



THE POLO R-VII SCHOOL DISTRICT PANTHER PRIDE

April 2009

Volume 4, Issue 8

Important April Dates

- April 1 - MAP Testing
- April 2 - Community Blood Drive 1:30-6:30 pm Multi-Purpose Room
 - FFA District Ag CDE @ Maryville 8 am
 - MAP Testing
- April 3 - Large Group Band Contest @ Maryville
 - V Track @ William Jewell 10 am
- April 4 - ACT @ Polo
- April 6 - MAP Testing
 - FFA Area Awards Night @ Chillicothe 6 pm
 - MS/HS Cheer Tryouts 5-7 pm
- April 7 - MAP Testing
 - NHS Induction 6:30 pm
 - MS/HS Cheer Tryouts 5-7 pm
- April 8 - MAP Testing
 - Spring Pictures 12:30 pm (Groups & Organizations)
 - MS/HS Cheer Tryouts 5-7 pm
- April 9 - Teacher In-Service
 - Early Out 11:30 am
 - MS/V Track @ Norborne 9 am
 - MS/HS Cheer Tryouts 5-7 pm
- April 10 - No School
- April 11 - Hideaway Lakes Meeting
- April 14 - MAP Testing
 - V Track @ RP Bluejay Relays
- April 15 - MAP Testing
- April 16 - FFA State CDE Convention @ Columbia 8 am
 - MAP Testing
 - V Track @ Stanberry
 - MS Track @ Hardin 4 pm
- April 17 - FFA State CDE Convention @ Columbia 8 am
 - MAP Testing
 - Character Counts Assembly K-6 Multi-Purpose Room
- April 18 - Junior/Senior Prom @ Shoal Creek
- April 19 - State FBLA
- April 20 - State FBLA
 - Polo Idol 1:20 pm
- April 21 - State FBLA
 - V Track @ Cameron 3 pm
 - BOE Meeting 8 pm
- April 22 - CTA Meeting 3:20 pm
- April 23 - FFA Banquet 6:30 pm
 - MS Track @ Orrick 4 pm
- April 24 - Kindergarten Orientation 1:30-2:00 pm
 - Pre-school Field Trip to Shatto Farms
 - V Track @ Brookfield 10 am
- April 25 - Choir to Worlds of Fun
- April 27 - V Track @ Lawson 4 pm
 - EOC Testing
- April 28 - MS Track @ Lawson 4 pm
 - EOC Testing
- April 29 - EOC Testing
- April 30 - State Music Contest @ Columbia
 - Kindergarten Screening
 - EOC Testing

From the Desk of the Elementary Principal

by Mrs. Beverly Deis
Elementary Principal

We have certainly had a busy few months since returning to school from winter break. Some of those things that have kept us busy included 100's Day, MAP Night, Spelling Bees, etc. I would like to thank you for your support in all of the activities at our school. For your benefit, on the back of this letter, I have included a tentative list of the rest of the activities for this school year.

Polo R-VII School will soon be giving the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) tests for grades 3-8, Stanford Achievement Tests for grades K-2, and the Gates MacGinitie Reading Assessments for all K-6. MAP Tests and Stanford Tests will be given during the morning hours on Tuesday, March 31 through Friday, April 2, Monday, April 6 through Thursday, April 9, and Monday, April 13 through Thursday, April 16. Most students will test all of these days, but others will not. If you need to know for sure if your child is being tested on a certain day, please contact the regular classroom teacher.

The Gates-MacGinitie Reading Assessment will be given the last week in April to all K-6 students.

All test scores are important and we are encouraging the students to do their best on all tests. Please assist us in the testing process by encouraging your child to get plenty of rest, eat a nutritious breakfast, and arrive at school on time. We also ask that doctor or dental appointments be made in the afternoon or on days the tests are not given.

I hope everyone had a restful and safe Spring Break. The end of school is winding down, but we still have much to accomplish.

If you have any questions or need more specific information, please feel free to call the classroom teacher or me at the school at 660-354-2200.

NOTICE OF VACANCY POLO R-VII BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Polo R-VII Board of Education is now taking letters of application to fill a vacant board position. The person that is appointed to fill this vacancy will serve on the board until the April, 2010 school board election, at which time the position shall be filled by election. Applicants must meet the qualifications listed below and submit a letter of application including reasons why you desire to be on the board. Applications must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2009 to:

**Polo R-VII School
Attn: Rochelle Myers, Board Secretary
300 W. School Street
Polo, MO 64671**

*Qualifications are:
A citizen of the United States, a resident taxpayer of the district who has resided in Missouri for one (1) year and be at least twenty-four (24) years of age.*

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INFO

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Polo R-VII School District -SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES-

Disclaimer: The comments below are the opinions of the candidates. The information contained in the interviews is not verified data obtained from the school district. The letters are published as submitted.

Christal (Fickess) Rood



I am Christal Rood some of you will know me by my maiden name, Christal Fickess. I am a 1987 Polo graduate and have lived in the Polo area with my husband, Todd and two daughters, Malorie and Megan since 1997. We attend Prairie Ridge Church and I am involved in the Children's Ministry and Music Department. My family has been in the Caldwell County since 1950 so our roots runs deep here. This is home!

Why am I running for school board? I want to see these children have the best opportunities possible. I insist that education take priority over all other activities. I will take spending your money very seriously! We are in some very tough economical times and I do realize the sacrifices made to be able to pay your taxes in December. So with that in mind I will approve spending with caution and much thought.

Why I would be a valuable asset to Polo R-VII School Board? I was owner/operator of Christal's Salon for 15 years and in 2004 retired my cutting shears and opened the doors of Rood Machine & Engineering, Inc. with my husband, Todd. I manage the office operations, budget, payroll, human relations, insurance, taxes, etc... I am Treasurer for the Caldwell County Health Department Board and have served on this board since 2001. I feel with these business skills and experiences I will be a valuable asset to the school board. I know how a board and business works and basically Polo R-VII is in the business of educating children!

If elected, what would I like to see happen within the Polo R-VII School District?

