



The Polar Bear

Poly Drive Elementary School
2410 Poly Drive Billings, MT 59101

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

September, 2021

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Thank you to the entire Poly Drive School community for a wonderful start to the year! Our students are learning their classroom and school-wide procedures, and we are striving to make this the best year yet for each student's educational experience.

NO SCHOOL: September 6
Picture Day: September 10
PTA Meeting: September 14 @3:15

We're Going Back To School



WELCOME NEW STAFF

For the 2021-2021 school year, we welcome the following new staff members to Poly Elementary School:

- Linda Frey- 3rd Grade
- Josh Monson- 4th Grade
- Haylee Koon- Music
- Brittany Kolbe- Art

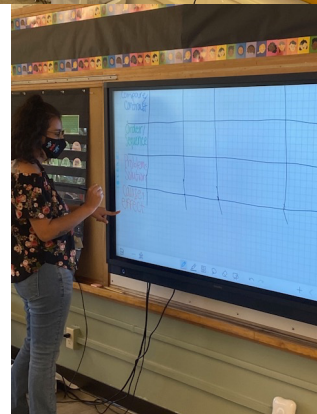
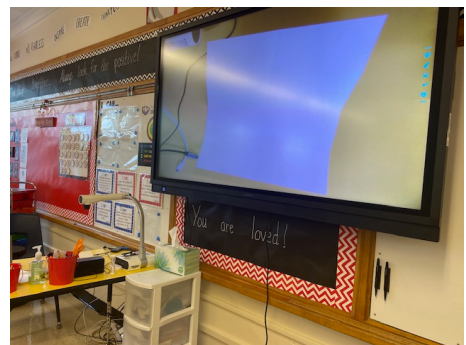
JOIN OUR PTA

We would love to have you join us in supporting 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.

Due cans 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.



Interactive Boards provided by PTA

**The next PTA general membership meeting is
Tuesday, September 14 @ 3:15 pm
(playground shelter or Zoom)**

. **Zoom** links to join will come out separately and be posted on the Poly PTA Facebook site.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact:

*Poly Drive PTA at polypta@billingssschools.org



Special Thanks to Roots for providing the beautiful flowers and pots!

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL TIMES

Please note our school hours.

- School starts/tardy bell at 8:20 AM.
- Students can arrive at school anytime after 8:05 and go to their classroom entering through the main front door entrance
- Kindergarten-3rd Grade are dismissed at 2:20 PM.
- 4th-5th Grade are dismissed at 3:05 PM.
- On Wednesdays students get out an hour early. K-3rd Grade are dismissed at 1:20PM 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.

PAX IN CLASSROOMS

Wondering what PAX is? This year, our school is implementing the PAX Good Behavior Game to teach students self regulation and social cooperation. These skills will help your child for their lifetime as they move through school and enter the workforce. The PAX Good Behavior Game is the culmination of more than thirty years of scientific study and has been shown to reduce classroom disruptions and aggression and increase academic achievement and graduation rates. There is also evidence that students who play the PAX Game are less likely to develop mental illness or use alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs later in life.

The PAX Good Behavior game is a set of strategies called **Kernels** that help teachers manage classroom behavior by teaching students how to self-regulate and "do the right thing" regardless of who is watching. The Kernels are woven into instruction and taught throughout the school day.

Once the children are able to self-regulate and show "PAX behaviors" they are placed on teams chosen by the teacher. About three times per day, the teacher sets a timer. While the timer is ticking, the teacher will conduct the class just like normal. If a child does something that gets in the way of the vision of the "wonderful school," then the child's team gets a foul—which the children call a "Spleem." When the timer rings, teacher counts up the number of Spleems. If a team has three or fewer Spleems, it wins the game and all teams can win. Simple prizes are awarded to each winning team.

The PAX Game helps children exercise the portion of the brain that controls impulsivity. During the game, the children learn to support one another rather than make fun of each other. All of this helps to reduce inattention and disruptions, which, in turn, enhances learning.

Last month we worked on the Kernels called **PAX Vision** and **PAX Quiet**. PAX Vision is a collaborative process between teachers and students. Students and teachers define what they would hear, see, feel, and do more and less of to create the most wonderful classroom. Behaviors that we want to see less of are called Spleems. We learn that everyone “spleems” so it is important to learn how to fix it and move on. Using the PAX vision strengthens your child’s ability to self-monitor and avoid errors in behavior.

With PAX Quiet we learn to stop and listen to the teacher when they hear the harmonica. It teaches students how to fluently use their “brake pedal” to stop and listen when their teacher has something important to say.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

MANNERS

Every week each classroom focuses on a weekly manner. These manners not only make our school a better place to be and learn but helps our students be better in the community in which they live. Talk to your child about our weekly manners.

is it BULLYING?

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.

STOP
BULLYING
STAND UP. SPEAK OUT.

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.