



POLO R-VII SCHOOL DISTRICT

THE

PANTHER PRIDE

February 2009

Volume 4, Issue 6

Important February Dates

- Feb. 2 - Late Start 10:30 am
FFA Meeting 7:00 pm
- Feb. 3 - VBB vs. S. Harrison 6:00 pm
MS Academic Team @ Cameron 4:00 pm
- Feb. 4 - MS Academic Team @ Hamilton 4:00 pm
Sophomores to Vo-Tech 8:30 am
- Feb. 5 - VBB @ Hamilton 6:00 pm
VWR vs. Lathrop/Hamilton 6:00 pm (Senior Night)
- Feb. 6 - GRC Choir rehearsal @ S. Harrison 9:00 am
Spelling Bee for Grades 5-8 1:30 pm
- Feb. 7 - GRC Band rehearsal @ S. Harrison 9:00 am
GRC Band & Choir Performance @ S. Harrison 5:00 pm
Polo Youth Wrestling Tournament
- Feb. 9 - JVBB vs. Maysville 6:00 pm
FBLA/FCCLA Week
- Feb.10 - VBB @ Stanberry 6:00 pm
- Feb. 13 - VBB vs. Worth County 6:00 pm (Senior Night)
VWR Super Districts @ Lexington HS
K-4th Valentine's Parties 2:00 pm
- Feb. 14 - CRBC BB 10:00 am & 12:15 pm
VWR Super Districts @ Lexington HS
- Feb. 16 - President's Day - NO SCHOOL
FBLA District Contest @ Wellington-Napoleon
- Feb. 17 - VBB vs. King City 6:00 pm (Mat/Court warming Game)
- Feb. 19 - BOE Meeting 7:00 pm
County Spelling Bee @ Cowgill 7:00 pm
State Wrestling Tournament @ Columbia
- Feb. 20 - VBB @ Maysville 6:00 pm
State Wrestling Tournament @ Columbia
- Feb. 21 - CRBC BB 10:00 am & 12:15 pm
State Wrestling Tournament @ Columbia
- Feb. 23 - PTO Sponsored Book Fair in Multi-Purpose (all week)
National FFA Week
- Feb. 24 - JV/VBB @ Lathrop 4:00 pm
- Feb. 26 - Scholastic Photography for Group/Individual Pictures
- Feb. 27 - JB/VBB @ Winston 5:00 pm
- Feb. 28 - Mat/Court warming Dance 7-10 :00 pm

Polo R-VII School District Receives State Award

by Mr. Robert Newhart
Superintendent

The Polo R-VII School District received notice from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) that the school district was awarded the 2008 Distinction in Performance Award. This award is based upon the school districts' Annual Performance Report (APR) consisting primarily of individual composite student Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) scores, graduation rates, discipline incidents, post secondary placement, and number of qualified staff members. Out of a possible fourteen-point scale, the Polo School District received fourteen points. According to Mr. Newhart, Polo R-VII Superintendent, "Credit the staff and students for their hard work and dedication, plus the support of parents and patrons". In addition, Mr. Newhart added, "The leadership of the Polo R-VII Board of Education, including past and present members, has provided the foundation for the necessary school environment for student and staff success". The current Polo R-VII Board members include Ralph Zeikle (Board President), Allen Henry (Board Vice-President), Max Hicks, Lisa Fultz, Greg Misel, Shane Rardon, and the late Duane Snodgrass.

From the Elementary Office

by Mrs. Beverly Deis
Elementary Principal

This winter weather is so unpredictable. One day we are out walking with our jackets and the next day it seems the temperature drops 40 degrees and we need our coats, hats, gloves, and scarves! 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 Tuesday, March 10 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.

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 "Time for Kids" for all K-6 students. Time for Kids is a great supplemental resource used by the teachers.

The PTO will be having a Book Fair the week of February 23. The theme for the book fair will focus on movies.

Other upcoming dates include:

- Feb. 6 – Polo Spelling Bee
- Feb. 13 – Valentine's Day parties for PK-4
- Feb. 17 – NAEP Test for Fourth Grade Students
- Feb. 19 – Character Ed. Assembly for K-6 sponsored by PTO
- Feb. 23 – PTO Book Fair begins

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INFO

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Elementary Perfect Attendance and Honor Roll for 1st Semester

Kindergarten

Corryn Baird
Cody Blackwell
Logan Chapman
Kara Claypole
Mariah Dick
Chase Fifer
Ashley Foster
Makayla Hilburn
Maggie Martin
Dillan McKee
Will Snodgrass
Amanda Whitt
Kyle Zinna

First Grade

Christian Bartz
Earl Cory
Laney Durbin
Dylan Frazier
Ethan Jeffus
Jordan Rash
Katie Rechtermann
Andria Richardson

Second Grade

Mitchell Berndt
Mariah Clevenger
Dylan Faulkner
Nickolas Myers

Third Grade

Hailey Bartz
Luke Cory
Sierra Dye
Dalton Frazier
Garrett Jones
Michael Kerste
Kelsie Reavis
Dylan Sales
Jeffrey Stanley

Fourth Grade

Tyler Chapman
Ryan Henry
Douglas Lindaman
Gunnar Martin
Alex Myers

Fifth Grade

Logan Bowley
Jorgia Cory
Cheyanne Dye
Aerial Eggers
Derek Faulkner
Emily Fickess
Ashley Harris
Brandon Hubbard
Josh Kesler
Mikayla Reavis
Parker Smith

