



# THE PANTHER PRIDE

December 2008

Volume 4, Issue 4

## Important December Dates

- Dec. 1
  - Late Start-10:30 am
  - MS BB @ Hamilton 5:30 pm
- Dec. 2
  - Varsity/JV BB vs. Plattsburg 5:00 pm
- Dec. 4
  - Varsity Wrestling vs. N.Platte/S. Harrison 6:00 pm
  - MS BB @ Cameron 5:30 pm
  - Varsity/JV BB @ N. Platte 4:30 pm
- Dec. 5
  - PAT/Preschool Family Fun Night in Multi-Purpose Room 6:30 pm
- Dec. 6
  - All State Band Auditions @ Columbia
  - Varsity Wrestling @ N. Platte Tourney 9:30 am
- Dec. 8
  - Varsity/JV BB @ Norborne 5:00 pm
- Dec. 9
  - Varsity BB vs. Hardin-Central 6:00 pm
- Dec. 10
  - K-12 Music Concert 6:30 pm
- Dec. 11
  - MS BB @ E. Buchanan 5:30 pm
  - FCCLA Meeting 5:30 pm
- Dec. 13
  - District Band Performance
  - Varsity Wrestling Dual Team Tourney @ Home 9:30 am
- Dec. 15
  - BOE Meeting 7:00 pm
  - Varsity BB @ E. Buchanan 6:00 pm
- Dec. 16
  - Varsity BB @ Pattonsburg 6:00 pm
  - Varsity Wrestling vs. WMA/Hogan Prep 6:00 pm
  - School Health Advisory Meeting 3:30 pm
- Dec. 17
  - K-6 Assembly with Randy Nadler (Sponsored by PTO)
- Dec. 18
  - MS Sports Reception (FB, SB, BB, Cheerleading) 6:00 pm in HS Gym
- Dec. 19
  - 1st Semester Ends
  - Varsity/JV BB vs. Braymer 5:30 pm
  - Mock MAP K-12
- Dec. 22-Dec. 31
  - Winter Vacation
- Dec. 23
  - Varsity Girls BB vs. Green City 10:30 am
  - Varsity Boys BB vs. Green City 12 noon (Both games @ NCMC in Trenton)
- Dec. 31
  - NCMC Shoot Out @ Trenton

## From the Elementary Principal

by Mrs. Beverly Deis

Elementary Principal

As we are nearing the end of the first semester, the weather becomes much more unpredictable. Make sure you send proper clothes for recess time including coats, gloves, hats, etc. Also, it seems we have quite a collection of coats and hats in the office and in various classrooms. Please remind your child to bring home any "extras" they might have at school.

Students in grades K-6 will be attending an assembly on India by Randy Nadler on December 17. Students will be able to view many pictures of India while listening to Randy discuss his travels there. We would like to thank the Parent – Teacher Organization for sponsoring this assembly.

Our PreK-12 Winter Program will be Wednesday, December 10, 2008 6:30 in the high school gymnasium. Students are to be here at 6:15 and the Preschool students will start the evening off with some carols. Mr. Dunker and Mr. McKinney have coordinated the program this year.

School will dismiss on Friday, December 19 at 11:30 for our Winter Break. This will also end our first semester (second quarter). School will resume on January 5 with a late start day. Grade cards will be mailed out after we return to school.

The response to the QSP Reading Booklets was a success. I would like to thank the parents, patrons, and community members for your continued support of our school. Polo R-VII students and staff are fortunate to have your support!

I hope everyone enjoys their Winter Break with family and friends.



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## Polo 3rd Grader Wins a Wii

The third grade class of Mrs. Patty Dixon recently participated in a contest sponsored by KMRN-KKWK Radio Station in Cameron, MO. Each student was to write an essay entitled, If I were President. From approximately 1,000 entries from other 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes from other schools in our area, the grand prize winner was Matthew Vaughan of Polo. Matthew won a Wii for writing his essay with so much caring, passion and an overall sense of making our world a better place to live.

