

# The *Polar Bear Express*

November 2018

“Poly Drives Students  
to Succeed”

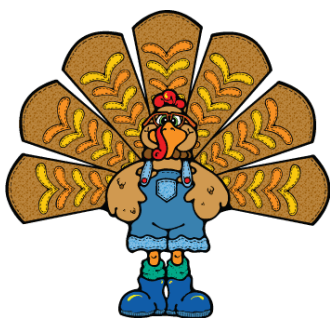


## Poly Drive Elementary School

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Poly Drive will host our annual Veterans Day Breakfast on Monday, November 12th from 7:30-8:30. We will have a variety of breakfast goodies on hand to share with anyone that has connections to Poly Drive and has served in the armed forces. This is a fantastic opportunity for several generations to enjoy fellowship and be honored for their service to our great country. I look forward to honoring our veterans.

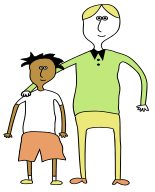
Parent/teacher conferences will be November 6, 7 and 8<sup>th</sup>. New this year, we will be using an online scheduler for parent-teacher conferences. Information was sent home in October. If you have not signed up for a time, please call the school or go to [bit.ly/polypc](http://bit.ly/polypc).

Report cards will come home on November 30<sup>th</sup>. This means you will not have a report card to review before conferences. Instead here are a few suggestions to help maximize your time during conferences:

- Discuss FAST or NWEA/MAP data – these are standardized screening assessments that compare your child’s performance on those assessments to a national standard – these scores will be from the beginning of the year.
- Ask for evidence of work demonstrating student performance – teachers use a variety of means to assess students, so if you have an area of concern, let the teacher know you would like to have additional feedback on specific areas.
- Write down specific questions you may have and bring them to the meeting – this will help you stay focused during your discussion.
- Be considerate of the schedule – teachers may have up to 32 conference to get through so even a few minutes adds up – if you feel like you did not have enough time to address everything you wanted to, set up another meeting for a later date.
- Follow up with the teacher if you continue to have questions – regular communication benefits all parties.

Enjoy this wonderful time of the year and please let us know if there is anything we can do to assist you or make Poly Drive a better place.

Sincerely – Lorrie Wolverton



## **KINDNESS AND COMPASSION CLUB**

### **OPERATION GRATITUDE**

Don't forget the Poly Drive Kindness & Compassion Club (KC Club) is participating in the **Halloween Candy Give Back** this month.

Students are invited to share their Halloween candy. Operation Gratitude sorts and sends it to "individual Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines deployed in harm's way, to their children left behind, and to Veterans, Wounded Warriors and First Responders".

There is a big bucket placed outside the office for "Candy Deposits" to be made! We will be collecting candy up until November 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **FOOD DRIVE Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> – Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Giving Hands Wreath**

KC Club will once again use the Giving Hands Wreath to help out local families for Christmas. Watch for more details to follow!

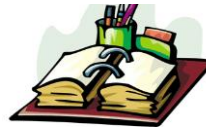


MANNERS ARE A TRUE REFLECTION OF OUR CHARACTER...

### ***Poly Drive Manners of the Month***

#### **November**

- √ Do not bully, threaten, or intimidate
- √ Speak when spoken to
- √ Think before speaking: Is it true? Is it kind? Does it need to be said?



### **SCHOOL CALENDAR**

#### **November**

- 4 Day Light Savings Ends  
Set clocks back 1 hour
- 7-9 Early Out Days, 12:00  
Parent Teacher Conferences
- 9 Picture Re-Takes 8:30-9:30
- 12 Veterans Day Breakfast 7:30
- 13 PTA Meeting, 3:15 pm
- 19 End of 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester
- 21-23 Thanksgiving – No School
- 30 Report Cards Go Home

#### **December**

- 11 Butter Braid Delivery
- 18 Music Programs
- 24-Jan.2 No School



## **News From the Library** By Mrs. Caskey

### **Barnes & Noble Bookfair is Coming!**

This year the B&N Book Fair will be on December 8th. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Mrs.

Caskey. [caskeyd@billingschools.org](mailto:caskeyd@billingschools.org)

### **November is Picture Book Month**

We will be celebrating the picture book in library this month. Learn more about picture books and the activities we will be doing by visiting [picturebookmonth.com](http://picturebookmonth.com)

### **Library Subs**

If you would be interested in subbing in the library, please contact Mrs. Caskey. There is a short training course you have to complete, but it is quite simple!

