



THE POLO R-VII SCHOOL DISTRICT PANTHER PRIDE

November 2008

Volume 4, Issue 3

IMPORTANT NOVEMBER DATES

- Nov 1 - All District Band Auditions @ St. Joseph
- Nov 3 - Late Start 10:30 a.m.
MS BB @ Osborn 6:30 p.m.
- Nov 5 - FFA Area Fall Speaking Contests @
Gallatin 4:30 p.m.
- Nov 6 - FCCLA Meeting 5:30 p.m.
- Nov 7 - Barnwarming Dance 7-10:00 p.m.
- Nov 8 - MS BB Tournament @ Norborne
- Nov 9 - MS BB Tournament @ Norborne
- Nov 10 - MS BB Tournament @ Norborne
FBLA Community Blood Drive in Multi-
Purpose Room 1:30-6:30 p.m.
- Nov 11 - MS BB Tournament @ Norborne
Kindergarten & 1st Grade Field Trip to KC
- Nov 12 - MS BB Tournament @ Norborne
- Nov 13 - MS BB Tournament @ Norborne
Fall Sports Banquet Grades 9-12 (Football,
Softball, & Cheerleading) in High School Gym
6:00 p.m.
- Nov 14 - MS BB Tournament @ Norborne
2nd Quarter Mid-Term
- Nov 17 - BOE Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Nov 18 - MS BB @ Braymer 6:00 p.m.
- Nov 20 - MS BB vs. Orrick 5:00 p.m.
- Nov 21 - Scholastic Winter Sports Pictures
- Nov 24 - MS BB @ Norborne 6:00 p.m.
- Nov 26 - Early Out 11:30 a.m.
- Nov 27 - NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break
- Nov 28 - NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break

Results of "Coins for Colton"

by Mason Misel & Jessica Barnes
6th Grader Writers

"Coins for Colton" was a great fundraiser. Lots of money was raised for Colton Newman. Do you want to know how much money was raised? Well, the 5th and 6th graders raised \$211.41 and the Elementary Office collected \$239.55. All together the total was \$450.96!!!

All the fundraisers were amazing. "Coins for Colton" raised a lot of money. The PWCO is having a swing raffle to raise money. Oh my gosh, I almost forgot the spaghetti dinner at the Red Rooster. There were so many people there. It felt like the whole town was there. It was even on the news.

We also interviewed two people in our class. We asked them what they thought of "Coins for Colton". The first person was Aimee Walker. She said, "I thought it was good raising money. Also I really hope it helped them." The second person we interviewed was Caleb Bolling. He said, "I thought it was good and I hope we raised enough money to help him with his life."

It was so great how the community helped raise so much money for Colton Newman. Every time we dropped money in the container, we felt a great feeling inside us.

From the Principal's Desk...

by Beverly Deis
Elem. Principal

The Polo R-VII School District is fortunate to have many parents who are involved in the school. The elementary had an average of 95% of parents attend the recent Parent-Teacher Conferences. We also had numerous parents, grandparents, and patrons attend the Halloween Parade and parties.

Students at Polo R-VII Elementary in grades 1-6 are taking the STAR reading tests to help determine grade level equivalency. Students were also given the Gates MacGinitie reading tests earlier this year. For more information on these tests, please call our reading specialist, Lori Hicks, at the school.

Mark your calendars! The Winter Program for grades K-6 has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 10, 2008 at 6:30 in the gymnasium. For Thanksgiving break, school will dismiss on Wednesday, November 26, at 11:30 and will resume the following Monday. School will be dismissed for winter break at the regular time on Friday, December 19 and will resume on Monday, January 5, 2009 as a late start day.

Congrats to the Youth Football Team, Cheerleaders, and Coaches

Congratulations to the 5th & 6th grade Youth Football team for winning the Show Me Youth Football League Championship game against Cameron Gold 6-0! The team players are: Caleb Bolling, Ty Hays, Bailey Heil, Mason Misel, Tristan Rardon, Trystan Sunby, Jacob Hicks, Andrew Holland, Brandon Richardson, Austin McKinzie, Parker Smith, Brandon Latimer, Wiley Martin, & Gunner Martin. The team was coached by Max Hicks, Greg Misel, Shane Rardon, & Dave Martin. The team ended their season with a 7-1 record and the Championship title.