I would like to see us hire and retain highly qualified teachers, coaches and staff with providing them with better resources to teacher with, a reasonable working budget for classrooms and a competitive incentive plan so we can retain qualified employees. Not continually be a training ground for new hire's and then they move on for better pay and benefits. I can't blame them, we all go to work to exchange our skills and time for a paycheck.

Education begins in the classroom and the board's efforts must focus on enhancing and enriching the learning experience that takes place here.

I have reviewed the schools budget and have found areas I feel we could improve upon.

One area I see room for improvement is to relocate the preschool into the school. Currently it is located in a detached manufactured home and the school is making a payment of \$7,200 a year for this. In addition to these costs are insurance, utilities and maintenance costs. We have a classroom that could be used for the Preschool with a few changes. Just imagine the saving by making this one change. We could apply these saving directly into the classrooms with books, computers, learning centers, etc... where the children reap the benefits, not some bank. Our school no longer offers the Gifted Program; this was a unique educational program that has been cut. I would have liked to have seen other cuts before this was even a consideration.

Education is and must be our first and foremost priority! Once these children leave Polo R-VII they need to have all the knowledge we can offer them to succeed in the real world. I think Polo is unique in the fact that we are a small school but we still have the opportunity to offer a high quality education when wise decisions are being made.

I know I am only one person but I will always do my best because I understand the importance of the board's decisions and your child's education.

It will be an honor to serve you and your children.

I urge you to go vote on April 7th!

Thank You.

Max Hicks



My name is Max Hicks and I have lived in Polo all my life (40 years). I live south of Polo with my wife, of 20 years, Paula and our 5 children; Justin 14, Jacob 12, Joely 10, and twin boys Jaeger and Jaxon 3. I am a member of the Knoxville Community Church.

I have coached youth wrestling for 10 years and youth football for 5 years. In this time, I have promoted respect, self discipline and motivation to these kids.

I am running for re-election for the Polo R-VII board of education because I would like to continue to help with the process of providing the best educational programs possible for the students of the Polo R-VII School District. I would also like to continue to help with school facility improvements.

I feel like I would be an asset to the Polo R-VII Board of Education because I've been on the board for 9 years and feel as though I have experience and a working knowledge of how a school district and board function as a whole.

I would like to see continued growth in the number of students to our school district and continued improvements to the curriculum offered to our students. Also, I would like to see continued growth and participation in our athletic programs.

Allen Henry

Personal Bio: I have a daughter, Megan, in the seventh grade and a son, Ryan, in fourth grade. My wife, Rosemary, currently works at the school as a paraprofessional. We have lived here in Polo for over fifteen years and love it here. I received a Masters of Business Administration from Northwest Missouri State in 1990 and then spent the next two years working in the university administration as the Director of Institutional research. I also taught computer science courses while I was there. I then left the university and spent the next six years as a Senior Information Consultant at the Federal Reserve Bank. I have spent the past eleven years as the Director of Information Technology for Interconnect Devices Inc. I have been on the school board now for three years and am currently the Vice President. I also serve on the Missouri School Board Association's Regional Leadership Committee and am a delegate to the State. This allows me to able to provide our district's input into the decisions made at the regional and state level.

Why are you running for school board? Our school was recently given a performance with distinction rating when it was evaluated by the state accreditation board. This indicates how well that our school is doing across a broad range of criteria and is a tribute to the hard work of all involved; students, staff, administration, and school board. These are some very difficult times and I want to do all that I can to help us get through them with our school intact. I care deeply for our school and want to do all that I can for it.

If you were elected to the school board, what could you contribute to the Polo School District? My positions with the MSBA will help our voice be heard at Jefferson City. My contacts at the Federal Reserve and elsewhere will help us keep a finger on what the economy is expected to do in the near term. I have a good background in finance, school and government administration, as well as budgeting and planning. I have worked in several different fields including higher education and the government. I understand how the government funds and regulates schools and have several contacts that could help our district. I am also very familiar with budgets and organizational behavior so that I understand how to be a highly effective resource and liaison for both the community and the school district. Lastly, I bring a deep sense of respect for our school, our community, and most importantly our students. I respectfully ask for the voters of our district to please come out during the election and vote for me and allow me to continue to use everything that I know to help our school.

NHS New Inductees and Upcoming Ceremony

by Mrs. Sarah Davies

NHS Sponsor

Congratulations to Austin Okorn, Brittany Flowers, Linda Pilger, Nichole Junco, Adryan Overstreet, Alex Templeton, Spencer Snodgrass, Karlie Schafer, Andra Young, Madison Misel, and Ashliegh Jones. They will be inducted into the Polo chapter of the National Honor Society on April 7. The induction ceremony will be held in the library at 6:30 p.m., and friends and relatives are invited.

Preparing for MAP Testing

On March 10, 2009, several students in grades three through six stayed after school and participated in Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) activities and dinner. Parents arrived later for an informational meeting on MAP at the various grade levels. The MAP tests will begin on March 31 for students in grades three through eight.

PAT on the Back

by Mrs. Beverly Deis

Elementary Principal

At the recent Board of Education meeting on March 17, PATs on the Back were given to four students for winning the local spelling bee and for representing Polo R-VII at the County Bee. Those receiving the PATs on the Back were Jorgia Cory, Andrew Holland, Brandon Hubbard, and Tristan Rardon.



Polo FBLA

by Ashliegh Jones

Staff Writer

Polo FBLA has been up to many things this month. They are holding their second blood drive on April 2nd in the Multi-Purpose Room at 1:30-6:30 p.m. The last blood drive was a big success and they are hoping this one is just as good or better.

All of the donations made will benefit local hospitals and cholesterol testing will be performed on all blood donors. If you are a first time donor, don't be scared or nervous. People donate blood all the time and you will feel a sense of purpose knowing that your blood could save a life. Some tips to keep in mind if you are donating:

1. You will need photo identification (drivers license)
2. Eat and drink plenty of fluids prior to your donation.

Other events hosted by FBLA is the Senior Citizen Prom. This is March 28 at the Polo School Multi-Purpose Room from 5:30-10:00 pm. The local chapter will be sending Karlie Schafer and Andra Young to State FBLA in Columbia. They will be leaving April 19th and will be returning on the 21st. Karlie placed 1st at the district level in Word Processing II which in turn allows her to compete at State. GOOD LUCK, KARLIE!!