### **Learn a Little**

If you have not checked out the Smithsonian Learning Lab, you should - [learninglab.si.edu/](http://learninglab.si.edu/)  
You can find amazing resources from museums and research centers. If you create an account, you can even build your own presentation with the images and information you find.



## REPORT CARDS

Report cards go home November 30<sup>th</sup>. Please go over your child's report card with your child. After you have done so, **please sign the report card envelope and return it to the classroom teacher as soon as possible.** This same envelope will be used for future report cards.



## TARDINESS

Promptness to class is very important. All grades enter the school at 8:20 a.m. Late arrivals disrupt class and cause loss of instruction time. A student who arrives late must report to the office

to obtain a late slip, which is then given to the teacher. This allows the office to correct the attendance report and obtain lunch information.

A referral to the truancy officer may be made when a student is consistently tardy (10 or more in a trimester).



## WINTER MUSIC PROGRAMS

'Tis the season for fun holiday music performances from our amazing Poly Drive students.

### Schedule of Performances

**General Music**  
**Tuesday, December 18**  
Kindergarten - 8:30  
1st - 9:15  
2nd - 10:00  
3rd - 10:45  
4th - 1:30  
5th - 2:15

Band and Orchestra will perform on a different date to be announced.

Watch for more info to come home in your child's Wednesday Watch.



## LUNCH ACCOUNT BALANCES

When lunch account balances reach \$7.50 your student will receive a yellow paper notice indicating their account is getting low. This slip usually goes out in the Wednesday Watch envelope.

A lunch costs \$2.75 per day, \$13.75 per week. "Seconds" cost \$1.25. Sodexo prefers no negative balances, and after two meal charges (-\$5.50) the student will receive a cheese sandwich and a milk. They will not have the choice of an entrée until their account is at a positive balance.

You can check your child's lunch account balance by emailing or calling our lunch clerk, Sarah Reinstma at [reintsmas@billingsschools.org](mailto:reintsmas@billingsschools.org) or 281-6559. You can also check online through [billingsschools.org](http://billingsschools.org), then choose Departments, Nutrition Services.

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.

## ***Common fears in Elementary Age Children*** (source "Hey Sigmund")

### **5-6 years**

- Being separated from you.

*Here's why:* At this age, children might show a strong reaction to being separated from one or either of their parents. This comes as they start to see outside of themselves and realize that bad things can happen to the people they love. They might want to avoid school or sleepovers so they can be with you and know that you're safe and sound.

- Ghosts, monsters and witches – and anything else that bumps around in their wonderfully vivid imaginations. This can also show itself as a fear of the dark – because we all know the spooky things love it there.

*Here's why:* Their imaginations are still hard at work so anything they can bring to life in there will be fuel for fear.

- The dark, noises, being on their own at night, getting lost, getting sick.

*Here's why:* As well as being scared of things that take up precious real estate in their heads, they might also become scared of things that could actually happen. These are the sorts of things that might unsettle all of us from time to time.

- Nightmares and bad dreams.

*Here's why:* Because of the blurred line between fantasy and reality, bad dreams can feel very real and are likely to peak at this age.

- Fire, wind, thunder, lightning – anything that seems to come from nowhere.

*Here's why:* They are still trying to grasp cause and effect and their minds are curious and powerful. They might scare themselves trying to explain where scary things come from. Lightning might mean the sky is about to catch fire. Thunder – who knows – but anything that loud surely doesn't come in 'cute' or 'chocolate coated'. **7-11 years.**

- Monsters, witches, ghosts, shadows on the wall at night.

*Here's why:* Though their thinking is more concrete, children at this age will still have a very vivid imagination.

- Being at home alone.

*Here's why:* They're still learning to trust the world and their capacity to cope with small periods of time on their own, without you. Staying at home alone might be exciting, scary or both – then there's that imagination of theirs that might still ambush them at times.

- Something happening to themselves or the people (or pets) they care about.

*Here's why:* They start to understand that death affects everyone at some point and that it's permanent. They might start to worry about something happening to themselves or the people (or pets) they care about.

- Being rejected, not liked, or judged badly by their peers (buckle up – this one might stay a while).

*Here's why:* This can show up at any age but it might ramp up towards the end of these years. This is because they will start to have an increased dependence on their friendships as they gear up for adolescence.