Sixth Grade

Danielle Allen
Jessica Barnes
Cati Boruch
Tristan Rardon
Brandon Richardson
Alissa Ross
Adrianna Segar

Elementary Honor Roll for 2nd Quarter

5th Grade

A

Gage Aubrey
Aerial Eggers
Emily Fickess
Ashley Harris
Erik Johnson
Jenna Johnson
Josh Kesler
Parker Smith

B

Morgan Berndt
Logan Bowley
Cheyanne Dye
Michael Leamer
Leslie McCaulley
Austin McKinzie
Cheyenne Parker
Mikayla Reavis
Brittany Sheppard
Adrianna Staus
Jesse Vaughan
Alissa Wood

6th Grade

A

Jessica Barnes
Madison Curp
Jacob Hicks
Skylar Howe
Brandon Latimer
Mason Misel
Tristan Rardon
Adriana Segar

B

Catherine Boruch
Jessica Conner
Sidney Copeland
Andrew Holland
Brooke Jones
Wiley Martin
Alisha Ross
Trystan Sunby
Aimee Walker

Panther Card Qualifiers for 1st Semester 2008-09

7th & 8th Grade

Daniel Boruch
Kylee Eaglen
Monica Fickess
Megan Henry
Tyler James
Brady McCaskey
Duncan Parker
Jack Pile
Rhea Rardon
Camie Smith
Avery Snodgrass
Logan Stump
Tony Utt
Lauren Wagner
Anna Way

9-12th Grade

Paige Ahart
Brooke Byrd
Christian Clark
Michael Clark
Logan Dixon
Brittany Flowers
Dylan Flowers
Justin Garrett
Katie Garrett
Ambrielle Hicks
Cody Hicks
Misty Holdridge
Mitch Huntley
Haley Hurd
Josh Junco
Nikki Junco
Dillon James
Ashliegh Jones
Jordan Kilmer
Jennifer Lindaman
Harley Martin

Stormy Ross
Tyler Russell
Tyler Scobee
Ashton Shelton
Tiffany Shivers
Lance Snodgrass
Kaylie Sorensen
Kyndra Stith
Kyle Stith
Rita Stottlemire
Jonna Stottlemire
Alex Templeton
Emily Templeton
Sarah Thomas
Bobby Thompson
AJ Wells
Megan Yates
Daniel Zeikle
Maddy Misel
Carlie Powers
Dalton Rardon

**Middle School Honor Roll
1st Semester 2008-09**

A Honor Roll

Sammie Copeland
Missy Cawthon
Monica Fickess
Duncan Parker
Avery Snodgrass
Alex Johnson
Megan Henry
Loren Wagner

B Honor Roll

Justin Hicks
Tony Utt
Daniel Boruch
Brady McCaskey
Zach Freeman
Taylor Strickbine
Rhea Rardon
Cammie Smith
Savannah Cline
Logan Stump
Jack Pile
Julianne Wood
Kylee Eaglen

**Middle School 1st Semester
Perfect Attendance**

Blake Bates
Daniel Boruch
Kylee Eaglen
Alec Eggers
Monica Fickess
Megan Henry
Justin Hicks
Tyler James
Amy McBee
Brady McCaskey
Dallas Parker
Duncan Parker
Jordyn Phillips
Jack Pile
Tabitha Poje
Rhea Rardon
Jonathan Shelton
Camie Smith
Avery Snodgrass
Houston Stone
Logan Stump
Darrek Tate
Tony Utt
Loren Wagner
Anna Way
Julianne Wood

**Honor Roll Grades 9-12
1st Semester 2008-09**

A

Brooke Byrd
Kyle Stith
Kim O'Dell
Cody Hicks
Kelsi Pile
Courtney Cawthon
Spencer Snodgrass
Cody McCrackin
Kyndra Stith
Mitch Huntley
Megan Yates
Julie Spilman
Adryan Overstreet
Alan Vassmer
Brittany Flowers
Misty Holdridge
Katelyn Sanders
Lance Snodgrass
Haley Hurd
Dalton Rardon
Karlie Schafer
Stormy Ross
Rita Stottlemire
Ashliegh Jones
Maddy Misel
Nikki Junco
Kaylie Sorensen
Carlie Powers
Sarah Thomas
Katie Garrett
Dylan Flowers
Ashton Shelton
Alexandra Gaines
Hailey Thomas

B

Ambrielle Hicks
Tiffany Shivers
Kaitlyn Taylor
Daniel Zeikle
Cody Drew
Tyler Scobee
Kelsie Clark
Austin Okorn
Tiffiney Hufford
Brandon Hurd
Linda Pilger
Justin Garrett
Andra Young
Paige Ahart
Alex Holland
AJ Wells
Josh Junco
Tyler Russell
Alishia Bolling
Casey Strickbine
Zach Tormey
Skye Robinson
Alex Templeton
Christian Clark
Savannah Mitchell
Logan Dixon
Bobby Thompson
Courtney Arthur
Jonna Stottlemire
Emily Templeton
Harley Martin
Jordan Kilmer
Kadee Phillips
Ashley Ross
Malorie Rood
Haley Harrison
Jennifer Lindaman
Michael Clark

