

The *Polar Bear Express*

October 2017

“Poly Drives Students
to Succeed”



Poly Drive Elementary School

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Dear Poly Drive Families,

I love the fall season. The cool mornings help wake me up, students are excited to participate in fall activities, routines are starting to fall into place, we really start knowing the kids, PTA activities start swinging into action and the fishing is some of the best of the year.

We kick off Pizza with the Principal at 1pm on Friday the 13th so please join me for lunch and conversation. We will discuss student behavior/discipline pieces, fall benchmark data and professional learning community outcomes. I have an agenda each time but I really value this time to answer questions and take feedback from parents. Please RSVP me at croffk@billingsschools.org or call 281-6217 so I can prepare for an appropriate number of parents.

Poly Drive was recently asked by the district to pilot an online student intervention tracking form. I started thinking about all of the programs that Poly has been asked to pilot or take an early adoption stance for and they include: ST Math, MTSS process, Danielson Instructional Framework, Project Lead the Way, and EdReady diagnostic assessment to name the most recent. It takes great confidence in a staff to test out new programs and it is obvious that district leadership does, as do I. We are very fortunate to have such incredible people working with your children every day.

It's a month away but I encourage you to notify any veterans you know about our Veteran's Breakfast that will take place on Friday, November 10th. This is a special event that I really look forward to each year.

Also coming in November are Parent/Teacher conferences. These will be held prior to the trimester ending and report cards coming out, but teachers will be sharing student progress and evidence of student learning.

Thank you for such a smooth start to the school year - please let me know if you have questions or if there is anything we can do to make Poly Drive a better place.

Sincerely,
Kevin Croff





SCHOOL CALENDAR

October

2-6 Walk/Bike To School Week
 10 PTA Meeting 6:15 library
 11 Read A Thon kick off
 13 Pizza with the Principal 1:00
 19-20 No School
 27 Spirit Day

November

2 Picture Re-Takes 8:30-9:30
 1-3 Early Out Day, 12:00
 Parent Teacher Conferences
 5 Day Light Savings Ends
 10 Veterans Day Breakfast 7:30
 14 PTA Meeting, 3:15 pm
 17 Coffee w/Croff 8:30
 20 End of 1st Trimester
 22-24 Thanksgiving – No School



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KINDNESS AND COMPASSION CLUB

"Halloween Give Back"

Our Poly Drive Kindness & Compassion Club (KC Club) is going to participate in the Halloween Candy Give Back (or Buy Back as it is for the Dental Office version) this month.

This is where students donate some or all of their

Halloween candy to what's called Operation Gratitude which is "a 501(c)(3) non-profit, volunteer-based corporation, funded entirely by private donations", then, 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".

It's a way for the community to give a little something back in the form of a care package to those fighting for our freedom.

There will be buckets placed outside our front office for "Candy Deposits" to be made! We will be collecting candy up until November 17th. We greatly appreciate your donations and support.

Sincerely, Mrs. Tatum & The Entire KC Club



MUSIC NOTES

By Mrs. Langeliers

Select Choir began on Oct. 3rd. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:45-8:15.

Holiday programs will be held on December 20th. Watch for more information to come!



MANNERS ARE A TRUE REFLECTION OF OUR CHARACTER..

Poly Drive Manners of the Month

Each school week Poly Drive focuses on practicing a common social manner. These manners will be shared in each newsletter.

October

- √ Clean up after yourself
- √ Respect other's property, belongings, and projects
- √ Treat others the way you want to be treated
- √ Use polite/quiet voice tones



BIKE RIDING REMINDER

This week is Walk/Bike to School Week so it is a good time to practice safe crossings at streets. The city recently did a study regarding walking/biking routes to school and we now have a map of recommended routes and crossing areas. If you are interested in looking at the map, please stop by the office.

For families that were impacted by the boundary

change, some routes may have changed. For example, there used to be a crossing guard at Beartooth and Rimrock, but this year students are expected to walk down to Arvin and Rimrock to cross with a guard. As always, please triple check before crossing, stay on the sidewalks and use designated crossing areas - stay safe.



