

The *Polar Bear Express*

May 2014

**“Poly Drives
Students to
Succeed”**



**Poly Drive
Elementary
School**

Kevin Croff, Principal
2410 Poly Drive
Billings, MT 59102-1537

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

Dear Poly Drive Families,

The number one comment I hear this month is, “Where did the year go?!” May is upon us, along with warmer weather (hopefully) and plans for next year. Parents are also thinking about next year and class placement for their child. A reminder that if you have some information that you would like to provide me regarding class placement, please fill out a parent input form (available at the office or on the Poly website) and turn it in at the office by May 22nd. I am not always able to meet specific requests, but I consider input provided.

Along that line, we will have some staff changes next year. Mrs. Wippert, Mrs. Reitz and Mrs. Delaney are retiring at the end of this year. They will be sorely missed but have certainly earned it and we wish them the best. In addition Mrs. Beatty has been selected for a curriculum job at the Lincoln Center. There will likely be some internal movement as well so I am not certain of all the grade level teachers yet. That being said, I am certain that we will be diligent about student placement and that we will continue to have an incredible teaching staff.

Another important reminder is that we are accepting registrations for incoming kindergarten students. If you will be registering a kindergarten student for the 2014-15 school year, please do so ASAP and pass the word on to anyone you know that may be having a kindergartener attend Poly. By receiving registrations early we are able to plan accordingly and avoid last minute decisions.

My final note is a call to keep your children active this summer. Children that are in good physical shape tend to lead more productive lives. Active also means keeping the mind working. We often see students regress over the summer so reading, practicing math facts and providing them with lots of background knowledge through a variety of activities will really benefit them in the long run.

Thank you for another fantastic year at Poly Drive! If you have any comments, questions or feedback to help us continue to make Poly Drive school exceptional, please let me know.

Sincerely,
Kevin Croff

HOT LUNCH

With the end of the school year approaching, "charging" a school lunch or having a negative balance is no longer an option. Please watch for the reminder slips that come home with your child and promptly send in payment.

Children not bringing money for school lunch or not bringing cold lunch from home will be offered a peanut butter sandwich and milk. Please call the school if you have questions.

Any funds left in your child's account will remain there to be used next year. Any money left in a 6th grader's account will transfer to their middle school for next year.

CLASS PLACEMENTS

Class placements for next year will be posted on Wednesday, August 20th with school beginning on Wednesday, August 27th.



Reflections

The Reflections Program was designed by National PTA to enhance quality art education. It provides additional

opportunities for students at every grade level to creatively, uniquely express them-selves for positive recognition in a variety of artistic categories.

This year's theme was "Believe, Dream, Inspire" and Poly Drive received exceptional entries. Locally, our first place winner in the Visual Arts Category was Carlos Ramirez with Maisie Westerman taking a close second. Maisie's work received the Judge's Award at the Montana State PTA level as "a stand-out against many".

In the Music Competition category, Julia Lave` earned a first place award at both Poly Drive and the Montana State level. Her entry has been advanced to the National PTA to compete with entries from all over the United States.

Please congratulate these creative young artists!

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

We are inviting parents to register their child now. 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 and print a registration form (3 pages).

The requirements for kindergarten have not changed. The child must be five years old by September 10, we need to have a copy of the complete immunization record (including boosters), and a copy of the birth certificate.

If you have any questions, please call the school at 281-6217.



BIKE TO SCHOOL WEEK

Pump up the tires and lube those chains because Bike-to-School week is just around the corner, May 12-16. Students will have the chance to log trips to school and home each day during the week.

For students who live very close to campus, we will provide alternate routes using the new Poly Drive bike lanes so you can log some big miles. And as always, there will be after school treats for those who bike to school.



CONDITIONING CLUB & FUN RUN NEWS

Primary Conditioning Club

Primary Conditioning Club will start up again for all 1st-3rd Grade Students on Thursday May 8th from 2:20-2:50. Exercise for ALL levels of fitness! Club will be held outside weather pending on the following dates: May 8th, May 15th, May 22nd, May 29th, June 5th

Friday Fun Runs in the Morning

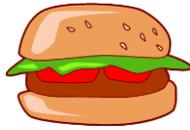
Starting Friday May 9th at 8:00-8:20am ALL students are welcome to join us while we run around the school instead of participating in morning walk. Grab those running shoes and feel free to join in the fun!!! Runs will continue through the end of the school year.

Fit Kids Day

Our annual "Poly Drive Big Sky State Games Fit Kid's Day" will be held on the afternoon of May 8th. The ENTIRE school will participate in 30 minutes of continuous exercise from 1:45-2:15pm.

Poly Drive Field Day

Mark your calendars. Our School Field Day is tentatively scheduled for Friday May 30th. Primary from 9-11am, Intermediate 1-3pm. Volunteers needed. Please contact Mrs. Reas at reams@billingsschools.org



EAT WITH US

Sodexo BBQ Luncheon

Thursday, May 29.
Join your child during their lunch time for pulled pork or a burger. Watch for a sign up sheet to come home!



EDUCATION FOUNDATION GRANT WINNER

The mission of the Education Foundation is to promote excellence in education by providing opportunities and resources to Billings Public Schools students. The Foundation works in cooperation with the public school system, but operates independently. The Education Foundation is focused on connecting teachers, students, families, parents, volunteers, and donors to enrich our schools. To learn more about classroom grants, visit the Foundation's website at www.efbps.org.