**Perfect Attendance
2008-09 First Semester
Grades 9-12**

Paige Ahart
Austin Bowley
Brooke Byrd
Chris Carr
Kassi Carr
Braden Chastain
Christian Clark
Michael Clark
Logan Dixon
Brittany Flowers
Dylan Flowers
Michael Fultz
Justin Garrett
Katie Garrett
Conagher Glasgow
Ambrielle Hicks
Cody Hicks
Kaleb Hicks
Misty Holdridge
Dillon Hufford
Mitch Huntley
Haley Hurd
Dillon James
Ashliegh Jones
Josh Junco
Nikki Junco
Jordan Kilmer
Josh Lee
Jennifer Lindaman
Harley Martin
Maddy Misel
Ryan Phillips
Linda Pilger
Toby Poje
Carlie Powers
Dalton Rardon
Randy Reeder
Stormy Ross
Tyler Russell
Tyler Scobee
Sarah Sharp
Ashton Shelton
Tiffany Shivers
Lance Snodgrass
Spencer Snodgrass
Kaylie Sorensen
Kyle Stith
Kyndra Stith
Jonna Stottlemire
Rita Stottlemire
James Taylor
Alex Templeton
Emily Templeton
Michelle Templeton
Sarah Thomas
Bobby Thompson
Dina Uehling
AJ Wells
Megan Yates
Daniel Zeikle

Discovery Class Writings

by Mitch Huntley

Staff Writer

Students in Mrs. Rardon's fifth grade Discovery Class used the writing process to create this article. First, the students brainstormed the important items Randy Nadler presented. Next, the class created a rough draft with various writers. Students were then given copies of the draft to revise and edit. Finally, they submitted the article to their trusty teachers' aide, Mitch Huntley (myself), to prepare for the paper.

Discovery students include: Gage Aubrey, Logan Bowley, Aerial Eggers, Ashley Harris, Brandon Hubbard, Erik Johnson, Michael Leamer, Leslie McCaulley, Austin McKinzie, Cheyenne Parker, Parker Smith, and Alissa Wood.

India with Randy Nadler

By: Fifth Grade Discovery Class

Randy Nadler presents his trip to India. He goes to different countries during the summer and comes back to the USA and tells students about his discoveries.

India is the home of the Taj Mahal, a monument built for King Mahal's wife. There are five classes there. The religious people are the top class, the military and the teachers are the second class; they have money but not as much as the religious group. The business and professional people have normal jobs, and enough money to pay for what they need. The fourth class is the servants; they have a place to live, but very little money. The untouchables were very poor and lived on the streets.

The schools in India are very different from the schools here in the United States. Instead of a variety of food, students have to eat the same meal everyday. Also, the schools in India do not have air conditioners.

They built a golden temple for one species and worshipped them. That one species was rats! How absurd! There were only six white rats in the temple. They said if you saw one, then you would have good luck for the rest of your life! One way they worshipped the rats was by bringing them milk.

Did you know that snake dancing is fake? Some ways to show the ritual is fake is by taking the fangs out and sewing the cobra's mouth shut. Also, the snakes can't hear the flute, but they can see it a little.

In India, cows are worshipped like kings and queens, and they are not in pastures, they roam the streets of India. India uses the cows for milk, and when the cows die they use them for hides. What do you think they used the manure for? They used the manure for making food taste really good, with cow patties. They really just use cow patties for charcoal. "Do you want fries with that?"

SADD Update

by Haley Hurd

Staff Writer

The SADD organization is starting a new project for the first time. They will be educating the middle school students about tobacco awareness. The students will learn how to say no, why to say no and what tobacco can do to your body. The SADD group sold candy canes the week of December 8th. The organization sold a total of 215 candy canes to students and faculty. The SADD group raised an unexpected amount of funds to support the campaign for tobacco awareness and the Arrive Alive campaign.

Polo Student Attends Inauguration Ceremonies

by Kelsi Pile

Staff Writer

Nikki Junco, a junior here at Polo High School, had the opportunity of a lifetime attending the Presidential Youth Inaugural Conference (PYIC) in Washington D.C. during the Presidential Inauguration. 15,000 scholars ranging from middle school to college attended the PYIC and only 67 were from the state of Missouri.

Scholars saw guest speakers such as Doris Goodwin, an author and Pulitzer Prize winner, Lisa Ling, a special correspondent and previous host for *The View*, General Colin Powell, former Secretary of State, Arch Bishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Prize winner, and Al Gore, former Vice President and Nobel Peace Prize winner.

"It was a very inspiring weekend. Every speaker had good advice and good stories to tell. My favorite was General Colin Powell," said Nikki.

On Inauguration day, January 21st, the scholars were able to do as they pleased, as long as they stayed in small groups. Nikki's group decided to try and make it to the Capital Building until they saw the mobs of people adding to the 2 million people that surrounded the Capital Building, so instead she and the group watched the inauguration on a giant gametron. They then got to sight see and tour Washington D.C., including the Washington Memorial and a Newseum.

Traveling by herself to and from Washington D.C. she learned a lot of life lessons. "I learned to have a lot of patience. Also not everyone will do everything for you, you are responsible for yourself," says Nikki.

Nikki also brought back lots of Inaugural hardware, including Barack Buttons, newspapers, calendars, and presidential inauguration coins. In conclusion, Nikki had a lot of fun and enjoyed herself, but feels that it was very disorganized and some serious changes should be considered. But it's hard to move around 2 million plus people in Washington D.C.

