



# THE POLO R-VII SCHOOL DISTRICT PANTHER PRIDE

February 2008

Volume 3, Issue 5

## Important February Dates

- Feb. 1  
5th-8th Grade Spelling Bee - 1:25 p.m.  
Music Booster Meeting - 5:00 p.m.  
Parent After Prom Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 2  
Polo Youth Wrestling Tournament
- Feb. 4  
Normal Start - 8:30 a.m.
- Feb. 5  
Varsity BB vs. Stanberry - 6:00 p.m.  
MS Academic Team @ Cameron - 4:00 p.m.
- Feb. 7  
Great American Time for Kids Assembly for  
K-6th Grade - 8:30 a.m.
- Feb. 8  
Varsity BB @ Worth County - 6:00 p.m.  
Varsity Wrestling District Tournament @  
Wentworth Military Academy
- Feb. 9  
Varsity Wrestling District Tournament @  
Wentworth Military Academy
- Feb. 11-15  
FBLA and FCCLA Week
- Feb. 12  
Varsity BB @ King City - 6:00 p.m.  
MS Academic Team vs. Cameron - 4:00 p.m.
- Feb. 14  
Varsity State Wrestling @ Columbia
- Feb. 15  
Varsity BB vs. Maysvill - 6:00 p.m.  
Varsity State Wrestling @ Columbia
- Feb. 16  
Varsity State Wrestling @ Columbia
- Feb. 18  
No School - President's Day  
FBLA District Leadership Conference @  
Polo  
School Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- Feb. 19  
Late Start - 10:30 a.m.  
Varsity BB vs. Lathrop - 6:00 p.m.  
(Senior Night)
- Feb. 21  
County Wide Spelling Bee  
@ Breckenridge - 7:00 p.m.
- Feb. 22  
JV/Varsity BB vs. Winston - 5:00 p.m.  
(Mat/Court warming)
- Feb. 25-29  
District Basketball Tournament @ Lathrop  
PTO Book Fair

For up-to-date school related information,  
check the daily announcements on the Polo R-  
VII School District website.

<http://polo.k12.mo.us>

## Sharon Barnett Retires From Service at Polo R-VII



The Polo R-VII School District would like to recognize Sharon Barnett for her seven years of service to the district. Sharon retired from Polo R-VII on January 31, 2007. Thank you for all of your hardwork and dedication.

## School Board Candidates for April Elections

Marty Seeman      Greg Misel  
Ralph Zeikle      Duane Snodgrass

These gentlemen have filed to run for the Polo R-VII School Board. Information and biographies will be in the March Issue of the Panther Pride.

## From the Desk of the Elementary Principal

by Beverly Deis

Elementary  
Principal

This winter weather is so unpredictable, and it is living up to that Missouri reputation! With the rain, ice, snow, and cold temperatures, we never know what to expect. I commend the parents who make sure their child(ren) dress appropriately for the school day.

Polo Elementary has been having a parent MAP Night for several years. This year as we host MAP Night, there will be a few differences. MAP Night will be held on Thursday, March 13 for all students in grades three through six. Final plans for this activity night will be given to the parents and guardians of these students. As always, this is a great opportunity for parents and guardians to have a "hands on" experience with MAP. Our next "Mock MAP Day" will be on March 20 for K-11 students. On this day students are given practice tests similar to the MAP tests.

The first few weeks in February, the elementary students will be asking parents and guardians to fill in the "address booklets" for the school. Your participation with this helps our school receive items for elementary including the resource "Time for Kids" for all K-6 students.

The PTO will be having a Book Fair the week of February 25. The theme for the book fair is "Reading Road Trip."

Other upcoming dates include:

- Feb. 14 – Valentine's Day parties for PK-4
- Feb. 15 – Randy Nadler Assembly on China for K-6
- Feb. 27 – Spring Individual and Group Pictures for PK-6
- March 13 – Kick Off Fund-Raiser for the Elementary K-6

Also, remember to mark your calendars for the upcoming spring MAP tests on April 1 through April 17. These tests are just one way our students show "Panther Pride in Performance."

INFO

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## One Night 2008

by **Ashley Strickbine**

|Staff Writer

On New Years Eve, twenty-three Polo High students got on a bus and traveled to the Ambassador Building near the Kansas City International Airport. The Rock of KC, located in the Ambassador Building, held its first annual New Years Eve Bash called One Night: 2007. At One Night they had a mechanical bull, Sumo Suit wrestling, pedestal jousting, a photo shoot, Halo 3 Competitions, Guitar Hero Competitions, a fully loaded café, Hip Hop Dance Off, two live bands and loads of t-shirts.

"Guitar Hero was really awesome, and no one could beat me at it!" said Keith Hill.

At One Night there were approximately four-hundred and thirty guests from all over the Kansas City area!! There were twelve churches, students from Polo High, a group from Teen Challenge, and others who heard about it through Facebook, radio and television promotions. There were two live bands! The band, 'The Turning' traveled all the way from Nashville, Tennessee.

"They were awesome!" exclaimed Senior Saren Thomas.

