



The Polar Bear

Poly Drive Elementary School
2410 Poly Drive Billings, MT 59101

Phone: 281-6217
Melissa Soucy, Principal
Vicki Riesinger, Secretary

October, 2021

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

PTA Meeting: October 12 @ 6:15

Book Fair: October 4-17

NO SCHOOL: October 21-22

Picture Retakes: November 1

Virtual Parent Teacher Conferences:
November 3-5

Daylight Savings Change: November 7

JOIN OUR PTA

We would love to have you join us in supporting

We're Going Back To School



the Poly Drive PTA! They are using Membership Tool Kit again this year. This allows you to sign up online and download the mobile app for easy access to our PTA directory. From the app you can call, text, and email members directly, visit the PTA store, and check out volunteer opportunities.

Dues can be paid on the site (or at <http://bit.ly/pdptamembers>), or leave dues in the Poly school office. You also do have the option to join via a paper form, if you'd prefer.

Dues are \$10 for the whole family! There is also a fee-waived membership available for those who want to join but are not able to pay the full cost.

They also have the following **Poly PTA Sponsor Levels:**

Silver - \$100,

Gold - \$250,

Platinum - \$500,

and **Polar Bear** - \$1,000.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL TIMES

- School starts at 8:20AM
- Arrive between 8:05-8:20. DO not arrive before 8:05
- Kindergarten-3rd Grade are dismissed at 2:20PM.
- 4th-5th Grade are dismissed at 3:05PM.
- Wednesday students get out an hour early. K-3rd Grade are dismissed at 1:20 PM and 4th-5th Grade at 2:05PM.

A huge favor we'd like to ask: Please make sure your child and classroom teacher know who is picking them after school every day. It is extremely challenging to relay messages to students throughout the school day. If plans do change, please call the office and let Vicki know before noon. This will give the office enough time to make sure the message is delivered. We greatly appreciate your help and cooperation with this matter. **K-3 students may not wait for older**

siblings to be dismissed as we don't have adequate staffing for supervision.

In order to maintain a safe environment for our students, we have established some guidelines for vehicles dropping off and picking up students at Poly Drive Elementary. Please read and follow the following protocols:

- Children's safety first!
- Obey all traffic rules and speed limits
- Students are not supervised until 8:05, so please drop off students between 8:05 and 8:20
- Do not park or drop off in front of the parking lot entrance or wheel chair ramp at front doors
- When dropping off students in front of the school on Poly Dr., have them use the crosswalk and sidewalks – do not climb down rocky areas or cross areas without crossing marks
- Do not pull through parking area to drop off students – if you must drop off large materials or check in at the office, please do so prior to 8:05, after 8:25 or park on one of our surrounding streets
- If parking in the lot during the day, please respect no-parking and handicap areas
- If exiting the parking lot, be aware of the new merge area with the alley – people in the alley have right-of-way
- Do not park in the yellow bus zone on Poly Drive in front of the school
- If using the alley for drop-off, park on the west side of the alley and drop off in areas where students can access the school grounds quickly – be aware of students exiting cars - if you want to wait with your child in the car, please do so on one of the surrounding streets so traffic can flow more easily

Thank you for helping keep our children safe!

Library News

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. If you are unaware of what day library books should be back, please reach out to me. I am happy to visit with you – Mrs. Caskey (caskeyd@billingschools)

Here are a few reminders:

- Library books are checked out for 1 week
- If your child forgets their book, they will not be able to check out new books until the overdue books are returned.
- Renew: library books can be renewed (re-checked out) twice

Online Book Fair

It is Oct 4-17th and Mrs. Caskey will be sending home information soon!

Poly Drive is hosting a Follett Book eFair!



Supporting a love for reading is critical to student success. Explore our online book fair and help your child find their next favorite book.

Now everyone can participate! Encourage your child to create their online wish list and share with friends and family.

efairs.follettbookfairs.com

Our eFair code: **Z47L3**

Orders due by: **October 17th 2021**

Follett will ship your books to the school after our eFair is complete.

For every purchase made, we will earn up to 40% back in rewards to help support our school!

 **Follett Book Fairs**

Counselor's Corner

Personal Safety

Part of your child's School Counseling and Health Enhancement Curriculums include Personal Safety information for students in kindergarten through fifth grade. This lesson will focus on how to tell the difference between a safe or unsafe touch, how to say "no" assertively, and how to get help from people who care. This is a parent, school, and community responsibility, so we want to support, reinforce, and work with you as you teach your child about assertiveness skills and self-protection. This lesson will be taught by your school's counselor in **November**.

A video and discussion will be used to cover age-appropriate information on this subject. Each video helps empower children to know that they deserve to feel safe, they are the boss of their own bodies, and they have the right to ask for help if they feel uncomfortable about their safety.

If you desire an opportunity to view any of the programs, you may contact your school counselor at **(406) 281-6558**. Opt out forms will be sent home in **October**.

ALL STUDENTS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THIS IMPORTANT SAFETY EDUCATION UNLESS AN OPT OUT FORM IS :

*** CHECKED "I do not want my child to listen to this personal safety lesson" * SIGNED**

*** RETURNED TO SCHOOL BEFORE **NOVEMBER****

If you have concerns about the abuse or neglect of a child, please contact Child Protective Services Centralized Intake at 1-866-820-5437. is abuse hotline is toll-free 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Caller information is kept confidential.



When someone says or does something *unintentionally* hurtful and they do it once, that's
RUDE.

When someone says or does something *intentionally* hurtful and they do it once, that's
MEAN.

When someone says or does something *intentionally* hurtful and they *keep doing it*—even when you tell them to stop or show them that you're upset—that's
BULLYING.



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.



Dear Families:

Sponsored by Poly Drive PTA

We are excited to announce a new school resource, **PebbleGo**, that can be accessed from school, home or on the go—anywhere where your student has an internet connection.

PebbleGo is a database specifically geared toward the needs of K-2 learners. It helps your student learn foundational research skills plus provides critical early-reader supports like audio voice overs and text highlighting.

But best of all, students love using PebbleGo. The easy navigation makes it inviting for students to discover new information. Features like videos and fun games keep them engaged and learning. And you can feel comfortable knowing that they are exploring an ad-free website bursting with resources that will help your student master many skills and learn fun facts that they will be so proud to share.

Please explore PebbleGo with your student and let us know your feedback.

To access our school's subscription, go to www.PebbleGo.com and login with our school-wide password and login.

Login: **polyd**

Password: **school**

Our school subscribes to the following PebbleGo databases:

Animals
Biographies
Science
Social Studies
Dinosaurs



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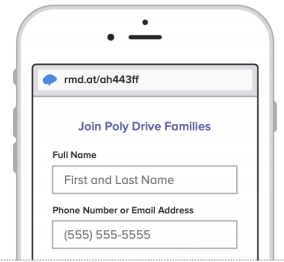
Pick a way to receive messages for Poly Drive Families:

A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/ah443ff

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



B If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message **@ah443ff** to the number **81010**.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting **@ah443ff** to (620) 322-4120.

* Standard text message rates apply.