"REMINDER"
All Panther Pride
Issues are
posted on the School
Website.
polo.k12.mo.us

Greenhands attend Motivational Conference

by Alan Vassmer

Staff Writer

On Wednesday January 7th, 2009 students from the Polo FFA department woke up early to leave at 6:45 and travel to Trenton, Missouri for the Annual Greenhand Motivational Conference. The group consisted of the first year agriculture students which are known as "Greenhands" in the FFA program. Also attending was Alan Vassmer, Area Parliamentarian, since the area officers were the ones that held the conference.

The conference began with chapters from all over the area first registering, then followed by group pictures of the individual chapters with the state officers in attendance. After that, the Area officers started off the event with the opening ceremonies. Prior to the opening ceremonies, there was a short introduction by the NCMC President of Admissions, who allowed the FFA chapters to use the campus for the event. The State officers performed a short entertaining skit, based off of "Get a Clue". Following the skit, the area officers proceeded to divide the greenhands into certain break-up groups to get individual sessions with the state officers. The State officers held these smaller group sessions to teach the Greenhands about what they could accomplish in the FFA, throughout their high school career and taught them what they could get out of the FFA, whatever they put into it. Following the break out sessions, students then met back up in the gym for a special speech by Beverley Kreul, who is the State FFA Secretary. This was followed by the closing ceremonies session, which was again held by the Area officers.

The event seemed to be a great experience for the underclassmen that were in attendance. These students were able to speak with members from all over our area and were given the chance to speak to the state officers about their futures as members of this great program. Greenhands were able to gain valuable experience and insight of just what the FFA organization is about and they were able to see what they may want to accomplish.

Kindergartners Take Interest in the President

by Mrs. Sherrie Silvey

Kindergarten Teacher

On Jan. 20, the Kindergarten classes watched Barak Obama take the oath of office as our 44th President. The students, with the technological ability of going to a news website, via TV / computer hook-up, looked over possible pets that the Obama girls may choose.

Mrs. Hogan's class chose, through ballot voting, a Shih Tzu being their number 1 choice, and a German Shepherd coming in 2nd; while Mrs. Silvey's class chose the German Shepherd as their pick, with the Chihuahua and Yorkshire Terrier coming in 2nd and 3rd consecutively.

We will try to stay informed on which dog is chosen for the family.

Academic Team 2009

by Alan Vassmer

Staff Writer

It is now the time of the year where the Polo Academic Team starts preparing for their upcoming season, which begins in March, with competitions occurring on every Monday of the month. Competitions consist of a wide variety of categories ranging from general knowledge, to sports, to trigonometry. Through out the season, these bright students under the direction of Mr. Sterner will face other brilliant minds from across the GRC in a battle of the brains.

The competitions are set up with a team of four challenging another team of four. There are four rounds to each match to make up the entire game. During the first and third rounds, there is a serious of twenty-five random toss-up questions and in order to answer the question a competitor has to buzz in and answer correctly to be awarded points. In the second and third rounds, there are twenty toss up questions and if they are answered correctly the team that answered correctly receives five bonus questions that the team can discuss together and the captain must present their final answer in the allotted time limit.

The GRC has some competitive schools for the academic team to go against and the season usually sees a lot of smart kids but this year the Panther Academic team is looking strong and ready to take on any team that lies ahead. This is an activity that usually goes unnoticed by many, yet it contains some of the brightest minds in the school.

Mini Cheer Clinic

by Haley Hurd

Staff Writer

The mini cheer clinic for basketball was another wonderful success. The cheerleading practices were held from January 14th thru 16th. The younger cheerleaders performed on January 20th, at the Varsity basketball game against Gallatin. The Kindergartners thru second graders danced to Cyndi Lauper's "Girls just want to have fun" and did the cheers "Stand up, Sit down" and "Wave your hands". The third thru sixth graders danced to Alvin and the Chipmunks- "Witch Doctor". They did a new cheer "Panther Fans" and "We are the Panthers".

ATTENTION!!!

WHAT: Parent Informational Meeting for grades 7-12
WHEN: March 10, 2009 at 6:00 pm
WHERE: High School Library
WHY: Learn more information on MAP testing, End of Course Exam Testing, and Scholarships

Citizenship Board Drawing

by Mrs. Beverly Deis

Elementary Principal

On Wednesday, December 17, 2008, Mrs. Deis surprised the students with a drawing from the Panther Pride Citizenship Board. During the first semester, student names were added to the Panther Pride Bulletin Board for acts of citizenship (picking up trash, helping another student, holding the door open, etc.). The winners of the drawing were Micheal Kerste, Michael Knotts, and Matthew Vaughan (third grade), Teagan Logan (second grade), and Cati Boruch (sixth grade). Winners received various prizes. The Panther Pride Citizenship Bulletin Board will resume on January 5, 2009. I would like to thank all of the students who were represented on the Panther Pride Bulletin Board and I would like to encourage all students to demonstrate appropriate citizenship skills.

100th Day Celebration

by Mrs. Patty Dixon

3rd Grade Teacher

On January 28th the Third Graders visited their Kindergarten buddies and celebrated the **100th Day** of school. Mrs. Silvey and Mrs. Hogan had several IPI activities for them to do with their assigned buddy. The third grade was very anxious to share their **100** items with their buddies, and later that day the Third graders invited the Kindergarten over to share. It was a very special day for all involved.



