

# The ***Polar Bear Express***

May 2019

**“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. Speaking of extra-curricular things, with the warmer weather, I know that lots of families are out for walks or playing on the playground in the evenings and weekends. If you see something suspicious happening on the school grounds after hours, please call the police non-emergency number, 657-8200 and report it. We have had a few parties on the playground and they are not the “pin the tail on the donkey” kind with cake and ice cream, if you get my drift:) Thank you for your help!

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.

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 a great year at Poly Drive. I appreciate how supportive and welcoming you have been. Have a great last month of school and a fantastic summer

Sincerely - Lorrie Wolverton, 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 Vacation Day  
6-10 Walk//Bike to School  
12 Mother's Day  
25 Field Day  
9am- K-3<sup>rd</sup> 1pm – 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>  
27 Vacation Day  
31 Last Day of School  
11:45 DISMISSAL

### Aug

22 First Day of School



## MUSIC NOTES

By Mrs. Langeliers

The month of May is filled with music concerts!

### **Tuesday, May 7**

Select Choir – 7:45-8:15  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – 9:30-10:00  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – 10:15-10:45

### **Tuesday, May 14**

Band – 2:30-3:00

### **Thursday, May 16**

Orchestra – 2:30-3:00

### **Tuesday, May 21**

1<sup>st</sup> Grade Family Music  
8:30-9:00 Mrs. Bell  
9:05-9:35 Mrs. Blakesley/Wilcox  
9:40-10:10 Mrs. Whittmeyer

### **Thursday, May 23**

Kindergarten Family Music  
8:30-9:00 – Mrs. Watson  
9:05-9:35 – Miss Swigart



MANNERS ARE A TRUE REFLECTION OF OUR CHARACTER...

## May

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



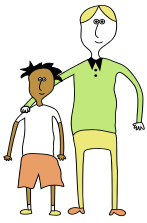
## LIBRARY NEWS

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR LIBRARY

Last day to checkout books is May 10<sup>th</sup>  
Last day to return your books is May 17<sup>th</sup>

### Books are to Borrow

If your child has a book that is overdue, you will be receiving a reminder note. If the book is lost, your child can avoid paying for the book by reading off the cost of the book. If the book costs \$10, the student reads 10 minutes. The book is then taken off their account. As always, if you find the book...no matter how much time has passed, please return it.



## **KINDNESS AND COMPASSION CLUB**

As the KC Club wraps up another great school year, we would like to thank everyone for their support!

Because of the generosity of our Poly families, we were able to support the community by sending 125 pounds of Halloween candy to our troops, donating several pounds of food to the Billings Food Bank, providing Christmas gifts to those in need, putting together “goody bags” for the Montana Rescue Mission, and giving a donation to aid in flood relief!

Approximately 20 students donate their time to make our school a more welcoming and compassionate school.

Thank you! We couldn't have done it without you!

Sincerely, Mrs. Caskey and Mrs. Tatum



## **NEWS FROM NUTRITION SERVICES**

As of May 1, 2019, 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 2019/2020 school year? Please call Kathy at 281-5878 for Online Application information.



## **See Something? Say Something!**

We all love our Poly Drive School playground and take pride in keeping it clean and safe. Neighborhood families bring their children over during the evenings and weekends to enjoy and play on the equipment.

Unfortunately, there have been some reports this year of people on the school building roof and damaged equipment along with broken bottles and graffiti.

If you happen to see any mischief going on after school hours, please notify the police. The nonemergency number is: (406)657-8200. Of course in case of emergency, always call 911.

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.

## Everyday Ways to Teach Resilience to Kids

With the plethora of shopping opportunities, the ability to communicate across the world in an instant, and electronic entertainment coming from every direction, life in today's world is fast-paced and full-on. Anything seems possible. And with so many options and devices at our disposal, parents can be tempted to make their kids' lives very easy. However if we want our children to stand up to the inevitable challenges they will face in the future and keep going despite disappointment or frustration, we need to help our children develop resilience. This means they need to practice coping skills, and therefore need some challenges to practice these skills with.

**The list below is not your typical “do and don’t” list but rather a set of prompts to begin reflecting on ways to teach children resilience through simple interactions every day.**

- Give your child independence to try new things they initiate, such as climbing at the playground or opening a container, even if you think it is “too hard” for them.
- Give your child the opportunity to wait patiently when it is required (such as in a restaurant or during a car ride); do not always provide entertainment.
- Teach your child to identify struggles as challenges to overcome, not tests to avoid, and teach them phrases such as “every challenge makes you stronger” to spark this outlook.
- Encourage your child to maintain a positive attitude about chores or homework by teaching them creative ways to find fun in work.
- Do not give in when you have set a limit, such as an amount of TV they can watch or how much dessert they can have.
- Require that responsibilities be completed even when your child does not feel like it, such as making beds, taking a bath, feeding the pets, and brushing teeth.
- When your child really wishes they had something, teach them to be grateful and find the best in whatever situation they are in.
- Let your child own their feelings, even if they are challenging, by not belittling the emotions but giving them a way to maintain perspective through phrases such as “A rainbow will come after the storm.”

Every child is different, and will require a unique balance of support and challenge to rise to their potential. Children shouldn't be left totally on their own, but it's also important to let them experience life and learn to solve problems independently when age-appropriate.

Adapted from an article by Chelsea Lee Smith ([bouncebackparenting.com](http://bouncebackparenting.com))