News from the Library
By Mrs. Caskey

The Library Has Two New Research Tools!

We are excited to announce two new school resources, PebbleGo and PebbleGo Next, that can be accessed from school, home, or from anywhere with an internet connection.

PebbleGo is a database specifically geared toward the needs of K-2 learners. It helps your child 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.

PebbleGo Next is an advanced database for grades 3-5. This provides students with more options and is presented at a higher reading level. It uses the same easy navigation as PebbleGo and continues to provide interactive features for extending lessons.

To access PebbleGo visit polydrivelibrary.weebly.com/research-tools.html and click on the PebbleGo or PebbleGo Next logo. Username is polyd and password is school



REFLECTIONS
Art Competition- Call for Entries....

The Reflections Arts program is again being offered at Poly Drive. Reflections gives students the opportunity to submit a themed piece of creative work to a national competition. Categories include Dance Choreography, Film Production, Music

Composition, Literature, and the Visual Arts.

This year, the theme is Within Reach.

The work is first judged locally by category and age division in each school. The first and second place winners from each category advance to the state level.

The judging at the state level takes place in February. The first place entries at the state level advance to the National Level on March 1. The winners at the National level will be announced in May.

Students must submit a written piece, or artist statement along with their final work that makes a connection between their work, and the theme. Work submitted to the Reflections competition will be displayed at the Poly Drive talent show in February. The work will also be displayed at an art gallery here in Billings. The local deadline for this year's entries is Wednesday January 24.

Find the link to the Reflections webpage at montanapta.org where more information, and a gallery of past winners can be found.

Please email chairperson Deva Gallagher at gdevatom@yahoo.com if you have a child interested in the arts, and would like to be added to the emailing list.

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.

October - National Bully Prevention Month Help Your Child Recognize the Signs of Bullying

Children may not always realize that they are being bullied. They might think it is bullying only if they are being physically hurt; they might believe the other child is joking; or they may not understand the subtle social norms and cues. Children can benefit from a definition of the differences between friendly behavior and bullying behavior. The basic rule: Let children know if the behavior hurts or harms them, either emotionally or physically, and if there is an **IMBALANCE OF POWER** it is bullying. **MANY CHILDREN SLIP INTO DISRESPECT AND TREAT EVEN THEIR BEST FRIENDS POORLY AT TIMES. WHILE THAT BEHAVIOR IS UNWELCOME AND UNWANTED IT IS NOT TRUE BULLYING UNLESS THE POWER BETWEEN THE PERPETRATOR AND THE TARGET IS NOT EQUAL.** Often true bullying is repetitive in nature.

Parents can prepare themselves to talk with their children by considering how they are going to respond to their child's questions and emotions. They can also decide what information they would like to give their child about bullying. Parents should be ready to:

- Listen**

It is the child's story; let him or her tell it. They may be in emotional pain about the way they are being treated.

- Believe**

The knowledge that a child is being bullied can raise many emotions. To be an effective advocate, parents need to react in a way that encourages the child to trust.

- Be supportive**

Tell the child it is not his fault and that he does not deserve to be bullied. Empower the child by telling her how terrific she is. Avoid judgmental comments about the child or the child who bullies. The child may already be feeling isolated. Hearing negative statements from parents may only further isolate him or her.

- Be patient**

Children may not be ready to open up right away. Talking about the bullying can be difficult because children may fear retaliation from the bully or think that, even if they tell an adult, nothing will change. The child might be feeling insecure, withdrawn, frightened, or ashamed.

- Provide information**

Parents should educate their child about bullying by providing information at a level that the child can understand.

- Explore options for intervention strategies**

Parents can discuss options with their child to deal with bullying behavior.

Check out www.pacer.org/bullying/ for resources such as bullying information and facts for parents and kids.

*above article taken from Pacer's National Bullying Prevention Center