

# The *Polar Bear Express*

May 2018

**“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.

Another important reminder is that we are accepting registrations for incoming kindergarten students. If you will be registering a kindergarten student for the 2018-19 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.

On Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> we intend to run a practice evacuation drill in the afternoon with students. Staff and students will walk to the site, get settled in and then be back at school by dismissal time. More details are coming in a separate note, but I wanted to make sure parents had a heads up.

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](http://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 10<sup>th</sup>, 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

- 3 Bike Repairs 2:20-4:20
- 4 Vacation Day
- 7-11 Walk//Bike to School
- 10 Evacuation Drill
- 11 Sodexo Spring Lunch
- 13 Mother's Day
- 15 Lewis & Clark  
Open House 6PM
- 25 Field Day  
9am- K-3<sup>rd</sup> 1pm - 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>
- 28 Vacation Day

### June

- 1 Last Day of School  
11:45 DISMISSAL

### Aug

- 23 First Day of School



## SODEXO INVITES YOU TO LUNCH

Join us on Friday, May 11 to have lunch with your child(ren)!

Menu – Pulled Pork Sandwich or Walking Turkey Taco, fruit, veggie milk and a summer treat.

Pre-order forms on blue paper have already been sent home and need to be returned to the office by Wed. May 9<sup>th</sup>. Adult meals are \$3.50, student meals are \$2.75. Students may use money from their lunch account.



## MUSIC NOTES

By Mrs. Langeliers

The month of May is filled with music concerts!

### Tuesday, May 8

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – 9:30-10:00
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – 1:45-2:15

### Thursday, May 10

- Select Choir – 7:45-8:15
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – 8:30-9:00
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade – 9:30-10:00

### Tuesday, May 15

- Orchestra – 2:30-3:00

### Thursday, May 17

- Band – 2:30-3:00

### Tuesday, May 22

- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – 2:30-3:00

### Thursday, May 24

- Kindergarten  
12:15 – Mrs. Watson  
12:45 – Miss Swigart



## May

- ✓ Expect the best from yourself
- ✓ Request politely, do not demand
- ✓ Always tell the truth
- ✓ The Pillars of Character



## **LIBRARY NEWS**

### **IMPORTANT DATES FOR LIBRARY**

Last day to checkout books is May 11th

Last day to return your books is May 18th

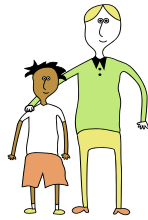
### **Makerspace May**

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@billingssschools.org](mailto:caskeyd@billingssschools.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. Please help us get all overdue books back. If your child has any books not turned in by the last day of school, their report card will be held at the main office.



## **KINDNESS AND COMPASSION CLUB**

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, and collected items to give to the Montana Rescue Mission.

The KC Club will be volunteering at the Billings Food Bank on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 10am-12pm.

What a great opportunity to help out our community! Students will need to be dropped off and picked up - OR you are welcome to stay and help. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Approximately 20 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**

As of May 1, 2018, students must have a positive balance on their lunch account. They will no longer be able to charge meals to their account. If a student does not have funds on their account for that day's meal, we ask that you provide your student with a sack lunch from home.

Are you interested in working for the Nutrition Service Department during the 2018/2019 school year? Please call Kathy at 281-5878 for Online Application information.



**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.

### **Violent Media and the Elementary Schooler: A Parent's Guide**

**By Lindsay Horton, M. of Ed., School Counselor**

Children today have unprecedented access to media of so many forms. Go to any busy airport and you're likely to see more people than not, from toddlers to adults, maybe an occasional infant, transfixed on a screen of some sort. There have been many benefits to having such fascinating technology at our fingertips. However, many health professionals and researchers are warning parents about the effects of violence or horror on young, developing brains.

In the school setting, school teachers and counselors are anecdotally noting an increase in violent play and vocabulary that seems to correlate with viewing violent video games, television, and even horror movies. This can range from a student who can't stop thinking about a scary movie and seems to be afraid of every shadow in the classroom, to a kid using phrases like, "I'm going to kill you at recess", to actual physical aggression. Although there may be no ill intent in some of these incidents, school professionals simply can not ignore violent words and behaviors, given the uptick in horrific cases of school violence nationwide.

A 2003 meta-analysis of research regarding violent media consumption published in *Psychological Science of Public Interest* cited more than one hundred research studies on the topic of media violence and youth. It found that there are many impacts, both short-term and long term, of violent media consumption on both mental health and behavior. Most research indicated that the younger the age of the consumer and the longer the consumption, the more dramatic the effects. Some effects lasted into adulthood. (Anderson, et al., 2003).

According to the article, short term viewing of violence can cause effects such as physical and verbal aggression, aggressive thoughts, and increased anger. Long term effects include possible aggressive demeanor, behavior, and thoughts, as well as an increased tolerance for violence. They get used to it. Not only did studies analyzed find an increase in negative effects, but they also showed a decrease in positive ones. This can easily lead to the conclusion that friendships and relationships might be negatively impacted. (Anderson, et al., 2003).

The concern for kids today has to do with brain development and the many ways in which children learn. For example, young children learn through observing the world around them. They can be very black and white thinkers. If violence is good for a character, they might believe (without realizing it) that it is normal. Most of the vocabulary children learn, especially young children, is not formally taught in the school setting, but heard in the world around them. This can be true for behaviors as well. Furthermore, young children lack the critical thinking skills and background knowledge to counteract many of the negative images they see. (Bunyon, 2018).

There are many factors that contribute to child behavior and development, and violent media exposure may be one worth noting. Parents, teachers, and caregivers can help children avoid many struggles by limiting access to violent video games, television, and other forms of media, particularly in the younger years. Adults, who may themselves be very used to all of the violent things in the media on a day to day basis, also need to look at games and videos through the lens of someone much younger. Just because a zombie is getting shot and not a person does not make something "clean" or "fake". Besides previewing and supervising content, parents can also choose to put a limit on screen time altogether. This is highly recommended by medical professionals for social emotional development and physical health, and not having a screen at all automatically means less access to the violence that kids see. Parents themselves may also need to monitor their own word choice and behaviors. Kids are always watching and parents are their first and favorite teachers. These steps can go a long way in helping kids find success and happiness.

#### **Works Cited**

\*Anderson, C. A., Berkowitz, L., Donnerstein, E., Huesmann, L., Johnson, J., Linz, D., . . . Wartella, E. (2003). The Influence of Media Violence on Youth. *Psychological Science in the Public Interest*, 4(3), 81-110.

\*Bunton, S. (2018, March 20). 7 Ways Watching A Scary Movie Affects Your Kid Later In Life. Retrieved March 25, 2018, from <https://www.romper.com/p/7-ways-watching-a-scary-movie-affects-your-kid-later-in-life-20565>

\*Common Sense Media. (n.d.). Retrieved March 25, 2018, from <https://www.common Sense Media.org/>