

The ***Polar Bear Express***

May 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,

May is a busy time at school with Teacher Appreciation, Walk/Bike to School, benchmark testing, concerts and field trips. Although your time outside of school may be busy as well, we also encourage you to participate in the PTA BBQ, the Poly Blood Drive and other extra-curricular activities that help make Poly Drive such a special place.

The number one comment I hear this month is, “Where did the year go?!” Spring is upon us, along with warmer weather 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 do consider input that you provide.

A bitter-sweet announcement is the retirement of Mrs. Caroll. She has been the driving force of music programs, the Poly Drive Talent Show and Select Choir at Poly Drive and she will be sorely missed.

Another important reminder is that we are accepting registrations for incoming kindergarten students. If you will be registering a kindergarten student for the 2015-16 school year, please do so ASAP and pass the word on to anyone you know that may have a kindergartener attending Poly Drive next year. 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 here at Poly Drive and if you have any comments, questions or feedback to help us make this a better place, please let me know.

Sincerely - Kevin Croff, Principal

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



SCHOOL CALENDAR

May

- 1 NO SCHOOL
- 4-8 Walk/Bike to School Week
- 4-8 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 5 Skate Night 5-8, SkateWorld
- 6 Fit Kids Day
- 8 PEAK Track competition
- 12 PTA Meeting 3:30pm
- 13 PTA Family BBQ 5-7pm
- 14 Orchestra Concert 2:30
- 14 Lewis & Clark Open House, 6pm
- 19 Fuddruckers Night
Donation to Poly Dr School
- 21 Band Concert 2:10
- 22 Blood Drive
2:30-6:00pm in the gym
- 25 NO SCHOOL
- 28 Sodexo BBQ
Watch for sign-up forms
- 29 Field Day

June

- 5 Last Day of School
NOON DISMISSAL
- 5 Poly Reef Night -
See article for additional Information

FIELD TRIPS

Information on field trips will come from the classroom teacher. Field trips are conducted per grade and classroom teacher.



By Mrs. Reas

Friday Fun Runs- Instead of morning walk students will have the option of Morning Run on Fridays to music on the Poly Drive playground starting at 8:00 a.m. Parents are invited to join the fun!
Friday May 6th- Big Sky Fit Kids Day! The entire school student body and teachers will participate in 30 consecutive minutes of physical activity in an "Ultimate game of Tag" outside on the playground from 1:45-2:15.
Friday May 8th- PEAK Track competition vs. multiple Elementary Schools at Colton Track after school. Volunteers needed, please email Mrs. Reas at reasm@billingsschools.org
Friday May 29th- Field Day
Primary 9:00-11:00
Intermediate 1:00-3:00



LIBRARY NEWS

End of Year Information:

1. Week of May 11th: The last week for checking out books.
2. May 22rd: All library books need to be returned to the library.
3. Students will continue with library classes through the end of the year.

Overdue or Lost Books:

I will be doing a complete library inventory beginning Thursday, May 21st. **All overdue books must be returned or paid for if lost.**

I will send overdue notices that include the price to replace any books. Final report cards are held at the office if your child has an outstanding library bill. If a book is paid for and then found, money will be refunded.



WALK BIKE TO SCHOOL

It's here! Have fun this week with Walk/Bike to Schools, May 4-8, 2015.

Popsicles and prizes for participation! Hope you can get active and join us!



LAST DAY OF SCHOOL SEND OFF AT THE REEF

Discounted admission for Poly Students \$5 and free admission for spectators.

June 5 from 4pm-9pm

This is not a school sanctioned event. Parental supervision is required.



March Madness 2015 – Poly Drive Spring Carnival

Another successful spring carnival for Poly!

We exceeded our fundraising goal...over \$8000 to purchase new Chromebooks and iPads for our school!

Over 300 wristbands were sold and all those children had a great time going from room to room playing all the games.

Thank you to our sponsors – Bennion Lambourne Orthodontics, Billings Marble and Granite, CEI Electrical Services, Classic Design Homes, EPC Services and the Pediatric Therapy Clinic - for your donations to help cover the costs of holding this event.

We want to extend a special thanks to Lucky's Market for covering the cost of most of the pizzas and sending store employees to help serve meals and to Fuddrucker's for the cookies!

