

The *Polar Bear Express*

May 2017

**“Poly Drives Students
to Succeed”**



Poly Drive Elementary School

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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 all the extra-curricular activities that help make Poly Drive such a special place.

Parents are also thinking about next year and class placement for their child. I encourage you to entrust staff in making the best placement for your child. We spend a significant amount of time and effort into developing classes and consider many factors and variables that you may not be aware of. If you have safety or health concerns regarding placement, you may complete a parent input form.

While staffing placement has not been finalized, we are anticipating a couple of staff changes for next year. After long, successful careers in education first grade teacher, Mrs. Maxwell and extended studies teacher, Mrs. Waterson, are retiring – please help us in congratulating them and wishing them luck in retirement. In addition Miss Bauer will be leaving Poly Drive and is headed to Alaska to pursue some life goals. We will miss all of them and wish them the best.

Another important reminder is that we are accepting registrations for incoming kindergarten students. If you will be registering a kindergarten student for the 2017-18 school year, please do so ASAP and pass the word on to anyone you know that may have a kindergartener attending Poly 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

- 1-4 Teacher Appreciation
- 4 2nd & 3rd Music Concert
8:30am and 10, gym
- 5 VACATION DAY
- 8-12 Walk/Bike to School Week
- 9 Select Choir Concert
7:30am-8:00, gym
- 16 Lewis & Clark Middle School
Open House 6:00pm-7:00pm
- 17 Welcome New Families to
Poly Drive School 5:30pm
- 18 Orchestra Concert 2:30
- 19 Sodexo Spring Picnic
- 23 Field Day
- 25 5th & 6th Band Concert
2:30, gym
- 25 Will James Middle School
Open House 6:00pm-7:00pm
- 29 VACATION DAY

June

- 2 Last Day of School
11:45 DISMISSAL

Aug

- 24 First Day of School



By Mrs. Reas

PEAK was again a huge success this year! Thank you to everyone involved in getting kids to and from events! Over 500 kids city wide participated in our fitness clubs and sporting competitions. Way to go Poly Drive! Keep the activity going!

Volunteers Needed:

Contact Mrs. Reas
Field Day Tuesday, May 23
K - 3rd 9:00-11:00
4th - 6th 1:00-3:00

Friday Fun Runs (Parents invited to join) continue at 8am-8:15 around the school.

MUSIC NOTES

By Mrs. Langeliers

May 4: 2nd and 3rd grade musical -two showings at 8:00am and 9:30

May 9: Select Choir Concert 7:45am for parent/family performance.

May 11: Select Choir Tour

FIELD TRIPS

Information on field trips will come from the classroom teacher.

Field trips are conducted per grade and classroom teacher.



PASTRIES FOR PARENTS

Save the Date!

Join us on May 16 in the gym from 7:30am-8:30 for a little breakfast with your kids before you send them off to finish up the school year!



LIBRARY NEWS

**All overdue books wanted -
The last day to return books is May 19th**

Makerspaces

We will be turning the library into a Makerspace hub for the end of the school year. Makerspaces are areas designed to give students the opportunity to create, design, build, engineer, code, and transform. This STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) initiative allows students to work together to solve problems and explore different technology. The students will be exposed to electronics, robotics, coding, engineering,

animation, and more! Come check it out! This is one of the students' favorite times in library. **I would love to get some volunteers to help during this time**, especially for the primary grades. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me at caskeyd@billingschools.org.

Reminder – library books are to borrow

I am pleased to see students develop good library habits from an early age. This includes understanding the proper care of books, the feeling of responsibility for all materials checked out, the need for returning books on time so that others may use them and the enjoyment of reading! Please help reinforce these good library habits with your child throughout the school year. **The last day to return books is May 19th.** Please help us get all overdue books back.



KINDNESS AND COMPASSION CLUB

By Mrs. Reas

What another amazing year the KC Club brought to Poly Drive students and staff. Here are some of the activities KC Club was busy with: Operation Gratitude (sending Halloween candy to our US troops), food drive, shoe & coat drive, holiday backpacks, helped serve at Veterans breakfast, Easter egg-stravaganza.

Approximately 27 students come in early to school on their own time to help make a positive difference in our school...THANK YOU KC CLUB!



NEWS FROM NUTRITION SERVICES

Are you interested in working for the Nutrition Service Department during the 2017/2018 school year? Please call Kathy at 281-5878 for Online Application information.

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.

Teaching Emotional Intelligence

"How was school today?" The question can often stir up a mix of reports and complaints. Sometimes, the helpful parent may notice pain in the day's recollections and rush to offer solutions, perhaps even make some phone calls. Often, parental instinct kicks in and we jump to protect our children, fixing their problems for them; except, that might not be what they want at all.

Sometimes, kids just want to be heard. The act of sharing their feelings and reflections can be cathartic and healing in itself. Sometimes, they don't want adults to solve their problems. They might just want to vent, to reflect on the day. Actively listening, empathizing, and validating their emotions is a great way to help empower your child to find their own solutions and develop their own emotional awareness.

Here are some steps parents can use when a child wants to talk about a small problem:

Step One: Listen intently, without distraction, modeling empathetic, respectful behavior.

Step Two: Repeat what was said. This doesn't need to be exact; it just clearly shows that you were listening and validates a child's sense of urgency.

Step Three: Label their emotion(s). This shows empathy and teaches emotional awareness.

For example, a child seems angry when discussing an argument with a friend. After listening intently, a parent might say, "I hear you saying that Jamie wasn't being nice when you were playing tag. That must be very frustrating." Let the conversation take its course from there. Often, the child will become de-escalated, and may be able, with some guidance, to develop his or her own positive solution to a small problem.