Local Teen Wins Pepsi NFL Punt, Pass & Kick Sectionals

by Ms. Ashley Arth
Staff Writer

Maddy Misel won the sectionals in the Pepsi NFL Punt, Pass & Kick competition held at Warrensburg on Sunday, October 12. This is the third time Maddy has won this competition. She has the chance to advance and compete at the Chiefs Arrowhead Stadium if she qualifies. Maddy competed at Arrowhead Stadium last year and received 3rd. Over a 250,000 kids compete in the Pepsi Punt, Pass & Kick annually.

Softball Season Comes to a Close

By Kelsi Pile

Staff Writer

The season is over for the Lady Panthers, but this year marks history for the Polo Varsity girl's softball. Even though this is only their second season as a team the girls made it to their district championship. The road to the championship was not exactly easy for the Lady Panthers; they had to overcome many team issues and obstacles, and a rough season.

"We definitely had our ups and downs like all teams do, but I felt like we played our best ball at the end of the season, which is when it matters most." said Coach Keith discussing the overall season.

District 13 games were held in Jamesport, Missouri. The Lady Panthers were seeded third in the tournament and had to face the Winston Redbirds in the first round. The girls were nervous and eager on their way to Jamesport on Wednesday October 8, but they knew it was almost game time, and they had to get focused. The first inning said it all when the lady Panthers got three immediate outs, then came back rattling the bats scoring 13 runs. The Panthers were victorious over the Redbirds winning 9-3.

The following day the ladies were ready once again to defeat another team. With everyone sitting in the same bus seats, doing the same thing, and the coaches wearing the same clothes from the previous day, the Lady Panthers were ready to take on the next challenge: the host team and two seed, the Tri-County Mustangs. With fire in their eyes, the Lady Panthers took the field, and played spectacular softball, winning the game an astonishing 19-4. With the third out in the top of the third inning, it was official that the Lady Panthers were going to the 'Ship'.

The championship game was held Saturday October 11th. First pitch was to be thrown at noon. The Lady Panthers had to take on the Southwest-Ludlow Wildcats, who had defeated Gilman City and the one seed Pattonsburg. It was a close game through the third inning, but then unfortunately the Wildcats scored four runs in the top of the fourth inning, which the Lady Panthers had no answer for. The Lady Panthers were outdone by the Wildcats and lost 8-3. The Lady Panthers earned second place in districts; the first softball team in Polo history to make it to a district championship.

"I thought the girls played extremely hard and focused, and ready to compete for a championship. I am very proud of the girls and the way they played and came together as a team at the end of the year. The girls didn't play for themselves, they played for each other, which is all you can ask for out of a team." commented Coach Keith when discussing the district tournament.

With the season over, the girls are already looking at next year's season. The team lost four seniors, Kelsi Pile, Adryan Overstreet, Courtney Cawthon, and Brittany Flowers, but will be in good shape, returning eight of nine starters. Although the girls are disappointed that this year's season is over, they have high hopes for next year.

"I think winning a district championship has to be one of our main goals. We were too close this year to not make it a goal for next year. We return mostly everybody and they should go into next year hungry to achieve that goal." Coach Keith's thoughts on next year's season.

Congratulations Lady Panthers on second place in the District Tournament! Good luck next year!

Softball: District and Conference Honors

By Kelsi Pile

Staff Writer

Three Lady Panther softball players received All-District honors and one received All-Conference. Sophomore short stop, Madison Misel, was selected for the All-District Team. Senior centerfielder, Kelsi Pile, was selected for the All-District team. Junior pitcher, Alishia Bolling, was selected for the All-District team and All-Conference team. The Lady Panthers team ended their season with receiving second place in District #13.



Middle School Panthers Finish Strong

By Spencer Snodgrass

Staff Writer

The Junior High Panther football team had their season come to a close this month with a win over the Braymer Bobcats. The Panthers finished off their season with a final record of 4-1-1 with their only loss coming to the Hamilton Hornets. The Panthers had an overall successful season and helping to build for the future. "It was an overall successful year," said head coach Curtis Floray, "they got better with every game and the eighth graders have progressed enough to hopefully become strong contributors at the Varsity level next year. Hopefully they continue to work hard as they enter their high school careers."



Above: Middle School Football Team picture with Coach Floray and Coach Klopping.

Left: Varsity Softball team with their 2nd Place trophy from District 13 at Jamesport.