The Polo Elementary School would like to thank KMRN Radio Station for allowing our students the opportunity to participate in this contest.

*If I Were President*  
By Matthew Vaughan

*If I were President first I would lower the gas prices. Next, I would lower the tax prices. Then, I would make less pollution in the United States. After that, I would visit Africa and send them paper, toys and anything the African people needed. Soon after that, I would make a team called the tree team, and they would plant plants like flowers, trees and stuff like that. After that, I would donate money to charities and hospitals and smaller rural areas that need the money.*

*Soon after that, I would make orchards of apple trees and a great environment for animals. Then, I would make hurricane walls so that hurricanes would not make as much damage. Then, I would make more radar systems to track down storms. Lastly, I would tell the military to make stronger weapons, but most of all I would care for everyone!*



## FBLA's Blood Drive A HUGE SUCCESS!!

On Monday, November 10, 2008, the Polo FBLA held a blood drive in the Multi-Purpose Room from 1:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. It was a cold, rainy day but that didn't stop donors from coming out to help save lives. We had 62 volunteers register to give blood and had 63 units of blood donated, with 18 of those being first time donors. "I was amazed and grateful for the community support," commented Mrs. Ashley Arth, FBLA advisor. Each donor received a free t-shirt, as well as snacks and beverages.

## Kindergarten & 1st Grade Field Trip

The Kindergarten & First Grade classes went on a field trip to Crown Center on Tuesday, November 11. The classes first enjoyed a live play at the Coterie Theater. They saw, "Dr. Suessical" which incorporated several of the Dr. Seuss characters in a story centered mainly around "Horton the Elephant" and his adventures with the "Who's". It was a wild, Dr. Suessical, imaginary adventure.

After the play the groups ate a sack lunch at "Lunch Land" which was just outside of the theater, located inside Crown Center, before journeying to Kaleidoscope, which is an arts & crafts activity center provided by Hallmark Cards. The children were able to continue with their imaginary adventure as they were able to create anything imaginable with the materials provided.



Left and Below: The Kindergarten and 1st Grade students enjoy crafts and games during their field trip.



### Yearbook Order Form (Please send this form to school, Attn: Mrs. Arth)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Namestamping: Y or N (circle one) If yes: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_

# PTO Fundraiser is a HUGE Success

by Mrs. Rosemary Henry

The fall fundraiser for the PTO was a success. With the help of 84 elementary students the PTO raised approximately \$4,500. The top two winners were awarded either a gift card or gift certificate to the Great Wolf Lodge. Mikayla Wise sold 65 items and Brianna Holtzclaw sold 60 items. The PTO also awarded all sellers who sold 20 or more items a Polo panther mascot. All participants were treated to a pizza party. The PTO plans to fund 3 educational assemblies this year. The first assembly will be another great one with Randy Nadler December 17th. The other two assemblies will be after the holidays. The PTO also donated a few items to the Newman Family including a DVD/VCR player, an art easel, and an over the bed table. The PTO gave gifts to the cooks, custodians, and bus drivers during the appreciation weeks. The PTO also gives each elementary teacher \$100 for classroom supplies. The PTO hosts the spring book fair and has a family night where students and parents can come together for fun activities and refreshments. At the end of the year the PTO funds the field day activities by providing the ribbons and refreshments. The PTO tries to provide funds to help make education fun for all the students of the Polo Elementary School. We would like to thank everyone for their continued support to help make these activities possible.



Above: PTO fundraiser winners of the Great Wolf Lodge gift card/certificate.  
 (Right) Mikayla Wise sold 65 items and was awarded a Great Wolf Lodge gift card worth \$317.  
 (Left) Brianna Holtzclaw sold 60 items and was awarded a Great Wolf Lodge gift certificate worth \$317.