Notes from the Nurse

by Mrs. Brenda Ayers

School Nurse

The School Health Advisory Council and the school nurse have been busy completing the objectives outlined in the FY 2009 contract work plan. One of these activities included a wellness initiative that would move us toward a Tobacco Free Campus. A big step was taken in that direction when the Polo R-VII school board passed a Tobacco Free Campus Policy on March 17, 2009. Now the school administrators, members of the SHAC and the school nurse will be working on a timeline and other steps necessary to implement this policy initiative.

Tobacco Use Prevention has also been a big educational theme for this school year. One of the most recent educational activities was an Art Poster Contest for the 5th grade. Students had previously been presented with an assembly and classroom presentation and they used the knowledge they learned to design a poster. The posters were then judged by several School Health Advisory Council members. The judges did not know whose poster they were judging but reported that the job was difficult as there were many deserving posters presented. Winners of the contest including 1st place-Emily Fickess, 2nd place-Brittany Sheppard, and 3rd place Jenna Johnson. Four students also received Honorable Mention-Alissa Wood, Logan Bowley, Aerial Eggers and Jesse Vaughan. Mrs. Ayers and the SHAC would also like to thank our art teacher Mrs. Lorie Fickess for her assistance with the poster contest.



REMINDER:

Yearbooks are now on sale for \$40. If you would like to have your name stamped on it, it is a \$5 extra charge. Get your orders in now to reserve your copy.

Polo R-VII School District 3rd Quarter Elementary Perfect Attendance

Kindergarten

Brooke Boydston
Connor Garton
Jennica Jay
Killian Roark
Marisa Fickess
Sara Harris
Victoria Schmidt
Will Snodgrass

First Grade

Ayrika Ross
Christian Bartz
Dylan Frazier
Earl Cory
Ethan Jeffus
Kaitlyn Rechtermann
Saffy Turnbow
Treavor Standley
Trystan Wolf

Second Grade

Mitchell Berndt
Nickolas Myers
Madison Baughman
Christopher Dick
Dylan Faulkner
JR Ramirez

Third Grade

Luke Cory
Dalton Frazier
Teresa Harris
MaKenzie Jay
Garrett Jones
Jeffrey Stanley
Dylan Sales
Matthew Vaughan

Fourth Grade

Austin VanOster
Alex Myers

Fifth Grade

Logan Bowley
Jorgia Cory
Cheyanne Dye
Derek Faulkner
Emily Fickess
Ashley Harris
Brandon Hubbard
Erik Johnson
Joshua Kesler
Austin McKinzie
Parker Smith
Jesse Vaughan

Sixth Grade

Cati Boruch
Jessica Conner
Katie Corum
Mason Daughters
Katelyn Eichmeier
Jimmy Endsley
Jacob Hicks
Skylar Howe
Brooke Jones
Alisha Ross

POLO R-VII SCHOOL DISTRICT 3RD QUARTER HONOR ROLL

5th Grade

A

Gage Aubrey
Emily Ficiess
Ashley Harris
Erik Johnson
Joshua Kesler
Parker Smith

B

Morgan Berndt
Logan Bowley
Jorgia Cory
Cheyanne Dye
Aerial Eggers
Jenna Johnson
Michael Leamer
Leslie McCauley
Austin McKinzie
Mikayla Reavis
Brittany Sheppard
Dakota Smith
Adrianna Staus
Jesse Vaughan
Alissa Wood

6th Grade

A

Jessica Barnes
Cati Boruch
Jacob Hicks
Mason Misel

B

Jessic Conner
Sidney Copeland
Madison Curp
Andrew Holland
Skylar Howe
Brandon Latimer
Wiley Martin
Tristan Rardon
Adriana Segar
Trystan Sunby
Aimee Walker
Jedidiah Wilson

Spring Variety Show: A Huge Success

The Polo Music Boosters held their annual spring fundraiser at the Polo Community Building Saturday night, March 14th, and Sunday, March 15th.

There were 203 tickets sold to the show on Saturday night and several to the Sunday Matinee. The theme for the spring fundraiser was "Swing Fever": A Variety Show. The following groups performed many songs, skits and dances: 1st - 4th grade Choir, 5th - 8th grade Choir, High School Choir, High School Jazz Band and High School Percussion Ensemble, all under the direction of Dustin McKinney, Vocal Director and Andrew Dunker, Jazz Band/Stomp Director. The Polo Music Boosters use the fundraiser to help purchase supplies for the choir and band teachers and provide scholarships for the students.



News Report Skit High School Percussion Ensemble
"Panther Pest Removal" by Director Andrew Dunker
Center - Dylan Flowers with drum stick and bucket, left with the broom is Dina Uehling and Dakota Christopher in the back.



Performing the "Crying Skit"
6th grader Mason Misel "stole the show" with his award winning crying performance.
5th & 6th graders: Mason Misel on his knees crying, Jessica Barnes, Jorgia Cory, Adriana Segar, Sidney Copeland & Jessica Conner.



Polo High School Jazz Band performing during the Swing Fever Show on Saturday night at the Polo Community Building
Front Row: Austin Okorn, Julie Spilman, Sarah Thomas all on Tenor Saxophones, Jeff King - Drum Set.
Back Row: Alan Vassmer & Dylan Flowers on the Trumpets, Alex Holland on the Piano and Lance Snodgrass on the Tuba.



Chili Cook-off

by Spencer Snodgrass
Staff Writer

On March 17, the Polo foods class held the first annual chili cook-off between the faculty and the foods class. The high school kids judged the competition. It cost one dollar to sample the chili. After sampling each type of chili, the participants' voted on the chili they liked best. The votes were tallied and the winner was announced.