Panthers Begin District Play

By Spencer Snodgrass
Staff Writer

Your hometown Panthers have had a tough season so far but have high hopes heading into District play. The Missouri State High School Activities Association changed the rules this year and is now taking the top two teams from each district into the State play-offs. The Panthers are hoping to claim one of these spots and advance into the State playoffs for the first time since the 2002-2003 season.

Leading up to this week, the Panthers have had 4 more games since my last article. In the week following their victory at Tarkio, the Panthers faced off against the King City Wildkats. This game has become some what of a rivalry game for each team due to some bad blood from their first meeting. It was a hard fought game with each team having trouble scoring. Senior running back, Tyler Scobee, had an extremely impressive touchdown run of 90 yards breaking tackles from four opposing Wildkats at once. Late in the fourth quarter, the Panthers were down 28-12 and needed a score when Senior wide receiver, Spencer Snodgrass, returned a kickoff only to have it called back by an unnecessary penalty. The Panthers would not score again and lose the game 28-12.

The next week was a very big game for the Panthers as they traveled to Braymer to play the Bobcats in the Annual Caldwell County Bowl. Tensions were high as the Bobcats had scheduled the Panthers for their homecoming game and both teams came out ready to play. The Bobcats jumped out to an early lead of 7-0 in the first quarter until Senior wide receiver, Spencer Snodgrass, returned the kickoff to tie the score at 7-7. The Panthers stopped the Bobcats on the next drive and on the second play of the drive quarterback, Dalton Rardon, connected on a 58 yard pass to wide receiver, Spencer Snodgrass, to put the Panthers on top with a score of 14-7. The Bobcats would score 2 more times before halftime and go into the half with a lead of 21-14. Both teams had tough second halves with neither team scoring in the third quarter. The Panthers scored early in the fourth quarter but that was all that went right for the rest of the game. The Panthers allowed 26 fourth quarter points and could not answer back. They ended up losing the Caldwell County Bowl 47-20.

The next week was homecoming week versus the Albany Warriors and emotions were high. All week there was float building and a pep rally but nothing mattered except for Friday night. The Panthers jumped out to an early lead scoring on their first possession and never looked back. Senior running back, Tyler Scobee, rushed for 2 touchdowns and wide receiver, Spencer Snodgrass, added one off a catch from Junior quarterback, Dalton Rardon. The Panthers Junior Varsity squad took over for most of the fourth quarter and the Panthers finished off their homecoming game 40-15.

In the week before beginning district play, the Panthers faced off against the South Harrison Bulldogs. Not much went right in this game as the Panthers were unable to stop the Bulldogs on multiple drives and could not move the ball. With the Panthers only mounting 58 yards of total offense throughout the entire game, it was a tough four quarters for the Panthers and they finished off their final game before district play with a loss to the Bulldogs 35-0.

As district play began, the Panthers were hoping for a big victory over the Gallatin Bulldogs. With a victory over the Bulldogs the Panthers would control their own destiny in entering the play-offs. The game began with the Panthers kicking off and the Bulldogs returning the opening kick-off to the 2 yard line. The Panthers defense stood strong and prevented the Bulldogs from scoring. The first quarter was a tough one for the Panthers offense as they fumbled the ball 4 times inside their own 10 yard line. The defense was able to hold strong on three of those occasions and holding the Bulldogs to only six points. In the second quarter the Bulldogs would score again to make the score 14-0 before quarter back Dalton Rardon connected with running back Cody Drew on a 50 yard pass to close the gap down to 14-8 going into halftime. The third quarter was all defense with neither team scoring. Early in the fourth quarter the Panther's would score on another long pass to Cody Drew and took the lead in the fourth quarter, 15-14, with 11 minutes to play. The Bulldogs fumbled on the following possession and the Panthers took control with 6 minute's to play. The Panthers were unable to get a first down and were forced to punt the ball. On the ensuing drive the Bulldog's score and converted the 2 point conversion taking the lead 22-15 with 2 minutes to play. The Panthers would drive the ball down the field until and interception by the Bulldogs ending the Panthers hopes of victory. The Panthers would end their opening game of district play with a heart breaking loss to the Gallatin Bulldogs 22-15.

The Panthers entered the second week of district play against the #3 state ranked Hamilton Hornets. This was a very tough game for the Panthers as they were unable to amount any successful drives throughout the game. Going into halftime the score was 40-0 in favor of the Hornets. In the second half, the Hornets only scored one more time but the Panthers were still unable to amount any offense. The game ended with a score of Hamilton 47 Polo 0.