To find out more about 'The Turning', go to <http://www.myspace.com/theTurning>. Following 'The Turning,' the Rock of KC's worship band, 'Varsity' played until the count-down began. At the stroke of midnight, over one thousand balloons fell from the ceiling! Some of the balloons contained numbers for prizes. One Night gave away \$1,200 worth of prizes, including two Nintendo Wii's, and gift cards to places such as Best Buy, iTunes, area restaurants and

clothing stores.

The twenty-three students would like to thank Gary the bus driver, for driving so late at night. Also, they would like to thank Mr. G for arranging transportation. For more information about future events see Mr. G and <http://www.varsitykc.com>.



Above: Sophomore Lance Snodgrass getting ready to Sumo Wrestle!

"It was very hard to move and it was really fun," Lance Snodgrass said. "I am definitely planning on going next year!!"



Above: Sophomore Keith Hill tries to hold on while riding the mechanical bull!!

Later he tells us that, "It was much harder than it looks!"

## Leap Year

by **Emily Powers**

|Staff Writer

This year February will be slightly longer than usual. February 20<sup>th</sup> will be on all 2008 calendars to mark the leap year. Leap years hop around every four years and you can tell if the year will be a leap year if the year is divisible by 4. Leap years are necessary so that the calendar is in alignment with the earth's motion around sun making 366 days in a year instead of the normal 365. Leap years carry a lot of myths and different stigmas. It was once said that on a leap day also called Sadie Hawkins Day women could propose to men and that was acceptable. At one point

in Scotland it was against the law for a man to turn down a proposal on February 29<sup>th</sup>. If they turned down the woman who made the proposal they could be fined a large amount of money. There is also a Greek superstition that states that couples have bad luck if they are married on a leap year. Apparently one in five engaged couples in Greece will prolong their marriage to avoid a leap year. In Scotland if you were born on leap day it was considered that you were unlucky as well. Although leap year seems very strange and unusual it has been around since 45 b.c. and was cre-

## Greenhand Motivational Conference

by **Emily Powers**

|Staff Writer

MFA Incorporated sponsored the annual Greenhand Motivational Conferences throughout Missouri January 8-10, 2008. Over 3800 first year Future Farmers of America members (Greenhands) from more than 230 Missouri high schools had the opportunity to learn about being positive role models, making good choices, becoming active team members, and making a positive difference in their schools and communities.

The Polo FFA Greenhands attended this meeting at North Central Missouri College in Trenton on January 9. Through interactive workshops and skits the State FFA Officers used "Mayberry CSI Investigative Report" as the theme to get the Greenhands motivated. State officers helped the younger aggies set goals for their education, careers, and FFA ex-

perience. Officers traveled to twelve different locations where seventeen conferences were held.

The FFA is a national youth organization with more than 500,000 members. In Missouri there are 311 chapters and more than 24,000 members. Future Farmers of America strive to make a positive difference in the lives of student by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Events like the Greenhand Motivational Conference help new FFA members get excited about FFA and see all of the excellent opportunities that are available to them.

FFA members can take these goals and skills that they have learned and become better FFA members, students, and members of society.

## What Did You Do?

by **Saren Thomas**

|Staff Writer

Christmas Break is the most looked forward to vacation, besides summer vacation of course. What do students do on their break when it's not Christmas or Christmas Eve and they're with their families? Well do determine this several students around the school where asked what they did to entertain themselves over Christmas break.

Freshman Conagher Glasgow was able to see close relatives from different parts of the country and his brother and sister.

He said "I really enjoyed being able to see my family because it had been a while since I had seen them. I also was able to spend time with my friends. My most memorable moment over break was when I went sledding with Jeff King. He was pulling me on a tire and I fell off and landed on my face. It hurt, but I only bled a little bit."

Sophomore Ashleigh Jones was a first time duck hunter this winter break. She went with her boyfriend Cody Drew and had surprisingly good time hunting. Besides hunting she saw relatives in KCK and other various parts of Missouri during the holiday season. Ashleigh enjoyed eating and having quality time with her family. When asked what she did New Year's Eve she said she went to her boyfriend's house and had a movie marathon.

Kyndra Stith a junior at Polo High School spent valuable time with her family.

She said, "Christmas morning we opened presents then got ready to go

to my aunt's house for Christmas dinner. Normally we have it at our house so it was a nice change. Because of the wintry weather, I spent most of my time inside and out of the cold. I did, however, get to go shopping with my mom which was a lot of fun."

Kylan Roark a senior said he sat around and ate a lot. He did not eat the entire time because he went on a college day at Lincoln Tech in Indianapolis. On New Years Eve Kylan stayed up and played Guitar Hero all night long with his brother.

It seems as though many students were able to spend quality time with their family. And others seem to have found painful ways to entertain themselves. Everyone might have had a different Christmas but it seems that all had a good Christmas break.

**FEBRUARY'S  
LATE START  
will be on  
February 19th  
NOT  
February 4th.**

## Inclement Weather

by **Josh Duncan**

Staff Writer

*The weather outside is frightful but the fifty degree weather is so delightful!* This winter has been cold, icy, snowy, and at times even warm. The winter started off cold and icy almost a repeat of recent years. With ice piling on roads, power lines, and houses, it looked like it was going to be a rough cold winter, but at the same time a fun one. Fun because students wouldn't have to go to school due to cancellations. Polo was out for four days after the ice storm hit. Students enjoyed the time off even though they knew they would have to make those missed days up during spring break or at the end of the school year.