There were 6 competitors in the competition which included the Principal Jason Snodgrass, Counselor Ric Pelaar, History Teacher Chris Gagnon, Science Teacher Davey Fickess, FACS Teacher Carol Phares, and the chili made by the foods class. The foods class had an in-class competition to decide which chili would be entered into the final contest. Each group in the class made their own batch of chili and then the class decided which the best was.

The kids were called out of class and came down to try the chili. After minutes of pain-staking chili tasting, the winner was announced. Mr. Fickess had won the 1st Annual Chili Cook-off and the fabulous prize of \$20. Mrs. Phares and Mr. Snodgrass tied for second. All winners graciously donated their winnings back to the foods class budget. Thanks to all of those who entered recipes and those who were brave enough to be testers. We'll see who wins the competition next year.

Students Attend Literature Festival in Warrensburg

by Kelsi Pile
Staff Writer

This year the Polo Chapter National Honor Society sponsored a field trip for elementary and middle school students. Grades fourth through eighth were invited to attend the field trip, but only five from each grade were selected to go. The students were selected by their teachers based on academic performance in the classroom, and whether or not the teachers thought they would genuinely be interested in the festival. The members of NHS were chaperones along with Mrs. Davies, Laurie Ahart, Mrs. Minnis, and Mrs. Erickson.

The day started off bright and early for the students because they had to be at school at 7 a.m. After the long bus ride to the University of Central Missouri campus in Warrensburg, the students were off to see their first author of the day, Stephanie Tolan. She wrote such books as *Surviving the Applewhites* and *Sophie and the Sidewalk Man*.

The next author we saw seemed to capture the student's attention much better. Kelly Milner Halls, has written such books as *Albino Animals* and *Dinosaur Parade*. Her stories were hilarious and intriguing. After listening to her speak, a few students even decided to buy her books.

The third author of the day was Alane Ferguson, and she was by far the creepiest speaker of the day. She wrote a forensic mystery series and told some creepy stories. She has written such books as *The Christopher Killer* and *The Angel of Death*.

The last author of the day was Shelly Gill. She was an inspiring speaker who spoke to the students about following your dreams. She moved from Florida to Alaska all by herself at the age of 18 just to own some sled dogs. Now in her mid 40's she is still living life to the fullest. She has written such books as *Alaska* and *Hawai'i*. She was by far my favorite author of the day and seemed to catch the attention of the students the best.

In conclusion it was a well spent day out of school, and the students really had a good time.



Elementary Important Dates to Remember

Saturday, March 28	Orrick Math Relays – grades 4-8
Tuesday, March 31 – Thursday, April 2	MAP Tests
Thursday, April 2	Second Grade Field Trip
Monday, April 6	This is not a late start day
Monday, April 6 – Thursday, April 9	MAP/Stanford Tests
Thursday, April 9	Early Out at 11:30
Friday, April 10	No School
Monday, April 13	School Resumes
Tuesday, April 13 – Thursday, April 16	MAP/Stanford Tests
Friday, April 14	Storytelling Assembly, sponsored by PTO
Tuesday, April 20	Board Meeting
Friday, April 24	Kindergarten Orientation
Monday, April 27(all week)	Gates MacGinitie Reading Assessments
Thursday, April 30	Kindergarten Screening

Friday, May 1	Kindergarten Screening
Monday, May 4	Field Days, sponsored by PTO
Thursday, May 14	First Grade Award Assembly, 6:00 pm
Friday, May 15	Third Grade and Fourth Grade Field trip
Friday, May 15	Preschool Graduation, 1:30 pm
Sunday, May 17	High School Graduation
Monday, May 18	Kindergarten Graduation, 6:30 pm
	Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 19	Elementary Assembly
	School Dismisses at 11:30

AREA SOPHOMORE SELECTED TO ATTEND MISSOURI LEADERSHIP SEMINAR, INC.

Alex Templeton has been nominated to attend the Missouri Leadership Seminar, Inc. held June 5th to June 7th at the University of Central Missouri campus. Alex will join more than 150 other young leaders representing as many high schools from throughout Missouri.

Selected to represent Polo High School, Alex Templeton is the daughter of Mark & Kim Templeton.

The Missouri Leadership Seminar, Inc. is an affiliate of the National Society for Youth Leadership (NSYL). NSYL allows states such as Missouri to bridge the gap from today's youth to tomorrow's leaders, ensuring that all local youth leadership organizations have an outlet to continue to bring the skills and attitudes of responsible leadership to the next generation.

Its very own mission statement best captures the Missouri Leadership Seminar: "A volunteer based organization that is committed to motivating and empowering leaders to promote change". Over the three day seminar weekend, students are involved in a variety of hands-on sessions that allow them to identify and actively engage with other young potential leaders, help them understand their own strengths and abilities, and teach them how to use their gifts to positively influence others to serve their communities and their nation.

The Missouri Leadership Seminar, Inc. is the gateway program that introduces these future leaders to the values of leadership, citizenship and community service. They learn while interacting with other potential high school sophomore leaders (both public and private schools) from every background and community throughout their state. Service projects are utilized both during the seminar and afterwards as a way to introduce young leaders to the personal and social values of service as well as volunteerism.

Seminar Chairperson, Michelle L. Zink, is a 1998 graduate of PHS and 1996 alumna of the Missouri Leadership Seminar. "It warms my heart to see PHS continuing on the selection of a sophomore student to attend MLS year after year, says Ms. Zink. Knowing that this experience is made available to another student from my hometown is such a wonderful feeling. Attending MLS my sophomore year made a definite impact in my life and I know that I would not be where I am today, nor have had some of the truly amazing life experiences that I've enjoyed since my first seminar in 1996. It simply is a life changing experience for so many students and it's a process that I'm proud to be part of, year after year."



Public Notice

The Polo R-VII School District offers the following services to home schooled or private schooled school age students: Hearing, Vision, Height, Weight, Scoliosis (middle school age only) Blood Pressure and Head Lice screening upon request. Please call the school nurse at (660) 354-2200 for a screening appointment.