For the final game of the football season, the Panthers faced off against the Maysville Wolverines. In order for the Panthers to advance into the state play-offs they had to defeat the Wolverines by 13 points or more.

Putting the Chin in China

By Mitch Huntley
Staff Writer

As many may know, recently in the 2008 Olympics taking place in Beijing China, University of Missouri's finest, Ben Askren, competed for the United States wrestling team. Known for his "funky" wrestling style and bushy fro, Askren is a Missouri icon.

Ben was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and soon moved to the suburbs of Hartland, Wisconsin for his high school career. Askren re-located to Missouri after high school to wrestle for the University of Missouri-Columbia. There he received several honors including two-time NCAA champion, two-time Dan Hodge award recipient, two-time NCAA outstanding wrestler award, four-time NCAA All-American, 2008 U.S National Champion, 2008 Olympic team member, and many more.

Recently on October 5, 2008 at Savannah High School, I was able to wrestle with Ben, and get an exclusive Q and A interview following his Olympic appearance.

Mitch: "How long have you been wrestling"?

Ben: "I've been wrestling since I was six, I'm twenty-four now so... for eighteen years".

Mitch: "What inspired you to start wrestling"?

Ben: "I don't really know, I just started when I was a little kid, I played everything, soccer, football, baseball, I just liked wrestling. I liked the physical combat part of it, I liked beating people up, I didn't mind getting beat up, so it just stuck with me".

Mitch: "What got you started with MMA (Mixed Martial Arts)"?

Ben: "Well, I haven't had my first fight, its just kind of an appendage of wrestling; if you're a good wrestler then you're typically a good fighter. There's a fighting school in town and they have me teach wrestling to their fighters. I get along with a lot of the guys there. Some of my teammates fight as well and also when I travel to teach wrestling camps. Somehow there's always a fighting gym in town, they hear I'm in town and want me to come teach them wrestling. So I ended up doing that three or four times and started getting to know the guys pretty well, and it just kind of got me hooked.

Mitch: "When traveling to Beijing, were there any funny experiences you had"?

Ben: "There were a lot of funny experiences, on www.missouriwrestling.com, I have about twelve pages of blog on there just spewing out of my mouth one day, so that details my experience fully. But China was totally different from America, no one spoke English. It was a great life experience, you see how good you have it here and you don't take things for granted. I mean I still probably take things for granted but I know I shouldn't, and it was just a great experience.

Mitch: "If you were to give any advice to kids in high school or elementary, what would that be"?

Ben: "The best thing I could tell you, and I tell everybody is, there's a lot of things out there that will be fun and easy, but the most fulfilling things I've ever done in my life are where I have earned them. Like making the Olympic team or winning my first state title, you know things that I've earned or worked for, because you can't pay for that. No one else can get that without doing the something you did, and those are the things that people really don't think about. Its not like you can do it in a day, or a week, or even a month, it's like it's your life and then it happens. Like I said, I've been wrestling for eighteen years, it's a lifestyle, it's not like I woke up in 2006 and decided I wanted to be on the Olympic team. It's something I've been thinking about since 1999, and so, any thing really worth getting in life is going to take sacrifice, its going to take effort, but a lot of people don't see the fruits of sacrifice in the beginning, so they won't even bother doing them".

At the end of my visit, I got to talk with Ben, take a picture and have him autograph a few things. I would just like to say that Askren is surprisingly a genuinely down to earth, friendly, easy to talk to guy. I say this surprisingly because after being such a "rock star" at Missouri, winning various awards and attending the Olympics, he has truly become a celebrity, but if anyone were to sit and talk with the guy they would think he was just some "Average Joe". Askren is a down to earth celebrity. One thing I have lived by my whole life is "to be confident yet humble", and this to me describes Askren, and I am very honored and proud to have met such a great person that lives by the same motto.

"That's the way I see it"

FBLA Kicking it Into Gear

by Kelsi Pile

Staff Writer

Back again, with a new sponsor, the Polo FBLA Chapter is ready to get things kicking. With one meeting under their belt and officer interviews over they have high hopes for the school year, and are ready to make some changes. This year's officers include, President Mitch Huntley, Vice President Spencer Snodgrass, Secretary Kelsi Pile, Treasurer Cody Hicks, Reporter Andra Young, and Historian Karlie Schafer.

Some of their plans this year include attending FBLA District Contest, two community blood drives, the annual Senior Citizen's Prom, and community projects around Polo. Polo's FBLA district this year is held in Wellington-Napoleon, on February 16, 2009.

