

# The *Polar Bear Express*

September 2019

“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 2019-2020 school year. We have a few new faces this year at Poly. Mrs. Kimmel is teaching kindergarten. She has taught in Billings for 31 years. Mrs. Synan is teaching 4th grade. She has taught in Wyoming for the last 12 years. Megan Jones is our learning center teacher. She has taught in Billings for 6 years. Mr. Oriet is our art teacher. This is his first year teaching in Billings. Our kindergarten teacher, Miss Swigert is now Mrs. Anderson. We also have a few teachers that switched grade levels: Mrs. Walker 1st grade, Mr. Asleson 2nd grade, Mrs. Wilcox 3rd grade, Mrs. Delcamp  $\frac{3}{4}$ , Mrs. Whittmeyer 5th grade, Mrs. Scheppele 5th grade.

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.

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. Volunteers that are working in the classroom/school will need to complete a background check before being able to work with students. Volunteer background checks are required every two years. We look forward to having you involved in your child's education.

All schools in Billings Public Schools will be focusing on school safety. Last spring and this summer, all staff received the first phase of training from the Billings Police Department on armed intruder training. In October, our staff will be receiving the second phase of the training specific to our building with the Billings Police Department.

The safety of all at Poly is extremely important to me. All visitors coming to Poly will need to sign in at the office. We also want to make sure that instruction time is not interrupted. Visitors going to the classroom need to have an educational purpose. Forgotten shoes, books, lunches, birthday treats, etc. will be left at the office and delivered by a staff member.

Thank you for helping us make our school a better place for students. I look forward to a fantastic school year. See you at our student-led open house on September 5th.

Mrs. Wolverton



## **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.



## **Open House September 5 6:00-7:00**

Please stop by the school with your child/children between 6:00-7:00 on Thursday evening for our student-led open house. Students will be showing & telling parents about special things in their classrooms.

Kona Ice will have their truck set up in the front parking lot. They will have shaved ice treats available for purchase during the evening ( 9oz for \$2, 12oz for \$3, 16oz for \$4.) Part of the proceeds will be given back to the school.



## **LUNCH TIMES**

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

Kindergarten	11:00-11:35
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	11:30-12:05
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	11:15-11:50
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	12:00-12:05
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12:10-12:55
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11:45-12:20



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.

### **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**

- 2 No School, Labor Day
- 5 Open House, 6:00-7:00
- 10 PTA meeting, 3:15
- 13 School Picture Day

### **October**

- 17-18 No School, PIR Days



## 5<sup>th</sup> GRADE COUPON BOOK SALE

The 5<sup>th</sup> 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 30 – Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>. You can purchase them through any Poly Drive 5<sup>th</sup> grader or at Open House. Make checks payable to Poly Dr. School. Proceeds go to funding the 5<sup>th</sup> grade field trip in the spring.



### 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.



### News from the Library

By Mrs. Caskey

Parents, did you know you can use the library at Poly Drive too? Visit [bit.ly/polydlib](http://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](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>. Please keep in mind 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 – 7:45-8:15  
Tuesday – 3:05-3:35  
Friday 7:45-8:15