Prom 2009

by Ashliegh Jones

Staff Writer

As you know every year the junior class is in charge of organizing Prom. It is their job to come up with a theme, invitations, decorations, a date and a place to hold the prom. This year's class has decided the prom theme to be "A Starry Night in Paris", and the event will be held at the Shoal Creek Golf Course in Kansas City, Mo.

Here is the layout of the evening and all of the information you might need:

7:30 pm >>> Grand March

8-11pm >>> Dance

Place: Shoal Creek Golf Course

Directions (from Polo high school):

- 1) Turn LEFT (west) on ELM ST./ MO-116
- 2) Merge onto I-35 South via the ramp on the LEFT
- 3) Take the MO-152 exit, EXIT 16, toward LIBERTY
- 4) Turn RIGHT onto Mo-152 W/ NE BARRY RD.
- 5) Turn RIGHT onto N. SHOAL CREEK PKWY.
- 6) END at N Shoal Creek Pkwy Kansas City, Mo 64157

12-4am >>> After Prom

Ticket Prices:

Single- \$20.00

Couple- \$35.00

Glasses and mugs>>> see display in the office

Glasses- \$5.00

Mugs- \$5.00

The "After" prom theme chosen by Junior and Senior parents is "You might be a redneck if..." from what I hear there are many great ideas for their decorations. However, I won't tell all of their secrets so you will just have to come to find out! This year's "After Prom" will be held in the High school gym, just as it is every year.

5th and 6th Grade Basketball

by Haley Hurd

Staff Writer

The 5th and 6th grade basketball teams are starting up once again, very soon after the CRBC league just finished. Many of the girls are returning from the CRBC team to the school team. The 5th grade girls and boys, along with the 6th grade girls had their first game on Monday, March 9th against Hamilton. All four teams played very hard. The 5th grade boys and 6th grade girls also played on March 16th against Stet. The 5th grade girls team has a record of 0-3, while the 5th grade boys have a record of 0-5. The 6th grade girls team has a record of 1-3 and the 6th grade boys team has a record of 0-4.

The 5th grade girl's team, who is coached by Coach Keith includes:

Jorgia Cory	Cheyenne Dye
Mikayla Revis	Adranna Staus
Emily Fickess	Alyssa Wood
Areial Eagers	Savanah Kerste
Morgan Berndt	Brittany Shepard
Jenna Johnson	Ashley Harris

The 5th grade boy's team, coached by Wally Aubrey includes:

Jesse Vaughn	Gage Aubrey
Alex Jensen	Josh Kesler
Michael Leamer	Erik Johnson
Logan Bowley	Parker Smith
Brandon Hubbard	Dakota Smith

The 6th grade girl's team, who is coached by Chris Carr includes:

Catie Bouch	Skylar Howe
Jessica Barnes	Katie Eichmeier
Danielle Allen	Adranna Segar
Sydney Copeland	Kayla Carr
Jennifer Rash	Maddie Curp
Brooke Jones	Jessica Farmer(Cowgill)

The 6th grade boy's team, coached by Greg Misel and Leslie Holland includes:

Tristan Rardon	Wiley Martin
Trystan Sunby	Andrew Holland
Mason Misel	Caleb Bolling

April Fool's Day

by Mitch Huntley

Staff Writer

All Fool's Day or more commonly known April Fool's Day is one of the most lighthearted holidays of the year. April Fool's Day is not your typical holiday.

No one has to buy gifts or take that "significant other" out to eat in a fancy restaurant.

Nobody gets the day off from work or school; it is simply a fun holiday, full of harmless pranks and practical jokes. One may ask, "When was the first April Fool's Day?" Although its' origin cannot be pinpointed on a calendar, there is however various beliefs as to when and how it began.

The first well-known theory is the "Calendar Change Theory." This idea states that April Fool's Day involves the French Calendar Reform of the 16th Century. The theory goes like this: In 1564, France reformed its calendar, moving the start of the year from the end of March to January 1. Those who failed to keep up with the change, who stubbornly clung to the old calendar system and continued to celebrate the New Year during the week that fell between March 25th and April 1st, had jokes played on them. Pranksters would secretly stick paper fish to their backs. The victims of this prank were called Poisson d'Avril, or April Fish, which, to this day remains the French term for April Fool's Day...and so the tradition was born.

The second and possibly most accurate theory also involves a calendar change. It involves the change from the Julian Calendar to the Gregorian Calendar. In many pre-Christian cultures May Day (May 1) was celebrated as the first day of summer, and signaled the start of the spring planting season. An April Fool was someone who did this prematurely. In the eighteenth century, the festival was often believed to date back to the times of Noah. An English newspaper article published on April 13th, 1789 said that the day had its origins when he sent the raven off too early, before the waters had receded. He did this on the first day of the Hebrew month that corresponds with April.

In conclusion, the true origins of this prank filled holiday will probably never be discovered. Nevertheless, the theories from either account evolved over time into a highly celebrated tradition of prank-playing on the first day of April. It has become an international holiday with different nationalities specializing in their own brand of humor at the expense of family and friends. April Fools!

"That's the Way I See It"



Girls Track off to a Rolling Start

by Kelsi Pile

Staff Writer

For most people the fresh spring air brings thoughts of flowers, school being out, relaxation, and Easter coming around the corner. For others, the fresh spring air brings the thoughts of hard work, long days, and the old gravel track behind the football field. This year's girls track team consists of seniors, Courtney Cawthon, Tiffney Hufford, Kelsi Pile, Adryan Overstreet, and Julie Spilman; juniors, Brittney McGinley, Alishia Bolling, Andra Young; sophomores, Alex Templeton, Courtney Arthur, Nikki Junco, and freshman, Megan LaMarr and Ashley Ross.

With only a handful of practices under their belt, their first track meet was Tuesday March 24th, the University of Central Missouri Indoor Track Meet. Majority of the girls were nervous with this being the first meet of the year and going against mostly class 2 schools. The girls did very well bringing back some individual hardware. Brittney McGinley placed first in the shot put, Tiffney Hufford placed first in the 800 meter run, Courtney Arthur earned fourth place in the long two mile run, and Kelsi Pile placed second in the 400 meter dash.