The first community blood drive will be held November 10, 2008 from 1:30p.m. - 6:30p.m. in the elementary Multi-Purpose room. The second community blood drive will be April 2, 2009 from 1:30p.m. - 6:30 p.m. To be eligible to donate blood you must be at least 16 years of age with parental permission, weigh 115 pounds, and it is recommended that donators don't consume much caffeine 48 hours before donation. Donators will receive a free t-shirt and refreshments will be served.

This year's Senior Citizen prom will be held sometime in March of 2009. Other community projects that the FBLA plan on doing include making care packages for U.S. soldiers; and they have already participated in Hats Off to Colton, which consisted of the entire school being able to wear a hat if they donated a dollar, and all donations went towards Colton Newman. The FBLA raised approximately \$175 dollars.

"I think our FBLA chapter works hard in our school and community and I'm proud to be a part of it" said President Mitch Huntley.

The FBLA has a fun and exciting year planned ahead for them, and are ready to make a positive impact on our community and others.

A Huge THANKS from PWCO...

by Ms. Ashley Arth

Mass Media Advisor

The PWCO would like to say thank you to all of the parent volunteers and the 52 Student volunteers from the NHS, FCCLA and cheerleading squads they had this year working the 5th Annual PWCO Halloween Carnival. This was the biggest year by far and each year the community Carnival just seems to grow. There were several new booths at the carnival this fall like BACA – the Bikers Against Child Abuse group who brought in 3 Harley motorcycles, candy and free tattoos for all to enjoy, VIP Cars who brought in a 1962 Eleanor Ford Mustang for visitors to enjoy, a Bounce House, and 2 new game booths, which brought the game booth total to 15 this year. This has become a family tradition in Polo and for many of the surrounding communities as well with it being affordable because all games are just 25 cents. The group reported spending over \$600 for prizes that the kids exchange their winning tickets for during the carnival with very few being left over this year. The haunted hayride, Bounce House and 40' Slide were all 2 tickets or you could have purchased a \$5 wrist band to enjoy the Bounce House and Blow Up Slide all night long. There were 270 kids in attendance with 225 of those signing up to win the free door prize for ages birth to sixth grade. Collin Pieper won the \$25 cash door prize donated by Greg & Debby Misel & family. Jason Gentry won the 6' outdoor swing donated by PWCO members, Bonnie & Dewey Hobbs, and the proceeds went to the Newman family, and the West family won the bike donated by Wal-Mart. Without the support of the adult volunteers, student volunteers and area businesses sponsoring the carnival it would not be possible. The PWCO would like to thank the following individuals and sponsors for their help, donation and time: Daniel Fry - D & D Heating & Cooling, Bank Northwest, Billy Misel Construction, Greg & Debby Misel – 5 Star Construction, Panther Drive-In, Linda Hesebech, John Allen Trucking, Hy Klas, Polo Reality, Red Rooster, Hilltop Grain, Virginia Fry, David & Ariel Misel, Shining Star Daycare, Summerville Insurance, Greg Daughters – VIP Cars, Bailey-Cox Funeral Services, Polo Sales & Service, Sally's, Richmond Daily News, Larry's, the Darrell Utt family, Lesli Holland family, Denise Boruch family and the Claypole family.

FFA: Busy Farmin' and Competin'

by Haley Hurd

Staff Writer

There are many FFA activities coming up very soon and some have already passed. The Grasslands contest team, which includes Alan Vassmer, Lance Snodgrass, Zach Tormey and Kyle Stith competed at districts and made it to State with a third place finish. Zach Tormey got fifth highest overall in individual scores at the District competition. The Grasslands team then competed at State on October 16th, the team got 26th place overall. The first year agriculture students received their Greenhand degree on October 15th. The Fall Prepared Public speaking will compete on November 5th. The four members going to compete are, Hailey Thomas, Linda Pilger, Haley Hurd and Lance Snodgrass. The annual FFA Barnwarming dance will be held November 7th in the multi-purpose room. The dance will be held from 7:00 until 10:00 pm. The cost is \$3 to attend.