**Above: Polo PTO Fundraiser Winners- Panther Mascots - Sold 20 or more items.**  
**Top left: (John Bost, Jacque Gentzell, Andrew Sifford) (Jaime VanWey)**  
**Second Row: (Tristan Rardon, Danielle Allen, Jessica Barnes; Mason Misel, Jimmy Endsley, Jasmine Murray, Sidney Copeland) (Mikayla Wise, Shelby Copeland)**  
**Third Row: (Tyler James, Brianna Holtzclaw, Trystan Wolf) (Harley Sammons, Kole Larkins)**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Row: (Arianna Wolf, Chase Fifer) (Austin VanOster) (Brandon Manes) (Josh Kesler)**

## Show Choir Performances

by Ashliegh Jones

Staff Writer

As of last year when Mrs. Limyao was still here, a whole class was devoted to show choir, however, the only musical performance they did was the Broadway Musical. Due to Mrs. Limyao's absence, the class has been taken over by the instruction of Mr. McKinney, who we did a teacher spotlight in a previous issue of the Panther Pride. This year, the choir class is way more active and is devoted to many contests and the Annual Broadway Musical. As you have probably heard, December 10<sup>th</sup> is the Christmas program, which includes all of the elementary classes as well as the seventh hour show choir class. The show choir class will be performing the three following songs, "Carols Around", "Silent Night, Holy Night", and "Carols Around and Around". In the future, the choir class is looking into doing a contest at Worlds of Fun, and in the spring would like to compete again. Also in late winter or early spring, there is going to be the Annual Night on Broadway. I have been told that this year is a swing show and jazz theme, which I know we are all looking forward to. Be sure you come a support your school and friends during these coming up performances!

### BUY YOUR 2009 YEARBOOK NOW!!!

The cost is \$35 until January 31, 2009.

Beginning February 1, 2009, the price will raise to \$40.

Namestamping is \$5 extra.

**DON'T MISS THE MEMORIES!!**

## Veterans' Day Recap

by Mitch Huntley

Staff Writer

On November 11, 2009 local veterans Donald Dixon, Jeff Fowler and Jack Critchfield visited Polo High School and talked to the elementary kids about their war and life experiences.

When I asked fifth grader Jacob Hicks what he thought about the veterans visit he stated, "After they visited, I had a lot of respect for what they did. Also, I learned how much different life was for them growing up compared to ours."

Classmate Brooke Jones asked one of the veterans, "When going to school, what was your form of transportation, since you didn't have buses?"

Donald Dixon answered, "Well, it was a little harder than it is today, we either had to walk to school or we would ride our horse."

This might be where the saying, I had to walk to school, in the snow, uphill, both ways, came from.

Jill Rardon, a 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, had her students write a report on what they had learned from the veterans after their visit.

Jill stated, "They seemed to have a good understanding, and respect for the veterans, and what they fought for. Almost all of the students commented on how much different life was for the veterans growing up compared to their current lives. The veterans informed the kids about what the different parts of their uniforms meant and what you had to do to earn certain things." When Donald Dixon told the kids "losing a member was like losing a family member," I think they really took that to heart and grasped a true understanding of just how hard it was to be a soldier."

Every Veterans Day the local veterans come and speak to the kids, I think this is truly a good way to remind younger generations that freedom truly isn't free. It takes a price, and when the veterans explain to them that price they paid, and fallen heroes have paid to our country, gives the kids a greater understanding and respect for their service. "I would personally like to thank all the veterans of our nation, and soldiers fighting today for the freedom we all have, thank you."

"That's the way I see it"



## FFA Update

by Alan Vassmer

Staff Writer

November 7<sup>th</sup> was an exciting night for the Polo FFA chapter, when local students dusted off their boots and put on their cowboy hats for the Annual Barnwarming dance. The evening started off at seven o'clock with students voting for the king and queen as they entered followed by some dancing and music provided by DJ Coach Floray. At about eight thirty, the festivities began with the coronation of the king and queen. The candidates included freshmen Sid Bost and Jennifer Lindaman, sophomores Logan Dixon and Alex Templeton, juniors Zach Tormey and Linda Pilger, and seniors Cody McCrackin and Kyndra Stith. The Barnwarming King for 2008 was Zach Tormey and he received the toy tractor and the Queen was Kyndra Stith receiving the crown. Following the coronation was the annual king and queen dance, which just happens to be the chicken dance. After all of that excitement, the officers prepared a Greenhand initiation game, which the freshmen members participated in. Following that was the cider chug, the relay race, followed by the hay bale toss. It was a night full of fun and excitement for the FFA members.

