

The
***Polar Bear
Express***

September 2017

“Poly Drives Students
to Succeed”



**Poly Drive
Elementary
School**

Kevin Croff, Principal
2410 Poly Drive
Billings, MT 59102

Phone (406) 281-6217
<http://www.billingsschools.org>
croffk@billingsschools.org
polydrive.weebly.com
polydrivepta.com

Dear Poly Drive Families,

Welcome back to one of the finest learning communities you could hope to experience. I love Poly Drive and could not be more proud to be part of it! Our improvements to the building continued over the summer, thanks to the Billings community and the bonds they passed four years ago. We received new roofing, our gym was refinished and improvements were made to most of our sidewalks. In addition we now are a 1-to-1 school meaning every child in the building will have an iPad or Chromebook assigned to them as a tool for learning. This was made possible through the technology levy and our incredible PTA.

I want to clarify some incorrect information that you may have read in my letter that was mailed this summer. Open House is **Thursday, September 7th** from 5:30-7pm. This is a time for staff to share expectations for the year and for parents to receive some general information. If you have specific information about your child that you would like to share with their teacher, please set up a separate time so you can meet privately. There **will not** be an early release on Sept. 22nd, but rather students are dismissed one hour early on every Wednesday so staff can collaborate during formalized Professional Learning Communities (PLC).

We have a lot of new initiatives this year, including PLCs, trimesters, proficiency standards and technology implementation. *Coffee with Croff* is a great opportunity to learn more about these items and will be **on Wednesday, September 20th at 8:30**. Please RSVP me at croffk@billingsschools.org or call 281-6217 so we can plan for the appropriate number of people. As always, if you have any questions, comments or ideas, please do not hesitate to contact me. You are a critical part of the Poly Drive learning community and we want to hear from you. Have a great month.

Sincerely,
Kevin Croff



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Birthday Treats and Special Occasions

Birthdays and special occasions can be acknowledged in the classrooms. A reasonable treat for each member of the class, passed out at the teacher's discretion, is acceptable. Please do not plan activities or events that would be disruptive to the learning process. Examples are balloons or flowers being delivered or limousines dropping off or picking up students at the school.

To avoid hurt feelings, we ask that you send invitations for parties directly to the homes rather than distributing them at school. A school directory published by the PTA is available with PTA membership and contains the phone numbers and addresses of Poly Drive families that have given permission for this information to be included. Otherwise the school is unable to release this information to anyone who asks.



It's the 25th Anniversary of Saturday Live! Join us to celebrate the biggest carnival in the West on September 23rd at Pioneer Park from 10am to 4pm. We have fun games, non-stop live entertainment, and delicious food.

Start your day at Daylis Stadium for the Saturday Live 2 Mile Fun Run/Walk at 8:45. Same day registration begins at 8:00am or go online to register at www.efbps.org. There will be lots of fun prizes for all, including a prize to the school with the most participants!

You won't want to miss Dana Bowman Sgt. First Class (Ret.) **skydive** into Daylis Stadium at 10:00 am! Dana will carry a 2,000sq.ft. U.S. flag as he descends to the ground from 4,000 ft. Live entertainment will happen on the main stage all day. Join us at 1pm to watch students from Senior, Skyview and West dig into pie in a pie eating contest. It will be messy, fast, and fun! The fun never stops with over 70 carnival booths throughout the park. Tickets for Saturday Live will be for sale at each elementary school prior to Saturday Live. You can also purchase tickets at the event. Tickets are \$.50 each.

Don't worry about parking;

we have two shuttle buses running to ease the congestion. One shuttle bus runs from the Billings Clinic lot at 9th Avenue and 30th Street (by the Riverstone Billings Inn). An additional shuttle bus runs from the Montana State University Billings parking lot on Rimrock and Virginia Lane. Both shuttle buses run every 15 -20 minutes with drop off/pick up at the Zimmerman Center. For more information, visit our website at www.efbps.org or call the Education Foundation for Billings Public Schools at 245-4133.



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.

September

- √ Use please, thank you, and excuse me frequently
- √ Keep hands and feet to self (avoid pushing, shoving, hitting...)
- √ Use appropriate assembly manners
- √ Wait your turn and include others



Dogs

I'm always impressed at the number of parents that walk to pick their children up after school. It shows the strength of the "neighborhood school" concept and is great modeling of exercise for students. When the weather is nice I've noticed many families bring their dogs to pick up students as well. The district has a guideline in place indicating dogs are not allowed on school property.

Regardless of how sweet you may feel your dog is, there is still an element of unpredictability and in the past students have been bitten by dogs on school property. Some parents have expressed concerns to me about children being frightened, the possibility of dog bites and student allergies. It only takes one child to be bitten by a dog to recognize the seriousness of this. Please do not bring your animal onto school grounds unless you have paperwork for a service animal. If you walk your animal, please wait off school grounds. I love dogs, but I love our kids' safety even more. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me, Principal Kevin Croff. Thank you for understanding.