Off to Indianapolis...

by Ms. Ashley Arth

Mass Media Advisor

On October 22, 2008 a total of six schools boarded a charter bus and set out for Indianapolis, Indiana for the 81st National FFA Convention. The members from Polo that set out on this voyage included Jessica Vassmer, Paige Ahart, Carlie Powers, Ashley Ross, Emily Templeton, and Haley Harrison along with students from Trenton, Tina-Avalon, Hardin, Bosworth, and Stet. This adventure was to learn about agriculture and gain career and leadership skills. Some of the fun activities that were enjoyed while in Indianapolis included a Taylor Swift concert, career show, Proficiency Award session, haunted laser tag, go cart racing, miniature golfing, a visit to the Kelsay Dairy farm, presentation of the National Chapter Awards, entertainment by a hypnotist, and an American Degree session. The group returned to Polo on October 25.



Above: Students attend the Greenhand Initiation in Gallatin.

“Thank You to the Many Volunteers for the Halloween Carnival”

NHS Student volunteers: Sponsor Sarah Davies, Cody Hicks, Alan Vassmer, Haley Hurd, Tyler Russel, Lance Snodgrass, Mitch Huntley, Kaitlyn Taylor, Kate Sanders, Kyndra Stith, Kyle Stith, Dalton Rardon & Kelsi Pile.

FCCLA Student volunteers: Mark Gray, Courtney Cawthon, Dean Manning, Nikki Junco, Kim O'Dell, Ambrielle Hicks, Andra Young, Josh Junco & Megan Yates.

Other student volunteers grade 8-12th: Madison Misel, Courtney Arthur, Brittany Flowers, Kadee Phillips, Ashliegh Jones, Ashley Allen, Linda Pilger, Brian Fry, Amanda James, Daniel Boruch, James Taylor, Zackery Freeman, Jonna Stottlemire, Michael Reevis, Destiney Koontz, Dallas Parker, Tonya Wightman, Adryan Overstreet, Brandon Taylor, Logan Dixon, Tony Utt, Michael Fultz, Missy Cawthon, Duncan Parker, Karlie Schafer, Austin Bowley, Conagher Glasgow, Dylan Fry, & Lane Mc Bee.

National Honor Society

by Mitch Huntley
Staff Writer

Although school has just started, NHS has already conducted a lot of business and is planning events coming up soon in the Polo community.

NHS officers for this year were selected on September 2, 2008. The officers go as follows:

- President: Lance Snodgrass
- Vice President: Kyle Stith
- Secretary: Kelsi Pile
- Treasurer: Haley Hurd
- Reporter: Mitch Huntley

On September 11, 2008, and recently for homecoming on October 3, 2008, Polo NHS members including Alan Vassmer, Kyle Stith, Kelsi Pile, Katelyn Sanders, Dalton Rardon, Kyndra Stith, Cody Hicks, Paige Ahart, Lance Snodgrass, and myself all pitched in and helped our local veterans put up flags throughout the town. Every year, the NHS members help the veterans with the flag raising and lowering. When putting the flags up on the high telephone poles members including Alan Vassmer and Kelsi Pile both commented about the device they had to use. Alan said, "I thought the pole we had to use was easy to operate, but not so much for Kelsi". Kelsi stated, "The device was extremely tricky, so I just let Alan fight it and I handed him the flags".

Finally, as usual the NHS program is assisting the PWCO in the Annual Halloween carnival. The carnival consists of games, hay rides, food and candy. Festivities will be taking place at Stage Coach Park on October 25, 2008 from 5:30pm-10:00pm. This is a great opportunity for people of all ages to come out, have a good time, play a few games, eat some food, and enjoy this annual occasion.

FCCLA Kicking it Into Gear

by Alan Vassmer
Staff Writer

Recently the Polo FCCLA chapter traveled to Liberty, Missouri for the Region 2 FCCLA meeting on October 15. During the meeting, an overview of the upcoming year was discussed and a rundown of the business, which should be accomplished, was presented. At this event, there were 30-40 schools that attended with around 900 kids participating in the event. Aside from all the business that occurred, there was a raffle, which was run by the Polo chapter, with all the proceeds going to the American Cancer Association. A highlight of the trip was the speaker from R5 productions who seemed to be a big hit among the members. When asking member, Courtney Cawthon, about the trip she stated, "It was a great trip filled with lots of excitement, and the speaker really connected with us and inspired us to look for the best in others." The chapter has a busy schedule ahead with the next upcoming event being the Annual Turkey Bowl, among the school's students to raise money and/or can goods for Christ's Cupboard. So far the Polo FCCLA chapter is off to a great start this year and they are continually working to better the community and surrounding areas.



Left: FCCLA members help younger students decorate pumpkins.

Below: FCCLA members attend the Regional Meeting in Liberty.