Some updates about upcoming events include the annual fundraiser of fruit sales, which ended on Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. Members sell the fruit and cookie dough in order to raise money to travel to competitions, State Convention, FFA camp, National Convention, and the banquet. Following the holiday break, there will be a meeting to discuss the winter activity and State Degree applicants prior to the busy contest season.



Above: Barnwarming 2008 Royalty (Back Row) Cody McCrackin and Linda Pilger (Front Row) Sid Bost, Jennifer Lindaman, King Zach Tormey, Queen Kyndra Stith, Alex Templeton, and Logan Dixon.

## FCCLA Update

by Haley Hurd

Staff Writer

The annual turkey bowl, hosted by FCCLA will be held on November 26<sup>th</sup>. Grades four thru twelve will be able to participate. Each student wishing to attend will need to bring one dollar, which will be donated to the family of Colton Newman or two canned food items, which will be donated to Christ's Cupboard. The FCCLA organization also recently completed their annual red wheel fundraiser. The pick up date for the fundraiser were held on November 19<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a Christmas party for all FCCLA members on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

# Reading Week Activities

by Kelsi Pile

Staff Writer

November 10<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup> was National Young Readers Week. Each day student's were encouraged to read with others and to read books at home. There were even spirit days for reading week which included:

**Monday:** Reading Takes Us many Places (wear a "destination" shirt)

**Tuesday:** Reading Can Be Hard Work (wear sweats)

**Wednesday:** Read Your Favorite Book and Wear Your Favorite Shirt

**Thursday:** Do You Prefer Long or Short Books? – Wear a shirt to show people, with long or short sleeves.

**Friday:** Reading with Goodies and Hoodies (wear hoodies and bring a snack to eat while reading)

On Monday of reading week, I went down to the elementary and observed while the third graders read to kindergarteners. It was the quietest I have ever seen the Kindergarten class. They were intently listening to their third grade partners who were reading to them. Reading Week is a wonderful experience for the elementary students to hone in on their reading skills.



# Civil War History

by Alan Vassmer

Staff Writer

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, students from the Polo 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes were able to witness history up close and personal. They traveled to Kingston for the Living History-Civil War Reenactment. There students were able to see what it was like to live in a camp site during the Civil War and they were also able to talk with the re-enactors and learn more about the Civil War and how it affected Caldwell County. This area of the county experienced many battles and was right in the middle of the battle between the Union and the Confederates. Missouri was one of the most split states at this time with many citizens on both sides of the battle and often there were times when one town was supporting the Union and the neighboring town was supporting the Confederates, which led to much diversity among soldiers. This exhibit is a new addition to the county and is expected to grow and become a well-known re-enactment.



Above (first and second): Students listen intently to the re-enactors about life during the time of the Civil War. (Third): Students pose for a picture in one of the teepees from the Civil War sites.

## Santa Letters from Mrs. Silvey's Kindergarten Class

Dear Santa,

I was wondering what you are doing for Christmas? Rudolph has a red nose and I love him. Where do you live Santa? I live in Polo, MO. I would like a Barbie doll and some more make-up.

Arianna

Wolf

Dear Santa,

I would like a DS for Christmas. Me and my sister both like DS, so please bring her one too. Please bring a little music thing for my baby brother. I will leave you some cookies on the shelf by the mirror.

Mallory Clevenger

Dear Santa,

How do you get here so fast, at the mall? Do you put a Christmas tree up? How do you make those toys so fast? I would like a castle like Will's. He has a lot of people, and I only have a little bit and want more people. Where did you get that suit, and such a long puffy beard? Would you like me to send you a present?