It was a good start to the season for the Lady Panthers, although they did not bring back as much hardware as they wanted, they all did very well. Their next meet is March 31st, at Richmond. Good luck Lady Panthers!!!

Polo Boys Hit the Ground Running

by Spencer Snodgrass

Staff Writer

Track season is upon us once again and the Polo boys track team is running and lifting their way toward their first meet. This year's team looks to have a lot of potential as long as they are willing to work hard in order to have a good season. The team has many seniors this year including returning state qualifiers Spencer Snodgrass, Tyler Scobee, and Cody Hicks. The Panthers lost a lot after last year, losing three state qualifiers to the senior class and one that moved away. The Panthers were also hurt this year by the knee injury to Mitch Huntley, who had been a state qualifier and a major contributor in individual events and on relays that helped to propel the teams' success. The team is coached again this year by Chris Gagnon, Klint Kloepping, and yearly volunteer coach Shane Rardon. The coaches set up tough workouts for each type of runner in order to make each runner reach their own maximum potential. The Panthers' first meet is on March 24 at the University of Central Missouri indoor track. We will see how hard the Panthers have worked in these early weeks of track, by how well they run at this meet. The Panthers have high hopes for this season and hopefully it will turn out well.

PTO Book Fair

"One For Books Contest"

Thank you to everyone that supported the PTO Book Fair that was held in the Multipurpose Room recently. So many wonderful books were placed in the classrooms by this program and the students are enjoying having so many books available to them. One of the best parts of the Book Fair was the competition to see who was going to have to dress like a man or woman, Coach Keith and Coach Floray or Mrs. Deis or Kim Templeton. We are happy to announce that the guys lost. On Monday, March 9th they so graciously walked through the hallways of the elementary and middle schools showing off their outfits of beautiful house dresses and feather boas'. They were allowed to take off the dresses after the parade, but they were required to wear the boas' for the rest of the day. Thank you to both of them for being such good sports! We would also like to thank the ladies of the PTO for all their time spent making this Book Fair such a success!



Have U been Empowered???

On February 4, 2009, the sixth grade students from Polo went to St. Joseph, MO for a field trip to the Empower U Plant. While there, we learned how to use teamwork and problem solving.

The first thing we did when we got there was to get assigned a color. The colors included purple, green, and red. Then we went to our classroom (as it was called). That is where we met our teacher and other students. Then the teacher explained what our subject was. Then we got into groups or teams of 4. That is where we started brainstorming as a group. Then we were assigned parts that would soon come together as one great presentation. There was another school there also. This school was small like us.

To get ready for the presentation, we used different types of technology. We used what was called a smartboard. A smartboard is an advanced computer that you can write on. We were also able to write on the wall using this device.

For our presentation, each of had subjects. The red community had \$500,000 to spend on how it would help the community. The purple group had volunteerism. Finally, the green team need new technology but the only way to get it was to lose a sport.

As we worked on our presentation, we ate lunch. We ate in shifts; one would go then two, if any more they would go next.

After lunch, we finished working on our presentation. For our presentation, we were able to use posters, slide shows, speeches, and signs. Creating these visual aids was very fun.

After the presentation, we met with the council. There were 5 council members. They were all portraying different roles. They also asked serious and funny questions.

The whole 6th grade class would like to thank Bank Northwest for paying for the trip. Thank you, Bank Northwest!! If it wasn't for them, we wouldn't have had such a fun experience.

Students in Mrs. Rardon's Sixth Grade Language class practiced their brainstorming skills by creating a web of ideas for this article. Cati Boruch copied down all of the ideas and then passed them to Skylar Howe and Wiley Martin who created this article. Good teamwork!

Language students include: Danielle Allen, Jessica Barnes, Caleb Bolling, Cati Boruch, Katelyn Eichmeier, Jacob Hicks, Andrew Holland, Skylar Howe, Brooke Jones, Wiley Martin, Mason Misel, Jennifer Rash, Trystan Sunby, Aimee Walker, and Sean Winget.



Senioritis

by Mitch Huntley

Staff Writer

The word senioritis is derived from the word senior plus the suffix itis (referring to inflammation, but also used to identify illness). This term is most commonly used in the United States as a descriptive word for high school students who display a decrease in motivation towards studies. Time Magazine wrote, "Early symptoms of this disease include lethargy, lack of focus, difficulty making decisions, and often appears in the fall". The students most prone to this deadly disease are seniors of either high school or college level, nearing the end of their educational careers. Still, it is important to remember that senioritis attacks high achieving, average, and struggling students alike.

However it is no surprise how senioritis attacks. Most students have turned in their applications for college and have been accepted, so they feel they are entitled a little downtime before they start a new chapter in life.

Example A includes Kyle Stith. Kyle is a senior this year that has already been accepted to various colleges including MU and UMKC. Here are Kyle's thoughts on senioritis. "I have felt the symptoms nearly all year, I have all the credits I need, I have a good GPA, I just want to graduate!"

Example B includes Ryan Barnes a former student at Polo High School who was cured of the senioritis disease and has chosen to speak about his remarkable recovery. "Well as most seniors I was hit by the disease, recovery seemed like a long never ending road, but I never gave in. I knew that graduation was just around the corner and I would soon be on my way to recovery. However, I am now a freshman, back at the bottom of the totem pole here at MU and have four more years to go before I reach the light at the end of the tunnel".

Finally Example C includes myself. I have had some great times here at Polo, but coming into my senior year I have had a run of bad luck, dislocating my shoulder, and tearing my MCL, ACL, and Meniscus in District Wrestling has really put a halt to my senior year. Nevertheless, I have kept my head high and know there are plenty of good things to come. Recently I was accepted to MU where I plan to major in Physical Therapy. The year is rapidly winding down with prom coming up, senior trip and graduation, so as anyone could guess I have been hit hard with senioritis and look forward to May seventeenth!"