Left: Cody Hicks raises the flag as a project for National Honor Society.

Below: National Honor Society members Paige Ahart, Lance Snodgrass, and Kyle Stith take the flags down.



Community Blood Drive
November 10th
1:30-6:30 p.m.
Multi-Purpose Room
Sponsored by
Polo FBLA Chapter
Free T-Shirt to donor

Thanksgiving: How it all Began

by Ashliegh Jones

Staff Writer

Many people know the story of Thanksgiving between the pilgrims and the Indians and how they shared a supper for good harvest. ...yada yada yada. This feast wasn't a holiday but a three day gathering and it only became a holiday after President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving as a national holiday

The full story of Thanksgiving is...

The Puritans of Europe weren't happy with the way they were being treated. In Europe you weren't allowed to worship your own religion you had to worship one religion all throughout the country. The Puritans didn't agree with this and wanted a better life so they sailed to the Netherlands hoping they could make their own decisions. It was better; however they still didn't get the independence they wanted so the few of them that were still un-satisfied sailed to the Americas. They built themselves a new settlement with a new government there.

After arriving in the Americas they ran in to a new type of peoples that we know today as the Indians. During the planting season they learned many new things from the Indians which helped them get the most out of their crops. When harvest season came around their crops were plentiful so the indiums and the pilgrims sat down for a meal to celebrate their plentiful growing season.

That is the true story of Thanksgiving!!!!!!

VeteransDay

by Haley Hurd

Staff Writer

Veterans Day is a national holiday which is celebrated every year on November 11th. In many places around the country, people stop whatever they are doing at 11 o'clock in the morning for a moment of silence to remember those who have given their life for our freedom. Veterans Day was established by President Wilson, who then named it Armistice Day. Armistice Day was first declared a holiday because of the end of World War I in 1938. To those of us who have had the security of not going to war, Veterans Day is a time where we reflect and remember those who have given their life for us and our freedom.

We Stood For Freedom

We stood for freedom just like you
And loved the flag you cherish too

Our uniforms felt great to wear
You know the feel, and how you care

In step we marched, the cadence way
The same is true with you today

Oh how we tried to do our best
As you do now, from test to test

How young we were and proud to be
Defenders of true liberty

So many thoughts bind soldiers well
The facts may change, not how we jell

Each soldier past, and you now here
Do share what will not disappear

One thought now comes, straight from my heart
For soldiers home, who've done their part

I m honored to have served with you
May Godly peace, help get you through

And now I'll end with a request
Do ponder this, while home at rest

America, respect our day
Each veteran, helped freedom stay

Poem By: Roger J. Robicheau

Thanks to all that have served and also those who are now fighting for our freedom.

Teacher Spotlights

by Ashliegh Jones

Staff Writer

We all know Coach Kloepping from four years ago when he came and coached wrestling at our school for the first time. He left us last year for Lincoln Nebraska. While there, he attended Metropolitan Community College in Omaha, Nebraska studying Para-medicine, he worked as an EMT-B on an ambulance, and he got married.

Coach Kloepping returned to Polo because of the "coaching stuff" and this years' seniors. He started coaching here in '05 when this years' seniors were freshman and he really wanted to be here so he could help them achieve their goals in their final wrestling season. Now that he is back, he coaches High School wrestling and Jr. High football.

Coach Kloepping started coaching because he wanted to influence the drugs generation in a positive way, he says that there are too many negative influences out there and he hopes to be a positive one. His favorite part of coaching is helping the kids reach their goals and seeing kids do well even when you don't expect it. He feels that some kids work hard and achieve their goals just because they are talented. But some kids aren't as talented and it is much more worthwhile when those kids work hard and succeed.

Coach's future plans are to obtain a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing and go on to obtain his Masters degree in Nursing Specializations as a certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, and a Critical Care Nurse on a Life Flight Helicopter part-time.

We are all happy to invite Coach Kleopping back into our Panther family and hope to have him around for a while!!!!!!



Mr. Dustin McKinney is the new K-6 music teacher, Middle School careers/character and typing teacher, as well as the High School choir teacher for the 08-09 school year. He has come to us straight out of college at Central Methodist University. Thanks to his professors in college who nudged him to become a music teacher and himself being involved in music all his life, we get a chance to let Mr. McKinney put his talents to work in our school.

Mr. McKinney really enjoys his jobs here in Polo and says he really enjoys quote "those A-ha! moments when the students really get what I am teaching, I get this great feeling of accomplishment."