Cody Pennington

Dear Santa,

How are you doing Santa? Sometimes I kind of hurt my brother, but I can still have a couple of presents, RIGHT? I would like a dog for Christmas and a scooter. Have a Happy Christmas.

Ashley Foster

Dear Santa,

Could I have a game like Mario for the Wii my brother won? How is Rudolph doing? Is he fine? Are the elves having a Christmas tree?

William Vaughan

Dear Santa,

My phone number is 660-352-6035 in case your sleigh gets broke down and you need to call me to help you. I would like drums and a big screen TV for the whole family and a remote control couch to help your back get better.

Killian Roark

Dear Santa,

I have been good this year. I help my mommy do work and I help get my brothers sippy cup so mom and dad don't have too. Can I get make-up and clothes, mostly dresses to wear to school?

Brooke Boydston

Dear Santa,

My new house is brown. Could you bring me some cupcakes that you make and eat and some Barbies. I also want a teddy bear to play with.

Torrie Habben

Dear Santa,

Thank you for bringing us toys last year. I hope you are having a good day. I would like something for my cousins and me to play with, probably something like a tank and truck.

Chase Fifer

Dear Santa,

I hope you are having a good time. I like the presents that you gave me last year. I would like anything that you bring me.

Will Snodgrass

Dear Santa,

Last year you brought toys for all the boys and girls. Will you please do it this year? I have a new sister, Dannie, that needs baby toys this year; like maybe a little toy truck. I would like a cowboy belt with a bull on it, and something to haul on a big flatbed trailer, like a toy car.

Dillan McKee

Dear Santa,

For Christmas, I want lots of toys. Are you making lots of toys? I really would like a car that you drive with your fingers.

Malcolm McNab

Dear Santa,

Thank you for the toys you brought me last year. I still live in Polo, MO, so could you bring me a dumpster truck and a gameboard.

Jacob Ontiveros

Dear Santa,

I wish I could have 2 toys. Even though my sister and I have trouble playing together with new toys, I hope we can get new toys anyway. Can I have a control helicopter toy and a nerf gun?

Kyle Zinna

Dear Santa,

How are you doing? I hope your reindeer are being good. I want a toy sword with a case on it, and I want a case full of games like Zeke. I want a toy horse with a horse trailer and truck.

Brady Hall

Dear Santa,

My name is Logan. I want to get a whole bunch of Star Wars stuff. Do you know where my house is? Please come on Christmas Day.

Logan Garton

Dear Santa,

I am going to have a new baby sister at my house. Please bring her a toy. I would like an electric guitar for my and my brother – we need two, please.

Mariah Dick

Dear Santa,

I would like a princess shirt for me. Please bring the babies a hat and a sweater for my big sister.

Samantha Holcomb

Dear Santa,

My house is blue, so please look for it on Christmas Eve. I want a whole lot of toys for me and my big brother and my big sisters. I like baby dolls and Barbies, and cars and race tracks. How are you, Santa Claus?

Halley Fleener

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## Teacher Spotlight: Mr. Andrew Dunker



Mr. Dunker is new to the Polo School District this year. He previously taught at the Liberty School District for two years. He is currently teaching fifth to twelfth grade band. Mr. Dunker said he began to teach because "he loves music and teaching gives him the opportunity to play music everyday and to share it with others". According to Mr. Dunker, "the band has taken huge strides since the beginning of the year. We will continue to get better and better and hopefully get an "I" rating at district contest." Some of Mr. Dunker's hobbies include playing percussion (drums), playing sports and being outside.

## Santa Letters from Mrs. Hogan's Kindergarten Class

Dear Santa,

I would like to have a little pipe like Popeye's. I would also like to have a new bike. I have tried to be really good. I will leave milk and cookies for you.

Jonathan Alden

Dear Santa,

I would like to have a I-pod, a Little Polly Pocket, and a Pony in my Pocket. I would also like to have a Puppy in my Pocket, some candy and some letter cards. Could you bring some markers and scissors? I have been very good. I would also like some number cards.