In the end senioritis is a very common disease among students. The symptoms can sometimes be very detrimental to ones health but recovery is extremely quick and painless. To all you seniors out there, graduation as I know can never come soon enough, but I wish you a speedy recovery and the best of luck.

"That's the way I see it"

FFA And You

by Alan Vassmer

Staff Writer

Recently there has been a lot of activity among the members of the Polo FFA chapter which range from contests, state degrees, and to interviews. Contest that have occurred include Hamilton, where the teams respectively placed as follows, the entomology team placed 16th, farm management placed 7th, knowledge taking 12th, livestock finished in 19th, and soils finished in a tie for 14th place. On March 11th, three members, Lance Snodgrass, Alan Vassmer, and Haley Hurd traveled with Mr. Farmer to the Area and State Officer interviews. Unfortunately, the night did not go as well as expected with neither Lance nor Alan receiving offices for next year. Haley did interview for an office rather she served as a delegate. Lance interviewed for a position on the Area officer team and Alan, whose area term is ending, interviewed for the state officer team. Yet they didn't let this get them down and they used this as a learning experience and are hoping to gain from it in the future. Lance Snodgrass said, "All in all, I'm not disappointed, I am just going to use this experience to better my chances at running for a state office next year". On the 13th, not all members participated at the Brunswick FFA contest due to the MAP reward trip being held on the same day. But those teams involved included agronomy placing 23rd, entomology placed 42nd, knowledge took 29th, livestock finished in 11th place, meats in 32nd, and poultry was in 27th place. Congratulations to those individuals that have placed and good luck to those yet to compete.

A PARENT'S GUIDE FOR HELPING THEIR CHILDREN REAP THE BENEFITS OF POSITIVE EXTRA-CURRICULAR EXPERIENCES

I. VISION – Build lifetime character traits and leadership skills that will benefit our students throughout their lives.

II. GOAL FOR EACH PARTICIPANT – To have positive extra-curricular experiences and exhibit the following core values.

- **RESPECT** – Demonstrates respect for themselves, their opponents, others associated with the game, and the game itself.
- **RESPONSIBILITY** – Demonstrate accountability for one's actions.
- **INTEGRITY** – Learning to do the right thing.
- **LEADERSHIP** – Learning to become a team player and leader.
- **SPORTSMANSHIP** – Learning to compete while adhering to the highest principles of respect, responsibility, integrity, and fair play.

TIPS FOR PARENTS

I. RELEASE YOUR CHILD – Stay close but release your child to the coach or sponsor. Remember; prepare the child for the path, not the path for the child. Releasing your child is one of the greatest “gifts” you can give them.

- Kids need to hear one voice, and that voice is the coach or sponsor's voice.
- Kids will only give 100% to the coach or sponsor when the parents support the coach or sponsor at all times.

II. MODELING APPROPRIATE SPORTSMANSHIP IS GOOD CITIZENSHIP IN ACTION.

All actions are to be

- For, not against,
- Positive, not negative or disrespectful.
- Be courteous to all (participants, coaches, sponsors, officials, staff and fans)
- Abide by and respect the officials' decisions
- Focus on the team and the team's goals
- Exercise self-control

Fans who violate the above expectations can, depending upon the severity, expect any or all of the following actions to take place:

- A warning card indicating a problem with that fan's behavior
- Removal from the event by security or administration
- Being prohibited from attending future events (both home and away) until reinstated by the Board of Education

III. BUILDING SELF-ESTEEM – Always strive to make your children feel that their value as a person is not tied to their playing time, performance, or winning or losing an event. Remember, if young people are making good decisions about friends, academics, alcohol, or drugs, they will not only be successful in school, but also throughout their lives. Please join us in promoting positive choices and address your children's poor decisions if or when they arise.

IV. POST-CONTEST PARENTING – Handling your children after an event:

- Give your children time and space
- Be a reflective listener when they come to you
- Keep criticisms and corrections in check
- Always address unacceptable behavior

V. ADDRESSING CONCERNS WITH COACHES AND SPONSORS APPROPRIATE AREAS TO DISCUSS:

- Mental and physical treatment of your children
- Ways to help your children improve
- Concerns about your children's behavior

VI. INAPPROPRIATE AREAS TO DISCUSS

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Other team members

If you have any of the above concerns, please make an appointment with the Athletic Director or Principal. Meetings will not be held during or directly after a contest.

(The above information can be found in numerous publications including the National Federation of High Schools.)

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO A GREAT YEAR. YOUR SUPPORT OF YOUR CHILDREN AND OUR PROGRAMS ARE APPRECIATED.

POLO R-VII SCHOOL DISTRICT

**CUB CONSTRUCTION
PRESCHOOL**

Open House - April 14th
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Now enrolling students for the
2009/2010 school year
(Must be 3 by August 1st, 2009 to attend)

Enrollment packets will be handed out
this evening. If you cannot attend,
please call the elementary office
at (660) 354-2200 for information

****Enrollment is limited to 40 students****

**3rd Quarter Honor Roll
Middle School
2008-09**

“A” Honor Roll

Alex Johnson
Loren Wagner
Megan Henry
Duncan Parker
Sammie Copeland
Avery Snodgrass
Missy Cawthon
Jacob Rasmussen

“B” Honor Roll

Jack Pile
Kylee Eaglen
Kelsey Gallion
Kolton Roark
Megan Stanley
Houston Stone
Megan Rood
Logan Stump
Julianne Wood
Zach Freeman
Taylor Strickbine
Monica Fickess
Daniel Boruch
Brady McCaskey
Justin Hicks
Rhea Rardon
Tony Utt
Savannah Cline
Amy McBee
Corinne Attebery
Kasey Bolling

**3rd Quarter “B” Honor Roll
High School
2008-09**

Seniors

Ambrielle Hicke
Kassi Carr
Cody Drew
Adryan Overstreet
Alan Vassmer
Austin Okorn
Tiffiney Hufford
Mark Gray