Not only ice, but the area has seen quite a bit of snow with over 5 inches of snow falling during break. All of that seemed to just melt away very easily when the temperatures got above freezing. Temperatures rose up to sixty degrees over the weekend of January 4-9. The weather has been up and down. Now the temperatures have dropped back down to freezing and we just got 2 to 3 inches of snow. Those two to three inches of snow produced the biggest snowflakes; looking like dryer sheets falling from the sky! Who knows what the weather will throw at us but

whatever it does throw at us, you better be prepared. Be careful as you drive on those slick snow covered, crunchy, icy roads. Drive slowly and watch out for others, you can never be too cautious when lives are in danger.

### Winter Driving Tips

**Snow Removal**  
It's an obvious tip, but arguably the most important. If your vehicle has been covered in snow and ice while parked, spend a few extra minutes completely clearing your windows and removing snow and ice from your roof.

### Snow Tires and Rims

If you live (or will be traveling through) an area that tends to see substantial amounts of snow and ice during the winter months, you should consider getting snow tires for the season. If you can afford it, I'd recommend purchasing a dedicated snow tire and wheel package, which makes it easy to store your winter tires in the summer months and a snap to switch them in the winter when you need them.

### Check the Battery

Cold weather always places extra demands on vehicle batteries, so

regular checks of your battery are a must. There are several ways to test a battery charge level, and most auto parts stores sell car battery testers for less than \$20.

### Slow Down, Drive Smoothly

Most modern minivans are equipped with a full suite of extra safety features, from anti-lock brakes to traction control and stability control. While these features can help in a pinch, they can't take the place of driving slowly and cautiously in slippery winter weather conditions. Slowing down and driving smoothly will give you better vehicle control and more time to react to dangerous situations.

### Check and Fill Fluids

Before you take that big winter road trip, it's always a good idea to check the following vehicle fluid levels:

- motor oil
- antifreeze
- brake fluid
- power steering fluid
- washer fluid
- transmission fluid

## Got a February birthday?

So do these famous people.

by **Abbie Russell**

Staff Writer

1. Rick James ("Superfreak")
2. Shakira (pop singer)
3. Norman Rockwell (illustrator of family scenes)
4. Rosa Parks (asserted civil rights)
5. Alex Harvey (Scottish rock band leader)
6. Bob Marley (Jamaican singer)
7. Garth Brooks (country singer)
8. James Dean ("Rebel without a cause")
9. Travis Tritt (country singer)
10. Cliff Burton (Metallica base player)
11. Jennifer Aniston (actress)
12. Abraham Lincoln (US president)
13. Jerry Springer (outlandish talk show host)
14. Florence Henderson (Brady Bunch mom)
15. Chris Farley (Saturday Night Live comedian)
16. Ice-T (rapper/actor)
17. Paris Hilton (The Simple Life)
18. John Travolta (actor)
19. Seal (singer of rock and soul)
20. Kurt Cobain (leader of band Nirvana)
21. Jennifer Love Hewitt (actress)
22. George Washington (US president)
23. Dakota Fanning (young actress)
24. Abe Vigoda ("Barney Miller")
25. George Harrison (Beatles singer/guitarist)
26. Johnny Cash (country singer)
27. Josh Steinbeck (author)
28. Mario Andretti (Indy racecar driver)
29. Antonio Sabato, Jr. (male supermodel/actor)

## NIGHT ON BROADWAY - 2008

by **Andrea Kesler**

Staff Writer

Last year's Night On Broadway was sponsored by the Polo Music Boosters and the event was used as a fundraiser to support the band's Disney World trip. Musical numbers were performed by Polo students and community members from Broadway Shows including Rent, Chicago, Mama Mia, and The Phantom of the Opera. There was an impressive response with a sold out show. All of the hard worked paid off with the band profiting approximately \$3,000.

Auditions for this year's Night On Broadway were held on December 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>. There are about twenty-five soloists and duets that

are working for this years performance. Practices are being held on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m. The songs in this year's production are from the musicals Wicked and Hairspray.

Senior and second year soloist Amber Endsley said, "Last year was a big success and with the support of the community this year will be even better."

This year's Night On Broadway was a must because of the great turn out of last year's. Performances will be on Saturday, March 8 at 5:00 p.m. and a matinee on Sunday March 9 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets for the show are \$8.00. Like last year, there will also

be a catered dinner available. A combo packet including two tickets for the dinner and show are \$25.

Producer of this play and band teacher Mrs. Limyao said, "I'm really excited for the show this year. From what I've seen and heard, this show will be a night to remember. There are some truly talented people in this community!! I hope everyone will come out to see it."

Order forms for tickets can be found at <http://polo.k12.mo.us>

## Chill Out

by **Andres Kesler**

Staff Writer

This time of the year is very stressful. Stress can negatively affect a person mentally and physically. To help with those stress problems here are some helpful tips to help you relax.