Corryn  
Baird

Dear Santa,

I would like to have a remote control car. I would also like TV and a timer. Could you bring me a camera, too? I would also like some ABC flashcards. I have tried to be good.

Cody Blackwell

Dear Santa,

I would like to have some arrows for my bow. I would also like a puppy dog and new Crayons. I will leave you some milk and cookies.

Logan Chapman

Dear Santa,

I would like to have a bunny rabbit and a wagon. I would also like a Hannah Montana microphone and a fish. I also would like to have a baby and a teddy bear. I have been really, really good.

Kara Claypole

Dear Santa,

I would like to have a tea set and a kitchen set. I would also like to have a dollhouse. I would like you to bring my little sister a Little Mermaid. I have tried to be really good.

Lilly Cooper

Dear Santa,

I would like to have a computer and a tree house. I would also like to have a TV too. Thank you. I have been very good.

Nick Covey

Dear Santa,

I would like to have a gold I-Pod and a desk. I would also like to have an automatic pencil sharpener like my teacher's. I would like to have my own computer.

Garret Daughters

Dear Santa,

I would like to have a Barbie and a mermaid. I would also like a new hairbrush and colors. I have been very good.

Marisa Fickess

Dear Santa,

I would like to have a toy bat and a soccer ball and goal. I would also like to have a cage for my dogs and cats. Please bring an Elmo for my sister. We have been very good.

Gavin Fitzwater

Dear Santa,

I have been really good. I would like to have a Death Star. I would also like a Bounty Hunter and legos. I will leave cookies and milk for you and the reindeer.

Connor Garton

Dear Santa,

I would like to have a Jungle in my Pocket, the Littlest Pet Shop and a new backpack. I would also like to have my mom and dad to be rich. I have been a good girl.

Sara Harris

Dear Santa,

I would like to have a car that I can fit in and Barbies. I would also like to have a new teddy bear and a lizard. I have been good.

Makayla Hilburn

Dear Santa,

I would like to have a timer and pens to write with. I would also like to have a stapler and a new doll. I have been a good girl.

Jennica Jay

Dear Santa,

I would like to have some Hot Wheels and new books. I would also like to have a horse to ride on. I have tried to be very good.

Brandon Manes

Dear Santa,

I would like to have an accordion and a yoyo. I will leave you some cookies and milk under the tree. I have tried to be extra good.

Maggie Martin

Dear Santa,

I would like to have a remote control dirt bike. I would also like to have a new bicycle and a NB-4 player. I have tried to be very good. I will leave you cookies and milk.

Jacob Sales

Dear Santa,

I would like to have a princess crown and a toy jeep. I would also like to have a teddy bear and a diary. I have tried to be very good.

Amanda Whitt

## How Parents and Schools Can Work Together to Curb Cyberbullying

by Mr. Ric Pelaar

Counselor

Students can participate in cyberbullying through the use of emails, texting, cell phones, and online chat rooms. Because it is indirect and many times anonymous, the ease of vicious attacks enhances the negative effect on the children. Children in grades six through eight use the technology as their primary mode to bully others. Peer pressure combined with the physical and emotions changes in this age group promote cyberbullying. Results of a recent study showed that 18% of middle school children had been bullied over the previous two months (Kowalski and Limber, 2005). Cyberbullying continues through high school.

While most incidents of cyberbullying occur outside of schools, the negative effects are manifested in poor grades, reduced classroom participation, depression, and increased suicide attempts. Caregivers and school staff must define the problem of cyberbullying. Policies regarding cyberbullying must clearly be defined and enforced. Negative behavior by students while in school and out of school must be included in the policy.

Beginning in the sixth grade classroom curriculum needs to define cyberbullying as well as other forms of bullying. The students need to understand the negative effects that cyberbullying has on students. They also need to understand the consequences of such actions administered by the school. Children need to understand that reporting cyberbullying is a duty as a responsible citizen and it is not "snitching" on fellow students. Confidential reporting needs to be encouraged by all students. The goal is to provide a positive learning environment for all the students.