Map Reward Trip for 4th-6th Graders

by Mrs. Beverly Deis

Elementary Principal

Several students in grades 4, 5, and 6 were recently presented with MAP Awards for scoring proficient and/or advanced on any of the spring 2008 Map Assessments. On Wednesday, January 21, the students were treated to a day at the YMCA in Chillicothe. Students receiving the awards and attending the field trip were: Jessica Barnes, Catherine Boruch, Andrew Holland, Brandon Latimer, Aimee Walker, Tyler Chapman, Jed Wilson, Jessica Conner, Madison Curp, Mason Daughters, Katelyn Eichmeier, Jacob Hicks, Skylar Howe, Mason Misel, Brandon Richardson, Allisha Ross, Adriana Segar, Sean Winget, Gage Aubrey, Jorgia Cory, Cheyanne Dye, Aerial Eggers, Ashley Harris, Joely Hicks, Erik Johnson, Jenna Johnson, Joshua Kesler, Mikayla Reavis, Brittany Sheppard, Adrianna Staus, Shelby Stump, KaLee Tarwater, Jesse Vaughan, Gavin Walker, Sidney Copeland, Brooke Jones, Douglas Lindaman, Austin McKinzie, Parker Smith, Garrett Thomas, Austin VanOster, Lauren Alden, Alissa Wood, and Tiffany Pimental.

New Years Resolutions

by Ashliegh Jones

Staff Writer

As January 1st comes around every year, people are always talking about their new resolutions, to lose weight or to quit smoking. For some people, it may just be to remember to take vitamins every day. We use resolutions to set goals for ourselves that we believe will make our life better and/or easier. However does anyone ever wonder why we come up with these silly New Year's resolutions anyway? I mean for most of us they don't last for but a month but yet we spend two months coming up with the perfect resolution that we are sure we can keep!

The truth is that we started celebrating the New Year way back in Julius Cessars' reign. About 4000 years ago, the Babylonians wanted to set goals for the New Year, just as we do today. However, back then, one of their most frequent goals was to return borrowed farm equipment just like we would return borrowed clothes, shoes or tools today. Like us, they didn't want to set a goal to hard to keep. They thought if the goal was too hard, they would give up on it before it even started. The Babylonians made these commitments because they believed whatever you did on the first day of the New Year had an affect all year long. So making sincere thoughtful intentions was their way of starting the year off right.

USA's Top Ten New Year's Resolutions:

1. Lose Weight and Get in Better Physical Shape
2. Stick to a Budget
3. Debt Reduction
4. Enjoy More Quality Time with Family & Friends
5. Find My Soul Mate
6. Quit Smoking
7. Find a Better Job
8. Learn Something New
9. Volunteer and Help Others
10. Get Organized

“Pat on the Back”

by Mrs. Beverly Deis
Elementary Principal

Rob Collins, sixth grade teacher at Polo Elementary, received a Pat on the Back at the January Board of Education meeting. Mr. Collins has implemented a Drama Class for the sixth grade non-band students to introduce them to another fine arts class. The Drama Class recently presented three short plays for the younger elementary students.



Candidates File for 2009 Polo R-VII Board of Education

by Mr. Robert Newhart
Superintendent

The Polo R-VII School District received verification of three candidates filing for two, three-year positions, for the Polo R-VII Board of Education. Two incumbents, Allen Henry (Board Vice-President) and Max Hicks, will seek re-election. Christal (Fickess) Rood is the third candidate seeking her first term on the board. The board election will held on Tuesday, April 7th, 2009.



On Stage with Drama Class

by Mr. Rob Collins
6th Grade Teacher

The sixth grade drama class lived up to the old adage, “The show must go on” as they performed during the first week back from Winter Break. Four of the twelve member cast were absent with illness. The remainder of the troupe quickly reassigned speaking parts and stage hand responsibilities. The actors were primed and in their places when the audience of 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and the remaining 6th grade students arrived.

The class performed a choral reading of the Shel Silverstein poem, “Inside of a Lion”, complete with giant cardboard lion swallowing one of the students. They followed that with an adaptation of “The Three Little Pigs” by presenting “The Three Little Elephants and the Big Bad Mouse.” Their final segment combined two readings as the cast demonstrated “How to Torture Your Students” and “How to Torture Your Teachers.”

The Drama class provides the opportunity for non-band students to actively be a part of performing arts and experience being in front of an audience. One cast member expressed her feelings, “I was nervous about getting up in front of other students, including my own class. The audience was great though. The other 6th graders were very supportive and cheered us on.” The members also learn how to build stage sets, design costumes, and use props and sound effects to enrich their performances.

The class is preparing for their next performance which will take place in the Spring.



March 14th & 15th

Polo Community Building

Tickets go on sale February 1 thru February 28

March 14th Dinner at 5 PM & Show 6:30 PM

March 15th Matinee Show - 2 PM

Dinner Theatre Ticket \$15 or 2 for \$28

Matinee & Show Only tickets \$9

No Dinner Tickets sold at door

Adult Dinner/Show/Matinee (both days) \$20 each



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Polo, MO 64671

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Polo School.**



Changes in Standardized Testing

by Mr. Ric Pelaar

Counselor

Based on the Federal requirement to validate student achievement levels, the State of Missouri has mandated that all school children in grades 3 through 11 take the MAP tests in the core areas of Math, Language Arts, Social Studies and Science. Beginning this school year, students in the third through eighth grade will continue to take the MAP tests. However, high school students will begin taking end of course (EOC) examinations. The Board of Education voted to have the EOC exams count as 10% of the students' grades. This year the students will be tested in the following classes:

- Algebra A and Algebra I students will take the Algebra I EOC exam.
- Biology I class will take the Biology I EOC exam.
- Language Arts II students will take the LA II EOC exam.