1. Take a warm bath with relaxing music, candles, and your favorite drink such as hot chocolate or sparkling grape juice.
2. Leave time in your busy schedule to do something you enjoy or brings you joy everyday.
3. Limit your to-do list, figure

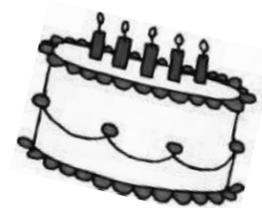
out the things you "should" do and the things you "must" do. Drop tasks that are not necessary.

4. Watch your favorite comedy. Keep your sense of humor and don't forget to laugh.
5. Sit around and read a good book.
6. Get a massage.
7. Try to take the tension out with exercise or yoga.
8. Have a good friend that will listen. It's not good to keep your emotion built up inside of

you don't be afraid to share your problems with a good friend.

9. Play with your pets.
10. Find a hobby.

Don't let your busy schedule get to stressful. Stress can affect your health and your life. Don't be afraid to take some time out for yourself. Use some of these tips to relax.



Polo Elementary  
2nd Quarter  
Perfect Attendance

**KINDERGARTEN**

Brendon Arthur  
Laney Durbin  
Dylan Frazier  
Alex Pilger  
Andria Richardson  
Ayrika Ross  
Wyatt Segar  
Tony Webster

**FIRST GRADE**

Madison Baughman  
Mitchell Berndt  
Mercedes McNab  
Nickolas Myers  
Jr. Ramirez  
Jared Robison  
Taylor Wagner

**SECOND GRADE**

John Bost  
Hailey Boyle  
Haley Clapper  
Dalton Frazier  
Julianne Hurd  
Teagan Logan  
Seth Teegarden  
Hunter Thompson  
Tim Webster

**THIRD GRADE**

Tyler Chapman  
Wolfgang Clapper  
Joely Hicks  
Zackery Phillips  
Taylor Rash  
Shelby Stump

**FOURTH GRADE**

Danielle Beaufeaux  
Logan Bowley  
Cheyanne Dye  
Aerial Eggers  
Emily Fickess  
Brandon Hubbard  
Jenna Johnson  
Cheyenne Parker  
Matthew Tarwaters  
Alissa Wood

**FIFTH GRADE**

Jessica Barnes  
Madison Curp  
James Endsley  
Jacob Hicks  
Andrew Holland  
Tristan Rardon  
Allisha Ross  
Adriana Segar  
Charles Tarwaters  
Taylor Thompson  
Aimee Walker  
Sean Winget

**SIXTH GRADE**

Kylee Eaglen  
Tyler Feil  
Tyler James  
Jonathan Shelton  
Houston Stone

Polo 5th and 6th Grade  
2nd Quarter  
Honor Roll

**5<sup>th</sup> GRADE**

~A~  
Jessica Barnes  
Cati Boruch  
Jessica Conner  
Madison Curp  
Tristan Rardon  
Jacob Hicks  
Brandon Latimer  
Mason Misel  
Aimee Walker

~B~

Andrew Holland  
Allisha Ross  
Lexie White  
Sidney Copeland  
Skylar Howe  
Adriana Segar  
Trystan Sunby

**6<sup>th</sup> GRADE**

~A~  
Megan Henry  
Alex Johnson

~B~

Jackson Pile  
Megan Rood  
Houston Stone  
Logan Stump  
Loren Wagner

## Annual Panther Card Trip

by **Kelsi Pile**

|Staff Writer

Every semester the Polo Student Council puts on a special trip for certain students grades 7-12. The students that are able to attend the field trip have to meet the following qualifications: have two or less excused absences, no office referrals, and at least a 3.0 GPA. For the first semester of this school year the student council provided a trip to Cameron, where the students got to skate and play in the arcade at Sharky's Skate Center. After working up an appetite at the skating rink, students had the option of either eating at Burger King, or Taco Bell/KFC. After lunch the students went to Crossroads Cinema where they all relaxed and enjoyed watching National Treasure: Book of Secrets.

"My favorite part of the trip was getting to watch the movie and eat popcorn," Said Junior Brooke Byrd.

The student council paid for everything but lunch, snacks, and extra money for rollerblades, in-

by **Emily Powers**

|Staff Writer

## FFA Fruit Sales

This year's fruit sales started off with a bang and ended very successful. This year FFA officers did an evaluation of the suppliers and came up with a nice variety that worked for almost everybody's wants. The officers decided to change the fruit and cookie dough companies, added a summer sausage and cheese brochure, and kept the meat brochure. The FFA wanted to have some variety but also to be able to maintain the reputation of providing fruit from farmers that tastes good and stays fresh. The overall response to the new product was fantastic and most people seemed satisfied with their purchase.

FFA members did an excellent job selling fruit and putting in the

extra effort for their chapter. The fruit sale is basically the only fundraiser that the FFA uses to sponsor trips such as National Convention, contests, our annual winter activity, and other events. The top five sellers in order were Emily Powers, Brandon Hurd, Logan Dixon, Madison Misel, and Dillon Hufford. This year Emily Powers also broke the school record for the most fruit sold. The former record holder is high school principal Jason Snodgrass.

The FFA would like to thank everyone who purchased fruit for helping to support our great organization. This is what helps keep our chapter active in the area and provides excellent opportunities for members.