SCHOOL CALENDAR

September

4 No School, Labor Day
 7 Open House, 5:30-7:00
 20 Coffee with Croff 8:30
 29 School Picture Day

October

19-20 No School, PIR Days



5th GRADE COUPON BOOK SALE

The 5th grade classes are selling the blue coupon books so many of us have come to know and love! The books sell for \$20 each and are full of discounts by some of our favorite local business.

The coupon books will be available through the month of September. You can purchase them at the office or through any Poly Drive 5th grader. Make checks payable to Poly Dr. School. Proceeds go to funding the 5th grade field trip in the spring.

HEAD LICE REMINDER

This is a reminder that head lice are a community problem brought into the schools unintentionally by unsuspecting children. The peak time that children become infested with head lice is in the summer, because of sleep-away camps, slumber parties, and vacationing. However, because head lice are so small, and because symptoms of itching may not develop for weeks or even months after infestation, parents and children alike often do not even know there is a problem unless the parent inspects a child's head closely and often.

This is the time of year in the Fall when we start to see some cases of head lice on children in school. This is a good opportunity to begin looking carefully through your young child's scalp at least once a day if you notice that your child is scratching their scalp more than usual. If you see any stage of the head louse, nits (eggs) attached to the hair shaft that are hard to remove or live lice, your child needs to be treated, and the nits removed before you send your child back to school.

Adequate treatment requires four ounces per six

inches of hair of an over-the-counter product you choose and use exactly according to package instructions, which may include repeating the treatment in a week to ten days.

As children participate in physical education and other school activities, close contact can occur, especially in contact activities or sports. There are inherent risks to all close contact activities and sports, including the transmission of various infections or infestations, like impetigo, scabies, ringworm, and lice. We encourage parents to inspect their children on a regular basis and to discuss any medical concerns they notice with their private health care providers. Your own physician is an excellent resource for you if you have any questions or if you find that an over-the-counter treatment does not help.

Head lice are a nuisance, but they are treatable and are not life threatening.
-PMI Health Office

REMEMBER, THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT WAY TO PREVENT A HEAD LICE PROBLEM IN SCHOOL IS SURVEILLANCE BY THE PARENT AT HOME. Thank you for your cooperation.



PARKING ISSUES

As you know Poly Drive School has struggled for several years with traffic issues on our campus. As the neighborhood grew we were pinched in and options are limited. However, student safety is paramount.

Please remember that the north entrance (main entrance with the No Drop Off Zone sign) is not to be used for the dropping off and picking up of children at entry and dismissal times. This is a safety issue during a high traffic volume time.



LUNCH TIMES

You are always welcome to join your child for lunch! An adult lunch cost \$3.50.

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Kindergarten | 11:10-11:45 |
| 1 st Grade | 11:35-12:10 |
| 2 nd Grade | 11:15-11:50 |
| 3 rd Grade | 11:40-12:15 |
| 4 th Grade | 12:25-1:00 |
| 5 th Grade | 12:00-12:35 |



News from the Library

By Mrs. Caskey

Parents, did you know you can use the library at Poly Drive too?

Visit bit.ly/polydlib and scroll to the bottom. Fill out the short form. I will email you with your library number.

You can then visit the library and check out books. You can also use your library number to check out books from our digital library!

Visit bit.ly/bpselibinstruct for directions on using the BPS digital library.

Wowsa! Look for the bright green Poly Connection PTA Newsletter in next week's Wed. Watch



Join the PTA Today Online


- ◆ Scan the QR code below or via PTA website or Facebook page
- ◆ Use the myschoolanywhere app for directory & volunteer sign up

Join by Sept. 30 and be entered in our FABULOUS PRIZE RAFFLE

Let's stay connected! Find us on:

 facebook.com/polydrivepta



 text @polypta to 81010

www.polydrivepta.com

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!



*The Billings Traffic Department has been in contact with me and there will be a crosswalk installed on Colton and 24th Street. We were not given a time line but it has been prioritized so we are hoping it comes in before fall.



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.

After-school conversations between parents and children can be short and sweet and sometimes it can even sound like this: Parent: “How was your day? Student: “Fine.” Parent: “What did you do?” Student: “Nothing.” Does this sound familiar? In this month’s copy of *Home & School Connection*, I found a helpful article with tips and strategies towards having meaningful two-way conversations with your child.

“Let’s see what you brought home.” Looking at completed work to find out what your child is learning and how they are doing. If you find forms or letters that require your signature, please do so and put them back in their folder to return to school ASAP.

“Show me what you have for homework.” Be sure to ask your child to explain the assignment to you so that you are sure that they understand the homework. After your child is finished, take a moment and glance over the work to see that it is complete.

“Tell me what you learned that you would like to know more about.” Your child’s answer can give you a jumping off place for exploring learning together.

Here are a few more ideas to help your child recall his/her day.

- “What’s the coolest thing that happened? What wasn’t so cool?”
- “Pretend you’re the teacher. How would you describe the day?”
- “What made you laugh?”
- “What was the most creative thing you did?”
- “How were you kind or helpful today? Was anyone kind or helpful to you?”