Parents need to monitor their child's activity on the internet. Allowing unsupervised sessions by the children promotes the naturally inquisitive nature to visit unacceptable websites. Schools should be a resource in helping parents use filters on the home computers. Parents can also review and when needed restrict cell phone usage by their kids.

A consistent shared approach by caregivers and school personnel in educating and enforcing cyberbullying policies will reduce its occurrence.

## Lady Panthers Basketball "Clean Start"

by Kelsi Pile

Staff Writer

This year is the turning of a new leaf for the Lady Panthers. With new head Coach Kevin Webster a lot is changing in the girl's basketball program. With only winning 7 games in the past two years, Coach Webster plans on turning the ladies' losing routine around and rebuilding the tradition of girl's basketball here at Polo High School. Coach Webster began the summer explaining to the girl's the history of Polo Lady Panther basketball. During the 80s and 90's, there were numerous teams that made it to the state tournament. Also over the summer, Coach Webster gave out shirts at summer basketball camp that read "Rebuild the Tradition".

With high aspirations for the Lady Panthers, Coach Webster became dedicated to the Lady Panthers team in May when he found out he got the position. He had a one week long basketball camp and gave the girls' the opportunity to play in not one, but two summer basketball leagues; one through the Cameron YMCA and the other through the Chillicothe YMCA. Overall it was a busy summer for the girls.

With nearly 20 girls going out for the team, there will be a lot of competition for the varsity spots and the starting spots. Before any player can receive a varsity jersey, they have to complete 30 weight room sessions, which the girls had the entire summer to complete. Also any open gyms or summer basketball games counted.

The team only lost one senior last year, but is still lacking in the experience department. The team returns three seniors, who are this year's team captains, Kelsi Pile, Courtney Cawthon, and Tiffiney Hufford. The Lady Panthers have two new move-in seniors, Brittany Flowers and Adryan Overstreet, who are looking to make a contribution. Also returning are juniors Katelyn Sanders and Ashliegh Jones. Key sophomores this year include, Maddy Misel, Courtney Arthur, Nikki Junco, and Alex Templeton. Some new players to the team this year include, junior Brittney McGinley, sophomores, Cortney Farris, Christian Clark, and freshman, Haley Harrison, Jonna Stottlemire, Dina Uehling, Kadee Phillips and Jordin Langdon.

The team faces a new district this year, which creates new challenges for the Lady Panthers. The girls are looking to change their fate of the past seasons and make this a successful season. Good luck Lady Panthers!



## Basketball Season Fires Up

by Spencer Snodgrass

Staff Writer

The winter sports season is now upon us and that means that Boys Basketball Season is starting up again. Returning for his third season with the Polo Panthers boys basketball program is Coach Greg Keith.

"We've put in a lot of new stuff this year and I'm eager to see how it will work out with new athletes to the program." said Coach Keith.

The Panthers have high hopes for this year's season after being assigned to a new district this season.

Coach Keith on the new district assignments said, "I don't know a lot about the teams in our new district. I'm going to have to get out there and do a lot of scouting."

The Panthers will have low experience team this year after losing 6 seniors last year who all were significant contributors throughout the year. This year's team includes freshmen Justin Hazelman, Toby Poje, Austin Bowley, Ashton Shelton, and Dillon James. Sophomores include Kaidan Roark and Dylan Parker. This year's juniors are Davin Lucassen, Dalton Rardon, and Josh Junco. Leading the team are this year's seniors, Spencer Snodgrass, Cody Drew, Mark Gray and Brandon Hurd. The Panthers are hoping to have a more successful year than last year.

Some of the goals for the team this year include, "Improve every game. We have a primarily young team and my goal is freshman through senior to work hard and bring the underclassmen up so they are prepared for varsity next year." "Another goal is for freshman through senior, everybody be on the same page and focusing on the task at hand game day." says Coach Keith.