## BUSINESS BYTES

*Fall in Love With Your Resume*

by **Lindsey Frerking**

|Business Teacher

Developing a resume can be a very intimidating task for many job seekers. To relieve some of that anxiety, I have collaborated 5 useful tips to take into consideration when creating a professional resume.

**1) Layout**

When your resume hits your potential employer's hands, it has about 15 seconds to say, "Don't throw me away." Avoid using a resume template to plug in your information. Templates are dull and too basic. Use bold and italic features to emphasize key points. Also justify your text as opposed to left alignment. It will even out the look of your resume and leave you with clean edges. When you are ready to print your document, take the time to purchase a professional, plain resume paper. A ream of resume paper can be purchased at Wal-Mart or any office supply store for about \$9.99.

**2) Font**

Though it is important to use your creativity when creating your resume, make sure that you use fonts that are easy to read and professional. Times New Roman and Arial are some of the best fonts for a resume. Fun and crazy fonts should be left for invitations and personal stationary. Resumes are not the place to experiment with coloring. Print resumes using black ink. Check your ink cartridge before printing to ensure a high quality document.

**3) Wording**

Sometimes the hardest thing about writing a resume is how to word your experiences and qualities. Never use the word "I". Your name is on the top of the resume so they know this document is all about you. Also, employers do not want to take the time to read a novel when reviewing your resume. Use sound bites and strong action verbs to describe your qualifications. For example: Processed customer deposits and loan transac-

tions in an efficient manner while maintaining attention to detail. This sounds much better than simply stating, I worked at a bank. Another important aspect regarding the wording of your resume would be to stay consistent. If you write a date as 2/1/2008 at the beginning of your resume, do not write a date as 2-1-08 in another location.

**4) Appropriate Information**

When compiling information for your resume, make a list of all your employment experiences, skills, activities, etc. Once all information is gathered, highlight what is relevant to the job for which you are applying. If you won the county spelling bee in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, it is probably not going to be relevant for a job you are trying to obtain at the age of 35. Also, it is important for a majority of employers that you list an email address with the rest of your contact information. Be aware of what you have created for your email address. Hottamales@hotmail.com is probably not as professional as firstname.lastname@hotmail.com.

**5) Spell Check**

One of the most common reasons an employer will throw out a resume is due to misspellings. Microsoft provided us a helpful tool when they created Spell Checker, but it is not enough. It is not going to catch that you spelled two instead of too. Read over your resume carefully. Have a family member or friend look at the document to see if you missed anything.

For more information regarding resumes, visit

<http://careers.msn.com/>

## Groundhog Day

by Saren Thomas

Staff Writer

The origin of Groundhog Day came from Candlemas an old European tradition. When German settlers arrived in the 1700's they brought with them a tradition called Candlemas. They would celebrate this during the midpoint of Winter Solstice and Spring Equinox. The superstition was that if the weather was in good and fair conditions that there would be a stormy and cold rest of the winter. Over the years it had changed somewhat to the groundhog deciding the weather.

Another Custom in Europe for Candlemas Day was to bless candles and provide them to people in the dark winter. The American

tradition for Groundhog Day is if an animal were to cast a shadow on Candlemas Day that there would be six more weeks of winter. In Pennsylvania the groundhog was chosen as the animal to cast the shadow instead of the badger because the groundhog wakes in mid hibernation. It was officially declared Groundhog's Day in Pennsylvania Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> 1886 by the press with a proclamation in *The Punxsutawney Spirit* by the news paper's editor.

Well this year we can only hope that the groundhog will not see his shadow for it hasn't been too horrible of a winter, but many wish for spring to come.

## VALENTINE'S DAY

by Ashley Strickbine

Staff Writer

This month's big holiday is Valentine's Day on February 14. In elementary school, children enjoy Valentine's Day card exchanges, sweets, parties and gift exchanges with their friends. In high school, the Valentine's Day parties are gone. It is still suggested to show your friends and significant others that you love them. Popular Valentine's Day gifts include cards, flowers and candies. But, material gifts are not the only way to give. You could plan a group date, arrange a special dinner or make homemade valentines and cookies for your special someone.

Valentine's Day is also referred to as Saint Valentine's Day. This is because Valentine's Day is a saint's day commemorating Saint Valentine on February 14th. It has been a tradition that people use this day to express their love for others. Throughout history people have expressed their love through sending Valentine's Day cards, presenting flowers, gifting candy and even donating to charities.

Valentine's Day received its name from two male, Christian martyrs both named Valentine.

The United States Greeting Card Association estimates that approximately one billion valentine's are sent each year worldwide. This makes the holiday the second largest greeting card holiday after Christmas. The Association also estimates that women purchase approximately eighty-five percent of all valentines.

The colors of Valentine's Day are pink, red and white.

About 3% of pet owners will give Valentine's Day gifts to their

pets.

Valentine's Day and Mother's Day are the biggest holidays for giving flowers.

Worldwide, over 50 million roses are given for Valentine's Day each year.

73% of people who buy flowers for Valentine's Day are men, while only 27 percent are women.

Men buy most of the millions of boxes of candy and bouquets of flowers given on Valentine's Day.