Students in grades 3 through 8 will take the MAP tests in March. Results will be available to parents and students in September 2009. Then, our teachers will give the EOC tests in April. A third party will score part of the test within one week. Once returned, teachers grade the written portion of the tests and enter the grade in the student's records. After returning the results to the vendor, the statistical comparison and final grades will be given to the schools and parents in September 2009. Over the next three years, high school students will take eight EOC exams during their four years in high school. They will include two tests each in the four core subjects of English, Math, Science and Social Studies.



Left, Top: Junior Dalton Rardon shoots a free throw during the game against Gallatin.

Left, Bottom: The Panthers look to Coach Keith for guidance in the game against Braymer.



Right, Top: Senior Tiffiney Hufford faces off against the South Harrison girls for the tip-off.

Right, Bottom: Senior Kelsi Pile puts up a free throw in the game against Princeton.

CRBC Basketball of 2009

by Ashliegh Jones

Staff Writer

Central Rivers Basketball Club was founded in 1995. It was created to give children the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of basketball, while still giving them the competition that they long for. In this league, there is a required amount of time that each player has to play in each game. Every child gets an opportunity to practice and play basketball with kids their own age, which makes it a fun learning experience. The age groups of this program range from 3rd to 8th grade with the teams split into 3rd & 4th, 5th & 6th, as well as 7th & 8th.

Every year, the Polo school gets together the students interested in playing the game of basketball and creates the teams. Coaches set up practice schedules so they can start teaching the younger kids the fundamentals and give the older kids a refresher course by building on what they have learned. The organization comes up with the game schedules for the students and coaches. Here at Polo, we get the opportunity of playing against teams from Hamilton, Hardin, Plattsburg, Orrick, Lathrop, Lawson, Norborne, and Excelsior Springs. This gives the students an insight on some of the teams they will play in high school.

This year the teams have played 3 games so far and as of January 17, the fifth and sixth grade team is undefeated, they won their last game by 2 points in overtime; the third and fourth grade team is 1-2, their first win was the seventeenth; and the seventh and eighth grade teams record is 1-2 as well, they lost their last game within 8 seconds by one point. The season has just started so come support your Polo Panthers!



Panther Wrestling Review: “A Million Matches in Minutes”

by Mitch Huntley

Staff Writer

Since the last Panther Wrestling review there have been a million matches, give or take a few thousand.

Coming off a long Christmas break the Panthers traveled to Rock Port on Friday January 9th and stayed at the cozy Rock Port Inn. The following morning the wrestlers woke up at 6:00 a.m. and headed off to Rock Port High School to compete in a grueling all day tournament. After the day long battle, the Panthers filled their jar with a lot of “cookies”. From lightest to heaviest, James Taylor 2nd, Dillon Flowers 4th, Conagher Glasgow 5th, Mitch Huntley 1st, Tyler Scobee 1st, Logan Dixon 5th, Austin Okorn 3rd, Lance Snodgrass 2nd, and Harley Martin took 3rd. Overall the team did well for having so many open weight classes, placing 2nd overall in the team rankings.

That following Tuesday, the Panthers had a double dual at Gallatin High School against the Maysville Wolverines and Gallatin Bulldogs. In the dual against Maysville, the Panthers lost by a close two points with a score of 33-35 Maysville. In the dual of Polo versus Gallatin the score was 27-52, with Gallatin capturing the win.

On Thursday, January 15th, Polo had another double dual with the Tarkio Indians and St. Mary’s Trojans. In the Panthers first dual against the Indians, Polo came out on top with a 42-27 point victory.

On January 17th, the Polo Panthers traveled on an ice covered bus to compete in the Plattsburg Tournament. Overall the Panthers did well coming out with eight wrestlers placing. Medaling highest in the tournament was Polo’s 145lb’er Tyler Scobee with a 3rd place. Coming in 4th was James Taylor, Mitch Huntley, Lance Snodgrass and Harley Martin. In 5th, Dillon Flowers, Conagher Glasgow and Austin Okorn. This is the toughest tournament the Panthers have all year, consisting of several state medalists and state qualifiers in each weight class. In the end, both Coach Johnson and Coach Kloepping said, “You know what you need to work on”, with this being said, each wrestler knows exactly what they need to do in order to advance to the state competition in Columbia.

On Tuesday, January 20th, the Panther wrestlers traveled to Independence to face Sherwood and Tri-City in a double dual. Stomping the competition, the Panthers rolled over both Sherwood 44-17 and Tri-City 48-24.

The final double dual of the week, Thursday, January 22nd, on their own soil, the Panthers faced Trenton and St. Pius. In the first dual, the wrestlers lost to Trenton 36-47. Round two against the St. Pius Warriors, the Panthers won a close battle, at the end the score was an even 39-39, but with MSHSAA tie breaking regulations the Panthers came out with a win due to more points scored in a match which is based on criteria F.

Overall the team is lacking in numbers, having only nine wrestlers this year to fill a roster of fourteen weight groups. Despite the shortage, the Panthers are still working hard, and are fulfilling the “Polo Pride” in wrestling athletics.

