

The ***Polar Bear Express***

September 2018

“Poly Drives Students
to Succeed”



Poly Drive Elementary School

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Dear Poly Drive Families,

Welcome back to a new school year. I am so excited to kick off the 2018-2019 school year. The Poly Drive community has been so welcoming. I am looking forward to meeting all of you. This is my 32nd year working in Billings Public Schools. I even had a few Poly parents in my classroom when I taught at Alkali Creek Elementary. I really feel old. I have been a principal for the last 13 years. I am a Billings native. I attended McKinley, Lincoln and Senior High School.

The coming school year promises to be full of new learning, fun activities and challenges for all of us at Poly Drive. In addition to classroom activities, we will have various after school clubs for students to be involved in. Watch for information on clubs in the next few newsletters.

All schools in Billings Public Schools will be focusing on improving student attendance. Did you know that students who miss 10% of the school year can fall behind academically? That is only 18 days a year, a few days a month. We know that students will miss some days due to illnesses and/or family emergencies. One of the most critical factors on student graduation and academic success is regular attendance for our students. It is important for students at all levels be in school. Please help your child be at school and on time during the 2018-2019 school year.

In addition to improving attendance, it will be important for educators and parents to work together as a team to help our students achieve at high levels. You will find that there are many opportunities for involvement at Poly Drive Elementary. You can take an active part in our PTA, volunteer to work in a classroom, or in our library. We look forward to having you involved in your child's education.

Thank you for all of your support and I look forward to a fantastic school year. See you at our open house on September 6th.

Mrs. Wolverton



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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.



Coming to Pioneer Park on September 22nd, it's Saturday Live! Join us to celebrate the biggest carnival in the West! The fun begins at 10am and lasts throughout the day until 4pm. We have old-fashioned carnival games, non-stop live entertainment, and delicious food. Start your day at Daylis Stadium for the Saturday Live 2 Mile Fun Run/Walk at 9:00 am. Same day registration begins at 7:30 am 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!

Live entertainment will happen on the main stage all day. Zoo Montana will showcase some animal friends on stage at 11:30 am. At 12:30 pm students from Senior, Skyview and West dig into pie in the annual pie eating contest. It will be messy, fast, and fun! Rounding out the day at 3pm will be the best kid's rock band in Billings, The ABC Band! Join us to dance in the grass.

The fun never stops with over 70 carnival booths throughout the park. Tickets for Saturday Live will be on sale at each elementary school prior to Saturday

Live. This year, pre-event tickets will sell at a special price of 10 for \$4. You can also purchase tickets at the event for \$.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



SCHOOL CALENDAR

September

3 No School, Labor Day
 6 Open House, 6:00-7:30
 11 PTA meeting, 3:15
 28 School Picture Day

October

18-19 No School, PIR Days



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. 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. 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 a licensed 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 Lorrie Wolverton
 Thank you for understanding.

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 Aug 31 – Sept. 14th. You can purchase them through any Poly Drive 5th grader or at Open House. Make checks payable to Poly Dr. School. Proceeds go to funding the 5th grade field trip in the spring.

MUSIC NOTES

By Mrs. Langeliers

Calling all 4th and 5th graders! Select Choir will begin Tuesday, October 2nd at 7:45 am in the library. Rehearsals will continue each Tuesday, throughout the school year. We will

have several performances and go on a small choir tour at the end of the year.

Would you like to be a music volunteer this year? Mrs. Langeliers would love to have volunteers during classes to support lessons, showcase musicianship, help with concerts and maintain and organize equipment. Please contact me:
langeliersa@billingsschools.org

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.



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	12:20-12:55
5 th Grade	12:00-12:35



News from the Library

By Mrs. Caskey

The library will be having an Usborne book fair during open house! Your child will get a sneak peak of all the books during the day and then you can shop from 3:30-7:30. A portion of the sales goes toward new books for the library and classrooms.

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

Visit bit.ly/polydlib and scroll to the very bottom of the page. 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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Hey parents, I would love to have a few more volunteers! If you are interested, you can visit with me or send me an email. I can give you the information you need to sign up.



Welcome back for another fun and exciting school year! The PEAK program is offered again this year for grades 3rd – 5th. Please keep in mind 3rd graders must go home at 2:20 and may return at 3:05. PEAK gives students a fun, safe place to improve their cardiovascular fitness, muscle strength and endurance.

This year's PEAK schedule is as follows:

Monday – 3:05-3:45

Wednesday 7:45-8:20

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 8:10 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 8:10, 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!