Last but not least, to the parents for supporting this event by bringing your children, donating for the auction, bidding on auction items, and all the other things you may have done to make it a success.

For all the work it takes to make it happen, it isn't a success if you don't come- so THANK YOU!

Thank you to the following businesses that donated items for our silent auction!

Better ToGather, Billings Studio Theater, Bistecca at the Granary, Bruno's Restaurant, Café Italia, Carmel Cookie Waffle, Centennial Arena, Ciao Mambo, Commons 1882, Costco, Distinctly Montana gifts, Dr. Larsen, Ev Bergeron, Granite Fitness, Jayne's Signature Sweets, Jazzercise Billings WestEnd, Joy of Kids, Joy of Living, Leslie's Hallmark, Lilac, Lotus Studio, Mike Caskey, Montana Audubon Center, Mustangs, NOVA Center for the Performing Arts, Oasis Waterpark, Olive Garden, Paula's Edibles, Pediatric Dental Specialists, Perkins Restaurant, Play Kation, Pure Barre, Rockpile, Sam's Club, Shopko, Skateworld, Sunset Bowl, Target, The Reef Indoor Waterpark, The Spiked Olive and Yellowstone Art Museum.

Our school continues to thrive due to the support from our community members – we can't do this without you!

~~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.



Is Family Mealtime Important? By Leah Davies, M.Ed.

According to recent surveys, less than half of the families in the United States actually sit down to a meal on a regular basis. Yet, studies report that family meals are strongly related to the development of adolescent mental health and stability. A Harvard Medical School study found that there are nutritional, as well as social, emotional and academic advantages that occur in children when families share meals together.

Why are family mealtimes important?

- A sense of belonging and mutual trust is fostered when adults and children eat together and enjoy each other's company.
- Family meals provide opportunities for adults to model table manners and nutritious food choices.
- Eating together encourages adult-child communication skills such as listening patiently to each other and expressing one's opinion in a respectful manner.
- Mealtimes provide a setting for moral and intellectual discussion where family values are shared.
- Since children thrive on routines, family meals foster a sense of security and stability.
- When children help with meals, they learn skills such as shopping, setting the table, preparing food, serving food, and cleaning up.
- Family meals can foster family traditions and enhance cultural heritages.

What can busy families do to improve their mealtime enjoyment?

1. **KEEP IN MIND THAT IF YOU ARE TOO BUSY TO HAVE FAMILY MEALS, YOU MAY BE TOO BUSY.** Plan ahead, think creatively, and make adjustments to fit your family's schedule. For example, you may want to change the time of day you eat together or have a picnic on a blanket before or after a ball game.
2. **HAVE MEALTIMES WITHOUT TELEVISION.** If your family usually watches TV during dinner, decrease the habit slowly. Begin with one or two TV-free meals a week and gradually increase the number. Limit other distractions as well.
3. **KEEP FOOD SIMPLE AND VARIED.** Elaborate meals are not necessary for quality family time. Serve the same favorite food on a certain day of the week or month. To save time and effort, plan for and use leftovers.
4. **SERVE FAMILY MEMBERS THE SAME FOOD AT THE SAME TIME.** Provide a variety of food choices and refrain from forcing children to eat certain foods. If your children are not hungry at mealtime, cut back on snacks between meals.
5. **LIMIT THE TABLE DISCUSSION TO AGREEABLE OR NEUTRAL TOPICS.** Focus on the positive by asking questions such as, "Tell something good that happened today." Listen attentively and make sure the speaker feels respected. Mealtime is not the place for criticism or rude behaviors.
6. **INVOLVE THE CHILDREN IN PLANNING, PREPARING, AND SERVING MEALS, THUS BUILDING TEAMWORK AND COOPERATION.**

Listen to their meal suggestions and try to make eating together fun. Invite them to help create memorable holiday foods and decorations.

7. **TRY PLAYING SOFT MUSIC, LIGHTING CANDLES OR USING FLOWERS TO CREATE A PLEASING ATMOSPHERE.** For a special treat, have a family dinner in a quiet restaurant. Limit visits to fast-food establishments.

8. **TEACH BY SHOWING, NOT BY TELLING.** When you make pleasant family mealtimes a priority, your child or children will more likely be healthy, well-mannered and well-adjusted.