Congratulations to Mrs. Kim Beatty for being awarded the grant; Kindles for Kids! Mrs. Beatty has purchased six Kindles for her classroom.

6th GRADE IMMUNIZATIONS SPORTS PHYSICALS

This is a reminder to parents of 6th graders that there is a required immunization to be had before your child can enter 7th grade in the fall. Please check with your child's doctor.

Also, sports physicals are being offered in May, June and August at a reasonable price by Billings Clinic and Ortho Montana Sports Medicine Center. A special notice went home with our 6th graders in the middle of April.



SCHOOL CALENDAR

May

Vacation Day, No School	2
Teacher Appreciation Week	5-9
PTA Family BBQ 5pm-7pm	7
Fit Kid's Day	8
Papa John's Pizza Day	8
Bike-to-School Week	12-16
Mother's Day	11
Muffins for Moms, 7:30-8:30	15
Spring Band Concert, 5 th /6 th Grades, 10:10	20
All Library Books Due Back to the Library	23
Memorial Day, No School	26
Orchestra Concert 10:20	29
Sodexo Sprig BBQ	29
Spirit Day	30
Field Day	30
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL JUNE 6 th NOON DISMISSAL	

August

First Day of School for 2014-15	27
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YMCA PRINCIPAL'S LEADERSHIP AWARD

Every spring the YMCA invites the schools to name one representative for their Principal's Leadership Award. This year Mr. Croff and the teachers chose Macey Wadman, a 6th grader from Mrs. William's room. Macey attended a special luncheon at the YMCA with Mr. Croff and her mom, grandmother, grandfather and Mrs. Porish on April 30th. Congratulations!

4th GRADE INFO

It is important for you to know that your 4th grade student will have a choice of music classes for 5th grade in the fall, and we want to give you plenty of time to think about your options. When your child enters fifth grade, he/she will need to make a decision about which music class to attend for the entire school year! General music, orchestra (string instruments) or band (wind and percussion instruments) are offered to 5th and 6th grade students. Be on the lookout for a special newsletter that explains each of these classes in more detail. We look forward to assisting you

and your student in making an appropriate choice for the fall!



LIBRARY NEWS AND A FOND FAREWELL

By Mrs. Delaney

As most of you know, I will retire at the end of the school year. It seems early to write a "good bye" but this is the final newsletter and I want to express my heartfelt thank you and sincere good wishes to the Poly Drive families and staff.

This year's seniors were third graders when I started at Poly Drive! Ten years allowed me to experience a lot. I remember the removal of the huge old tree that once shaded the playground and the ambitious Poly Drive PTA work to provide the new shelter and add more playground equipment. Mobile computer labs were added to keep our students meeting the technology of today's world. The displays of art and projects in the hallways moved me. I watched concerts, musicals and talent shows. I watched the Poly students grow in size and in knowledge. I had the pleasure of seeing students grow to be prolific readers. I saw children comforted by their teachers and their

classmates. I saw children prodded to try and applauded for succeeding. I know the many hours and extreme talents the teachers and staff share with the students.

I am ever so thankful for the support that has been given to the library by the PTA and Poly Drive parents. I hope the students have appreciated all that those funds have afforded us to purchase: hundreds of books, wooden bookshelves, beanbags, a reading carpet and extra computers.... all because of the efforts and generosity of the Poly Drive community. Beyond the financial support given, I am also grateful for the parent volunteers who donated their time to assist me in the library and became my friends.

May is a busy month. The flowers from April showers will have us wanting to be outside! Sports and bikes and skateboards and dogs wanting a walk will demand our time. Hopefully, there will still be hours to read a few books! **All library books are due on Friday, May 23**, to allow time to inventory and clean up the library for the next librarian. I trust he or she will feel as at home and part of a school family as I have.

Fondly, Kelli Delaney



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.

The Importance of Sleep

Just how important is a good nights sleep? It's very important according to the National Sleep Foundation (NSF). Sleep is vital to children's health and growth. Sleep promotes alertness, memory, and performance. Children who get enough sleep are more likely to function better and are less prone to behavior problems and moodiness.

Each child is different, and has different sleep needs. However, the NSF strongly recommends that children aged 5-12 years get 10 to 11 hours of sleep per night. Statistics also show that poor or inadequate sleep can result in mood swings and behavioral problems such as hyperactivity. It can also lead to cognitive problems that can impede learning.

Children who get less sleep at night also tend to have more difficulty falling asleep. This causes them to be overtired during the day. According to the NSF nearly 69% of children under the age of 10 have some type of sleep problem. The following are some examples of sleep related problems:

Insomnia-difficulty falling asleep

Nightmares- frightening dreams that occur during REM sleep which awaken the child

Restless Leg Syndrome-movement disorder making it difficult to sleep

Sleepwalking- walking while sleeping

Sleep talking- occurs when a child laughs, talks or cries out during sleep

Sleep terrors- child may scream out during sleep

Snoring- partial blockage in the airway

Sleep apnea- snoring loudly and possible difficulty breathing

What can caregivers do to help?

-Establish a regular bedtime and wake up time.

-Create a bedtime routine

-Avoid caffeine before bedtime

-Make bedtime a positive and relaxing experience without TV or other electronics

The sleep habits of children have a direct impact on their caregivers. Establishing a bedtime routine will prove helpful to all in your household. A set bedtime schedule will reduce stress in you and your child, and make bedtime a beautiful thing!