I hope to see everyone out supporting your hometown boy's basketball team.



Left: The Lady Panthers Basketball team, coached by Kevin Webster and Alison Carr. Above: The Panther Basketball team, coached by Greg Keith and Curtis Floray.

## Panthers Hit the Mat

by Mitch Huntley

Staff Writer

Its time, winter is here and that can only mean one thing. It's wrestling season in Polo, America. The Panthers have started rigorous training for the season ahead. With so many panthers stacked in the middleweight divisions, the road ahead looks like a steep slope, but under the coaching of returning Klint Kloeping and head coach Chris Johnson the Panthers hope to remain strong and fight for tournament titles throughout the year.

This season the Panthers have only three new faces including freshmen Dillon Flowers, Harley Martin and Michael Clark. With only losing two seniors last year, the Panthers remain a strong team. This year's team includes seniors Tyler Scobee, Austin Okorn, and myself, juniors Dean Manning and Lance Snodgrass, sophomores Conager Glasgow, Logan Dixon, Jeff King and James Taylor.

The main focus this year is conditioning. Last year, as a team, conditioning was a major issue. Coach Kloeping stated "I know we have talent on this year's team. We have what it takes to win a conference title, and the ability to send a lot of kids to State. My main focus is to condition, and push these kids to their limits, but in the end, it all depends on how bad they want to win".

As of now the Panthers are certifying at their desired weight classes for the year. In the certification process, each wrestler must pass a hydration test, be weighed, and have their body fat tested before the first meet in order to wrestle. On December 4<sup>th</sup>, the Panthers will take on opponents North Platte and South Harrison in a double dual. The wrestlers would like to encourage every "Polo America" (Coach Johnson) citizen to come watch, and cheer on the team in their first battle of the year.

"That's the way I see it"



Above: Coach Kloeping instructs the wrestlers. Left: Tyler Scobee and Logan Dixon working on wrestling tactics to prepare for the upcoming season. Right: The senior football players after their last game.

## Football Season Comes to a Close

by Spencer Snodgrass

Staff Writer

As district play came to a close, so did the Polo Panthers 2008 season. The Panthers ended their season in a game at home against the Maysville Wolverines. It was also Senior Night for the senior players so hopes were high to finish off their careers as Panthers with a win. After the pre-game honoring of the seniors, the game was ready to begin.

The Panther's kicked off to the Wolverines to begin the game. The first quarter was a defensive struggle with neither team scoring. In the second quarter, the Wolverines would strike first on a long drive. The Panthers got the ball back. With the ball on the 40 yard line, quarterback Dalton Rardon connected with senior running back Cody Drew on a 60 yard pass to bring the score to 6-6. The Wolverines scored again quickly on a long run to pull ahead 14-6. When the Panthers got the ball back, it was late in the quarter. They were driving the ball down the field when Dalton Rardon completed a pass to senior Spencer Snodgrass for a 35 yard catch and run to bring the Panthers back within 2. The score going into halftime was 14-12.

The teams emerged onto the field for the second half and the Panthers received the ball to start off the second half. The Panthers would punt to the Wolverines. Maysville scored once in the third quarter to bring the score to 20-12. Both teams' defenses struggled and the Panthers were unable to put together a successful drive coming down to late in the fourth quarter. The Wolverines scored on final time in the quarter to make the score 28-12. On the ensuing kick-off, senior Spencer Snodgrass would return the kick 75 yards for a touchdown to bring the Panthers within 8. The onside kick attempt failed but the Panthers stopped the Wolverines quickly and got the ball back with 1:30 to go in the game. The Panthers drove the ball down the field until an unsuccessful fourth down conversion ended the drive and the Panthers hope. The game would end in a score of 28-20.

The Panthers concluded their season with a 2-8 overall record. The season did not go how everyone wanted but many young players got the needed experience to help build for the future of football here at Polo High School. That future looks to be bright.