“That’s the way I see it”



Top to Bottom: (Top) Polo received 2nd place as a team at the Rock Port Tournament. (Second) Logan Dixon wrestling a tarkio opponent. (Third) Dylan Flowers looks to the referee for the pin against his opponent. (Bottom) Harley Martin pins his St. Mary’s opponent by his signature move, the head lock.

Boys Basketball Season Update

by Spencer Snodgrass

Staff Writer

The Polo Boys Basketball team is continuing through their recent rough streak as they have had trouble on the offensive side of the ball. The Panthers continue to play well defensively but often struggle to put points up on the board. Tough defense won't win games without the ability to turn defensive stops into points. This has been the main obstacle the Panthers have been trying to overcome.

On December 15, the Panthers took on the Bulldogs from East Buchanan, in what the Panthers knew would be an extremely tough game. The game started at 0-0 and that's all the closer the Panthers would come to the Bulldogs only scoring 6 first half points. The Panthers seemed to have it in their head that they were going to lose the whole game. They seemed to simply be intimidated by the Bulldogs defense. Coming out of halftime, the Panthers tried to climb back but they were simply down by too many points. The Panthers would more than triple their first half points but it wouldn't be close to enough. The game would end with the score East Buchanan 77, Polo 27.

After the horrible loss to the Bulldogs, the Panthers faced the Pattonsburg Panthers. Polo played great defense this game holding Pattonsburg to only 41 points but their offensive woes continued, as they were only able to score 30 of their own. With the Panthers losing a game that they shouldn't have, they went into Christmas break with a record of 1-5.

Over Christmas break, the Panthers were in the NCMC shootout in Trenton. After an embarrassing loss in the shootout last year, the Panthers were hoping to get a win going into the New Year. The Panthers would be facing the Green City Gophers. The Panthers came out strong, jumping out to an 11-3 lead in the first quarter but the Gophers would battle back. It seemed that no matter what shot Green City took, it would fall. The Panthers would go into the half with a 10 point deficit. In the second half, the Panthers would play evenly with the Gophers, trading baskets throughout the second half. The Panthers would play hard but it just wasn't enough. They would lose the game 79-64. Even with the loss it appeared that the Panthers had solved some of their offensive problems after putting up 64 points but their defense suffered in this contest.

The boys would come back from break and begin the second half of the season with a match-up versus the much improved Osborn Wildcats. The Panthers would again play good defense this game but had trouble turning defensive stops into points. The game would come to a conclusion with a final score of Osborn 55, Polo 38.

The next week the Panthers would begin playing in the Lathrop tournament and received a questionable 8th seed due to the competition present in the tournament. For the first round of the tournament, the Panthers would again face the East Buchanan Bulldogs. This game was more of the same for the Panthers who came out expecting to lose again. The Panthers lost 71-34. In the second round of the tournament, the Panthers would face the Trojans from St. Mary's. The Panthers would play hard but couldn't buy a basket. Going into the second half, the Panthers were only down 10 but there would be a great lack of effort and the Panthers would lose the game 26-67.

In their most recent contest, the Panthers faced the Gallatin Bulldogs. The Panthers seemed to be putting it all together this game, playing well on both sides of the ball. Offensive production was lacking in the first half, only scoring 14 points in the first half but scoring 29 in the second. The game would come down to the wire but the Panthers could not pull off the win. The final score would be Gallatin 48, Polo 43.

The Panthers seem to play well on one side of the ball per night. If the Panthers can put it all together, it seems that they can make a run towards the end of the season, entering district play. The Panthers will continue conference play throughout the next month, hoping to peak at district time. I hope to see everyone out cheering on your hometown Polo Panthers Boys Basketball Team.

Lady Panthers Basketball Update

by Kelsi Pile

Staff Writer

The Lady Panthers are going through the stretch of the long three month basketball season. With winter break over, conference play is up next for the ladies. Since the last Lady Panthers update the girls have had only a few games. On December 15, they took on the East Buchanan Bulldogs. The ladies played a hard fought game. Nearly the entire game only about four to six points separated the Lady Bulldogs and Polo. But with a few hard fouls in the end and a few questionable calls from the referees, the game was basically over with only two minutes left and the Lady Panthers down by a dozen.

It was back to the drawing board for the girls. They had plenty of time to recoup, their following game wasn't for nearly another two weeks because of cancellations due to inclement weather. Their next game was in the Trenton Holliday Shootout against Gilman City. Without much knowledge about Gilman City's team, the girls' went out onto the court ready to play their game and play to their potential. The Lady Panthers played well, finishing the easy shots and hustling after loose balls. The girls had earned their first win of the season and it felt great.

"I felt that our luck had changed." Says Junior Ashliegh Jones.

Osborn was next on the schedule for the Lady Panthers. This game was a rough, down and dirty basketball game; girls sweeping the floor with their bodies, elbows flying at faces, and people being pushed off the court by strong box outs. The girls came out already looking defeated and played as if though they had already lost the game from tip off. The second half was a different story. They came out with intensity and wanting to fight back. But unfortunately they had already dug themselves too deep of a hole to recover from.

