol Dweck, and her colleagues became interested in student attitudes towards learning and failure. They observed that while some students rebounded from mistakes and failure others seemed devastated by even the smallest setbacks. After studying thousands of children, Dr. Dweck coined the terms “fixed mindset” and “**growth mindset**” to describe the underlying beliefs people have about learning and intelligence. Fixed mindset people are inclined to believe that intelligence and talents “are born”, therefore, effort in learning is minimal because they believe that their ability is a fixed trait. While students that nurture a growth mindset believe that intelligence has a malleable quality and can “be built” through embracing challenges, effort, and learning from mistakes. When students believe that they can get smarter, they understand that effort makes them stronger. Therefore, they put in extra time and effort because they know that they can actually grow their brains, they gain strength by persevering through the struggle of learning something new that leads to higher achievement.

Recent advances in neuroscience have shown us that the brain is far more malleable than we ever knew. Research on brain plasticity has shown how connectivity between neurons can change with experience. Studies on different kinds of praise have also shown that parent and teacher feedback can make a difference as well. We can either encourage a child to choose a challenge and increase achievement or look for an easy way out. Research has shown that telling children that “they are smart” encourages a fixed mindset, whereas praising hard work and effort cultivates and promotes a growth mindset. When students have a growth mindset they take on challenges and learn from them. Growth mindset learners know that mistakes become our best teachers and are an essential part of learning. When they can view making a mistake this way it allows them the freedom to take risks that they might not ordinarily take for fear of not being perfect. A growth mindset emphasizes “the Power of YET” in learning. This focuses on the **process** of learning something new that was once hard and promotes persistence until that skill is mastered and becomes easier.

It turns out that if we believe our brains can grow, we behave differently. If we can help change a person’s mindset from a fixed to a growth mindset it can lead to increased motivation and achievement. As a parent, if you encourage the four key factors that help create a growth mindset which include; **effort**, embracing **challenges**, accepting **mistakes** as part of learning, and being open to constructive **feedback** you will be giving your child valuable information and support as they build a strong foundation for learning and life.

(I know this is long!! Edit as you see fit!!)

Submitted By: Maureen Klaboe