In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their valentines would be. They would wear these names on their sleeves for one week. To wear your heart on your sleeve now means that it is easy for other people to know how you are feeling.

The Italian city of Verona, where Shakespeare's lovers Romeo and Juliet lived, receives about 1,000 letters addressed to Juliet every Valentine's Day.

Richard Cadbury invented the first Valentines Day candy box in the late 1800s.

The oldest surviving love poem till date is written in a clay tablet from the times of the Sumerians, inventors of writing, around 3500 B.C

Amongst the earliest Valentine's Day gifts were candies. The most common were chocolates in heart shaped boxes.

In Medieval times, girls ate unusual foods on St Valentine's Day to make them dream of their future husband.

Want to send your Valentine from Loveland USA? It's a real city in Colorado that will re-mail

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

by Ashley Strickbine

Staff Writer

February is Black History Month. Black History Month was created to recall and celebrate the positive contributions to our nation made by men and women of African decent. Black History Month can also be referred to as African-American History Month, or African Heritage Month. The first Black History Celebration occurred on February 12, 1926. At first it was celebrated almost exclusively by African Americans, taking place outside of the view of the wider society. Increasingly, however, mayors and governors, especially in the North, began endorsing Black History Month and promoting interracial harmony.

In America, there are approximately 39.7 million African American residents, as of July of 2005. This makes up 13.4 percent of the total United States population. There are 9.1 million African American families in the United States.

African Americans have assisted in creating the history of America. Famous African Americans activists include Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks,

Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth. Famous Artists and writers include Maya Angelou and Langston Hughes. Famous African American athletes include Muhammad Ali, Michael Jordan, Jackie Robinson, Wilma Rudolph, and Tiger Woods. Famous African American entertainers include Bill Cosby, Sammy Davis Jr., Whoopi Goldberg, Denzel Washington and Oprah Winfrey. Famous legal and political figures include Jesse Jackson and Colin L. Powell. Famous African American musicians and performers include Louis Armstrong, Ray Charles, Nat King Cole, Miles Davis, Marvin Gaye, Jimi Hendrix, Billie Holiday, Smokey Robinson and Stevie Wonder. Famous African American scientists include George Washington & Booker T. Washington.

"Our nation is a rainbow—red, yellow, brown, black, and white—and we're all precious in God's sight." —Jesse Jackson, African American Political Leader, (1941-).

"I can accept failure. Everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying." —Michael Jordan, Professional Athlete.

## February History

by Joan Ahart

Staff Writer

February is the second month of the year. February is the shortest month with less than 30 days. February was named after the Latin term *februum*, which means purification. January and February were the last two months to be added to the Roman calendar, since the Romans originally considered winter a month-less period. February is 'Black History Month' and is known as the lover's month, because of the infamous holiday Valentine's Day.

Some exciting things that happen in the month of February are; Ground Hog Day, Super Bowl XXXII, NBA All-Star Game, Daytona 500, Westminster Dog Show, The FBLA districts occurs on President's Day, and Mardi gras doesn't end until March 9<sup>th</sup>. Some important days in February are; Abraham Lincoln's birthday on February 12, St. Valentine's Day on February 14, and Presidents day on the third Monday.



## MEET THE POLO CHEERLEADERS



**NAME:** Andrea Kesler  
**GRADE:** 12  
**YEARS CHEERING:**  
 2 years Football and 4 years Basketball  
**WHY DO YOU LIKE CHEERLEADING:**  
 "I like challenges like learning new stunts and it is tons of fun getting to cheer with the other girls."



**NAME:** Kyndra Stith  
**GRADE:** 11  
**YEARS CHEERING:**  
 3 years Basketball and 1 year Football  
**WHY DO YOU LIKE CHEERLEADING:**  
 "You get in all the games free and I like being a flyer in stunts."



**NAME:** Kaitlyn Taylor  
**GRADE:** 11  
**YEARS CHEERING:**  
 3 years Basketball  
**WHY DO YOU LIKE CHEERLEADING:**  
 "Its fun and I like being with my friends."



**NAME:** Haley Hurd  
**YEARS CHEERING:**  
 2 years Basketball and 2 years Football  
**WHY DO YOU LIKE CHEERLEADING:**  
 "I really like stunting and doing pep rallies."

## Annual Polo High School Youth Cheer Clinic

by Andrea Kesler

|Staff Writer

The Polo cheerleaders are holding another Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade cheer clinic. The four cheerleaders involved in this are senior Andrea Kesler, Juniors Kyndra Stith and Kaitlyn Taylor, and Sophomore Haley Hurd. The cheerleaders will be teaching the participants two cheers and one dance. The cheerleaders have decided to split the grades up this

year in order to give the older girls a more challenging routine to learn. Andrea Kesler and Kyndra Stith will be teaching the kindergarten through second grade a dance to the Hanna Montana theme song. Haley Hurd and Kaitlyn Taylor will be teaching the advanced routine to the third through sixth grades.

Cheer clinic participants will perform their dances on February 5. Kindergarten through second grade will be performing before the girls game starting at 6:00 p.m. and the third through sixth grade will perform during half time of the girls' game.