Juniors

AJ Wells
Tyler Russell
Josh Junco
Thomas Tarwaters
Jessica Vassmer
Alishia Bolling
Justin Garrett
Brittney McGinley
Skye Robinson
Casey Strickbine
Zach Tormey
Rachel Utt

Sophomores

David Casey
Alex Templeton
Logan Dixon
Kaylie Sorensen
Jason Tarwaters
Kaleb Hicks
Bobby Thompson
Dillon Hufford

Freshmen

Ashton Shelton
Alex Gaines
Emily Templeton
Hailey Thomas
Jordan Kilmer
Ashley Ross
Jonna Stottlemyre
Malorie Rood
Michael Clark
Kadee Phillips
Dina Uehling
Jennifer Lindaman

**3rd Quarter “A” Honor Roll
High School
2008-09**

Seniors

Brooke Byrd
Kyle Stith
Cody Hicks
Kim O’Dell
Courtney Cawthon
Cody McCrackin
Kelsi Pile
Spencer Snodgrass
Brittany Flowers
Mitch Huntley
Kaitlyn Taylor
Megan Yates
Kyndra Stith
Tyler Scobee

Juniors

Katelyn Sanders
Haley Hurd
Lance Snodgrass
Karlie Schafer
Ashliegh Jones
Dalton Rardon
Linda Pilger
Rita Stottlemyre
Paige Ahart
Stormy Ross
Alex Holland
Andra Young

Sophomores

Madison Misel
Nikki Junco

Freshmen

Dillon James
Carlie Powers
Sarah Thomas
Dylan Flowers
Katie Garrett
Harley Martin

**Routine Scoliosis Screening
will not be done with Middle
School Students this year.
Should anyone be interested in
having their student age 5th -9th
grade screened for Scoliosis,
please contact the school nurse
at (660) 354-2200**

April 2009 Activities Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 *MAP Testing	2 *Community Blood Drive 1:30-6:30 in Multi-purpose *FFA District Ag CDE @ Maryville 8:00 am *MAP Testing	3 *Large Group Band Contest @ Maryville *V Track @ William Jewell 10:00 am	4 *ACT @ Polo
5	6 *MAP Testing *FFA Area Awards Night @ Chillicothe 8:00 pm *MS/HS Cheer Tryouts 5-7 pm	7 *MAP Testing *NHS Induction 8:30 pm *MS/HS Cheer Tryouts 5-7 pm	8 *MAP Testing *Spring Pictures 12:30 pm-Groups & Organizations *MS/HS Cheer Tryouts 5-7 pm	9 *Teacher In-Service *Early Out 11:30 am *MS/V Track @ Norborne 9:00 am *MS/HS Cheer Tryouts 5-7 pm	10 *NO SCHOOL	11 *Hideaway Lakes Meeting
12	13	14 *MAP Testing *V Track @ RP Bluejay Relays	15 *MAP Testing	16 *FFA State CDE Convention @ Columbia 8:00 am *MAP Testing *V Track @ Stanberry *MS Track @ Hardin 4:00 pm	17 *FFA State CDE Convention @ Columbia 8:00 am *MAP Testing *Character Counts Assembly K-6 th in Multi-Purpose Room	18 *Junior/Senior Prom @ Shoal Creek
19 *State FBLA	20 *State FBLA *Polo Idol 1:20 pm	21 *State FBLA *V Track @ Cameron 3:00 pm *BOE Meeting 8:00 pm	22 *CTA Meeting 3:20 pm	23 *FFA Banquet 6:30 pm *MS Track @ Orrick 4:00 pm	24 *Kindergarten Orientation 1:30-2:00 pm *Pre-school Field Trip to Shatto Farms *V Track @ Brookfield 10:00 am	25 *Choir to Worlds of Fun
26	27 *V Track @ Lawson 4:00 pm *EOC Testing	28 *MS Track @ Lawson 4:00 pm *EOC Testing	29 *EOC Testing	30 *State Music Contest @ Columbia *Kindergarten Screening *EOC Testing		

April 2009 Menu

Menu is subject to change.
Each meal includes one milk.
Lemonade and orange juice are available for 30¢.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1 Muffin, Ham, Fruit Pasta with Meat Sauce, Fruit	2 French Toast, Sausage, Fruit Hamburger on Bun, French Fries, Fruit	3 Biscuit with Sausage Gravy, Fruit Tuna Noodle, Vegetable, Fruit
6 Cereal, Toast, Fruit Corn dog or Burrito, Vegetable, Fruit	7 Scrambled Eggs, Toast, Fruit Chicken Quesadilla, Vegetable, Fruit	8 Pop Tart, Ham, Fruit EASTER DINNER	9 Biscuit with Egg and Cheese, Sausage, Fruit Early out - NO LUNCH	10 NO SCHOOL
13 Cereal, Toast, Fruit Creamy Chicken over Biscuit, Vegetable, Fruit	14 Scrambled Eggs, Toast, Fruit Ravioli, Vegetable, Fruit	15 Breakfast Pizza, Fruit Chicken Pattie on Bun, Vegetable, Fruit	16 French Toast, Sausage, Fruit Wrapped Weiner, Vegetable, Fruit	17 Biscuit with Sausage Gravy, Fruit Shrimp, Vegetable, Fruit
20 Cereal, Toast, Fruit Nachos, Vegetable, Fruit	21 Scrambled Eggs, Toast, Fruit Sub Sandwich, Vegetable, Fruit	22 Hashbrown, Ham, Cinnamon Toast, Fruit Chicken Nuggets, Vegetable, Fruit	23 French Toast, Sausage, Fruit Pizza, Vegetable, Fruit	24 Biscuit with Sausage Gravy, Fruit Grilled Ham and Cheese, Vegetable, Fruit
27 Cereal, Toast, Fruit Taco Stack, Vegetable, Fruit	28 Scrambled Eggs, Toast, Fruit Meatball Sub, Vegetable, Fruit	29 Muffin, Ham, Fruit Beefy Nuggets, Vegetable, Fruit	30 French Toast, Sausage, Fruit Tenderloin on Bun, Vegetable, Fruit	

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