The Lathrop Tournament was the following week, and it was known that this week was going to be a stressful week, with girls and boys playing on different nights. Many players for both the boys and girls teams spent every night of the week in Lathrop for the tournament, sometimes as late as 10 p.m. With the Lady Panthers seeded seventh, they had to face the two seed, Lathrop, on Monday of the tournament. Polo decided to pack in and play a 2-3 zone, and forced them to shoot from the outside; this helped the Lady Panthers in the beginning allowing them to outlet the ball much faster and push the tempo of the game. But as the game progressed the Lady Mules went on a streak and had a hot hand. Coming into the second quarter, the Panthers looked defeated. There was no hustle on the court and no intensity. After the passive first half of play, Polo came out looking strong and intense, forcing turnovers, and making plays. But yet again they had already dug themselves too deep of a deficit to recover from. The Lady Panthers lost by 35, and allowed Lathrop to make eight three pointers.

Polo's next opponent in the tournament was the Orrick Bearcats. This was a big game for the Lady Panthers, for it was the only team in the district that they or any of their opponents faced. The Lady Panthers made it quite the first half game, but the Bearcats had more fire and the desire to win, and made it through the long stretch of the game and won by 30.

With a win under their belt and a rough streak following, the Lady Panthers now faced their first conference competition; the Gallatin Lady Bulldogs. Under Coach Carr, the Lady Panthers came out looking strong and playing hard. They were just outplayed by the Lady Bulldogs and lost their first conference game. The road ahead is looking tough for Polo as they have the rest of conference play and they enter a new district this year. Good luck Lady Panthers with the rest of the season!

February 2009 Activities Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 *Late Start 10:30 am *FFA Mtg 7:00 pm	3 *VBB vs. S.Harrison 6:00 pm *MS Academic Team @ Cameron 4:00 pm	4 *MS Academic Team @ Hamilton 4:00 pm *Sophomores to Vo-Tech 8:30 am	5 *VBB @ Hamilton 6:00 pm *VWR vs. Lathrop /Hamilton 6:00 pm – Senior Night	6 *GRC Choir rehearsal @ S. Harrison 8:00 am *Spelling Bee for 5th-8 th 1:30 pm	7 *GRC Band rehearsal @ S. Harrison 9:00 am *GRC Band & Choir Performance @ S. Harrison 5:00 pm *Polo Youth Wrestling Tournament
8	9 *JVBB vs. Maysville 6:00 pm *FBLA/FCCLA Week	10 *VBB @ Stanberry 6:00 pm	11	12	13 *VBB vs. Worth County 6:00 pm – Senior Night *VWR Super Districts @ Lexington HS *K-4 th Valentine Parties 2:00 pm	14 *CRBC BB @ 10:00 am & 12:15 pm *VWR Super Districts @ Lexington HS
15	16 *President's Day – NO SCHOOL *FBLA District Contest @ Wellington-Napoleon	17 *VBB vs. King City 6:00 pm – Mat/Courtwarding	18	19 *BOE Mtg 7:00 pm *County Spelling Bee @ Cowgill 7:00 pm *State Wrestling Tournament @ Columbia	20 *VBB @ Maysville 6:00 pm *State Wrestling Tournament @ Columbia	21 *CRBC BB 10:00 am & 12:15 pm *State Wrestling Tournament @ Columbia
22 *National FFA Week	23 *PTO sponsored Book Fair in the Multi-Purpose Room all week	24 *JV/VBB @ Lathrop 4:00 pm	25	26 *Scholastic Photography for Group and Individual Pictures	27 *JV/VBB @ Winston 5:00 pm	28 *Mat/Courtwarding Dance 7:00 – 10:00 pm

February 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
2 Late Start-NO BREAKFAST King Ranch Chicken, Corn, Fruit	3 Cereal, Oatmeal, Toast, Fruit Tenderloin on Bun, Onion Rings, Fruit	4 Muffin, Ham, Fruit Chicken Nuggets, Green Beans, Fruit	5 French Toast, Sausage, Fruit Wrapped Weiner, Baked Beans, Fruit	6 Biscuit with Sausage Gravy, Fruit Tuna or Bologna Sandwich, Carrot Sticks, Fruit
9 Cereal, Oatmeal, Toast, Fruit Corndog or Burrito, Pinto Beans, Fruit	10 Scrambled Eggs, Toast, Fruit Pasta with Meat Sauce, Green Beans, Fruit	11 Breakfast Pizza, Fruit Hamburger on Bun, French Fries, Fruit	12 French Toast, Sausage, Fruit Pizza, Corn, Fruit	13 Biscuit with Sausage Gravy, Fruit Shrimp, Peas, Fruit
16 NO SCHOOL	17 Scrambled Eggs, Toast, Fruit Chicken Fajita, Spanish Rice, Fruit	18 Hashbrown, Sausage, Toast, Fruit Beefy Nuggets, Mashed Potatoes, Fruit	19 French Toast, Ham, Fruit Chicken Pattie on Bun, Corn, Fruit	20 Biscuit with Sausage Gravy, Fruit Grilled Cheese, Soup, Fruit
23 Cereal, Oatmeal, Toast, Fruit Taco Stack, Pinto Beans, Fruit	24 Scrambled Eggs, Toast, Fruit Turkey on Bun, Green Beans, Fruit	25 Muffin, Ham, Fruit BBQ Pork on Bun, Baked Beans, Fruit	26 Waffle, Sausage, Fruit Hamburger on Bun, French Fries, Fruit	27 Biscuit with Sausage Gravy, Fruit Shrimp, Peas, Fruit

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