**Court/  
 Matwarming  
 Friday,  
 February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Polo Grapplers  
Bring Home  
Gold

by Mitch Huntley

|Staff Writer

On January 4<sup>th</sup> Polo's wrestling team traveled to the Rock Port Inn to prepare for the next day's battle at the Rock Port Tournament. When Saturday morning arrived, the wrestlers got up at 6:45 a.m. and geared up for the long grueling day. After twelve long hours or stiff competition, the team came out on top.

Every Polo wrestler brought back some hardware with four firsts by Dean Manning, Mitch Huntley, Hollis Fee, and Lathan Dixon. Four second place metals were won by Tyler Scobee, Charlie Boruch, James Taylor, and George Childs. Lance Snodgrass place third and two fourth place medals went to Logan Dixon and Austin Okorn.

In the end, the team won another tournament title at the Rock Port Tournament for the second of the year. It came down to the very end in points but the team ended up winning over Stanberry 224-207.

"That's the way I see it"

## Basketball

by Joan Ahart

|Staff Writer

The Polo Basketball teams have been hard at work over the Christmas Holiday. While the other students were enjoying a TV show or a nice day-off the boys and girls involved basketball have been running up and down the court practicing defense and offence. Before the New Year the boys and girls traveled to Trenton to compete in the North Central Missouri College Holiday Shoot-Out. This was great practice for them to get in before the year 2008.

The Polo Lady Panthers are ready to start out the year 2008. On January 3 the Polo Panthers played the Pattonsburg Panthers. The girls had their first win of the season and of 2008. This was an exciting game for all in attendance. Three freshmen were able to step up and take starting positions on the team that night. All of the girls played extremely hard and aggressive to over compensate for the absence of starting point guard, Kelsi Pile. Pile was out that night with the flue. The girls ended up having a great game, winning 37-27.

The Boys Varsity basketball team had a victory against the Pattonsburg Panthers on January 3 winning 70-41. It was an electrifying display of basketball skills. Good luck to the Polo Basketball teams as they continue the rest of their season.

## What's Your Favorite Sport?



**Senior Kim Webb** said, "Volleyball is wonderful."



**Junior Mitch Huntley** said, "UFC is by far the greatest sport known to man, because the athletes are the most elite in mental and physical tough-



**Sophomore A.J. Wells** said, "Football by far is the best sport and my favorite."



**Freshman Nikki Junco** says, "My all-time favorite sport is softball, but basketball is a close second."

# MEET THE WINTER PANTHERS



## Varsity Boys' Basketball

Front Row: Managers Joan Ahart, Kim Webb, and Karlie Schafer. Second Row: Josh Duncan, Bradley Blair, Josh Junco, Art Oswald, Dalton Rardon, Ricky Armstrong, and Cody Drew. Back Row: Coach Greg Keith, Blake Mitchell, Mark Gray, Ryan Barnes, CJ Ake, Spencer Snodgrass, and Coach Kevin Webster.

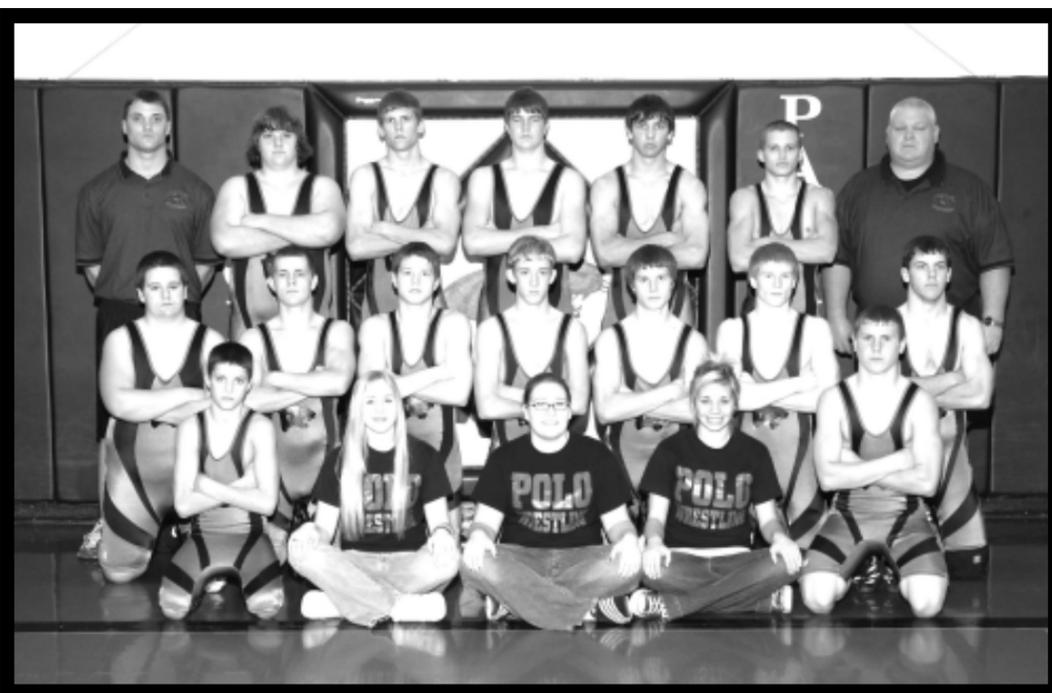
## Varsity Girls' Basketball

Front Row: Manager Michelle Templeon, Ashleigh Jones, Madison Misel, Katelyn Sanders, Alex Templeton, Courtney Arthur, Nikki Junco, and Manager Alyssia Scobee. Second Row: Coach Heath Harper, Kelsi Pile, Courtney Cawthon, Emma Hindman, Tiffney Hufford, Megan Snodgrass, and Coach Ryan Horn.



## Varsity Wrestling

Front Row: James Taylor, Managers Samantha Uehling, Brittney McGinley, and Alyssa LaMarr, and Logan Dixon. Second Row: Jeff King, Austin Bolling, Conagher Glasgow, George Childs, Austin Okorn, Tyler Scobee, and Lance Snodgrass. Back Row: Coach Jayson Erdman, Lathan Dixon, Charlie Boruch, Michael Fultz, Dean Manning, Mitch Huntley, and Coach Chris Johnson.



**Wrestling Districts**  
**February 8-9, 2008 @ Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington**  
**Basketball Districts**  
**February 25-29 @ Lathrop High School**

## February 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Polo Spelling Bee in gym 1:25 p.m. grades 5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Music Booster Mtg. 5:00 p.m. Parent After Prom Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	2 Polo Youth Wrestling Tournament
3	4 Varsity BB @ South Harrison 6:00 p.m.	5 Varsity BB vs. Stanberry 6:00 p.m. MS Academic Team @ Cameron 4:00 p.m.	6	7 Great American Time for Kids Assembly in MP 8:30 a.m. for grades K-6	8 Varsity BB @ Worth County 6:00 p.m. Varsity Wrestling District Tourney @ WMA	9 Varsity Wrestling District Tourney @ WMA
10	11	12 Varsity BB @ King City 6:00 p.m. MS Academic Team vs. Cameron 4:00 p.m.	13	14 Varsity Wrestling @ State in Columbia	15 Varsity Wrestling @ State in Columbia Varsity BB vs. Maysville 6:00 p.m.	16 Varsity Wrestling @ State in Columbia
17	18 No School President's Day FBLA District Contest BOE Meeting 7:00 p.m. in the Library	19 Varsity BB vs. Lathrop 6:00 p.m. (Senior Night) Late Start 10:30 a.m.	20	21 County Wide Spelling Bee @ Breckenridge 7:00 p.m.	22 JV/Varsity BB vs. Winston 5:00 p.m. Mat/Court warming	23
24	25 District Basketball @ Lathrop 25 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> PTO Book Fair	26 District Basketball @ Lathrop 25 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> PTO Book Fair	27 District Basketball @ Lathrop 25 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> PTO Book Fair	28 District Basketball @ Lathrop 25 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> PTO Book Fair	29 District Basketball @ Lathrop 25 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> PTO Book Fair	

## February 2008 Menu

Menu is subject to change. Each meal includes one milk. Lemonade and orange juice are available for 25¢.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1 Biscuit with Sausage Gravy and Fruit  Fish on Bun, Onion Rings, and Jello w/ Fruit
4 Cereal, Oatmeal, Toast, and Fruit  Taco Stack, Pinto Bean, and Pears	5 Muffin, Ham, and Fruit  Turkey on Bun, Vegetable Soup, and Applesauce	6 Pop Tart, Ham, and Fruit  Hot Dog on Bun, Baked Beans, and Pineapple	7 French Toast, Sausage, and Fruit  Ravioli, Green Beans, and Peaches	8 Biscuit with Sausage Gravy and Fruit  Grilled Cheese, Tomato Soup, and Mandarin Oranges
11 Cereal, Oatmeal, Toast, and Fruit  King Ranch Chicken, Green Beans, and Pineapple	12 Muffin, Ham, and Fruit  Chicken Pattie, Corn, and Applesauce	13 Breakfast Pizza and Fruit  Hamburger on Bun, Potato Wedges, and Pears	14 French Toast, Sausage, and Fruit  Riblet, Scalloped Potatoes, and Peaches	15 Biscuit with Sausage Gravy and Fruit  Shrimp, Peas, and Mandarin Oranges
18 No School President's Day	19 Late Start – No Breakfast  Sweet and Sour Chicken, Oriental Vegetables, and Pineapple	20 Hashbrown, Sausage, Cinnamon Toast, and Fruit  Frito Chili Pie, Green Beans, and Peaches	21 French Toast, Sausage, and Fruit  Pizza, Corn, and Applesauce	22 Biscuit with Sausage Gravy and Fruit  Tuna or Bologna Sandwich, Baby Bakers, and Pears
25 Cereal, Oatmeal, Toast, and Fruit  Corndog or Burrito, Pinto Beans, and Apple Crisp	26 Muffin, Ham, and Fruit  Chicken Nuggets, Broccoli w/ Cheese, and Peaches	27 Pop Tart, Ham, and Fruit  Meatball Sub, Green Beans, and Pears	28 French Toast, Sausage, and Fruit  Chicken Fajita, Spanish Rice, and Pineapple	29 Biscuit with Sausage Gravy and Fruit  Fish Sticks, Peas, and Jello