Other hobbies of Mr. McKinney's include singing, playing the guitar, watching sports and reading.

Grandparents Day

by Ms. Fran Esry
2nd Grade Teacher

The second grade classes invited their grandparents to visit their classrooms and eat lunch with them on Wednesday, Oct. 15. Twenty-one grandparents came. After lunch Mrs. Esry's class presented two plays for their special guests and the first grade classes. The plays were, "The Three Little Pigs" and All Through the Year". Afterwards the grandparentstoured the room to browse what the students are working on this year. It was a great day and we would like to thank all the grandparents who took time out of their day to come.

Outdoor Classroom News

by Ms. Fran Esry
2nd Grade Teacher

New Trellis

Mark and Kim Templeton along with their daughters, Jeni, Alex, and Emily donated a beautiful white trellis in memory of their daughter and sister, Abby Templeton, to the outdoor classroom last year. During summer school, students planted daylillies and clematis vines on each side of it. It has been a wonderful addition to the outdoor classroom and is a very popular sitting spot at recess.

Harvest Time

Last spring the students in Mrs. Esry's second grade class planted miniature gourd and pumpkin seeds. The students have been watching the plants as they have grown this fall and harvest time finally came on Tuesday, Oct. 21st.

37 gourds and 21 pumpkins were picked by this year's second graders.



Above: Ms. Esry's 2nd Graders show-off their harvest.

Right: Harvest time!!

Below: (left to right) Emily, Kim, and Alex Templeton in the trellis that they donated.



6th Grade Time Capsule Project

by Ms. Jill Rardon
5th/6th grade teacher

Students in 6th Grade Reading Class have been studying stories about archaeologists and anthropologists. We dug up questions in dirt and vocabulary words in sand to reinforce our understanding of the story. The idea of a time capsule was suggested, and the excitement began!

Students were asked to bring in a personal item to put in the time capsule. Additionally, each student wrote personal information and why they chose their item on an index card. They were also asked to write about a current event in the world or a topic unique to the Polo community.

With the help of Mitch Huntley, we buried our time capsule on a beautiful fall day. We plan to open the capsule in the year 2015, their senior year. Who knows, they may decide to bury it again to dig up at a class reunion in the future!



Kindergarteners and Bus Safety

by Ms. Sherrie Silvey
Kindergarten Teacher

On Thursday, October 23, 2008, the Kindergartners invited the bus drivers to eat lunch with them. After lunch they returned to their classroom to watch a bus safety video and they had a discussion with the drivers. Barb, driver of Bus 24 and Matt, driver of Bus 25, were the drivers that attended.



November 2008 Menu

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

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3 Late Start – No Breakfast Corn dog Burrito, Pinto Beans, Fruit	4 Cereal, Oatmeal, Toast, Fruit Riblet, Scalloped Potatoes, Fruit	5 Muffin, Sausage, Fruit Pasta w/Meat Sauce, Green Beans, Fruit	6 French Toast, Ham, Fruit Hamburger on Bun, Fries, Fruit	7 Sausage Gravy, Biscuit, Fruit Fish Sticks, Corn, Fruit
10 Cereal, Oatmeal, Toast, Fruit Taco Stack, Spanish Rice, Fruit	11 Scrambled Eggs, Toast, Fruit Turkey on Bun, Green Beans, Fruit	12 Breakfast Pizza, Fruit BBQ on Bun, Corn, Fruit	13 French Toast, Ham, Fruit Chicken Nuggets, Parsley Potatoes, Fruit	14 Sausage Gravy, Biscuits, Fruit Tuna/Bologna, Tomato Soup, Fruit
17 Cereal, Oatmeal, Toast, Fruit Pizza, Corn, Fruit	18 Scrambled Eggs, Toast, Fruit Chicken Pattie on Bun, Glazed Carrots, Fruit	19 Pop Tart, Sausage, Fruit Turkey Dinner	20 French Toast, Ham, Fruit Tenderloin on Bun, Baked Beans, Fruit	21 Sausage Gravy, Biscuits, Fruit Shrimp, Peas, Fruit
24 Cereal, Oatmeal, Toast, Fruit Sweet & Sour Chicken, Steamed Broccoli, Fruit	25 Scrambled Eggs, Toast, Fruit Grilled Cheese, Soup, Fruit	26 Sausage, Hashbrown, Toast, Fruit NO LUNCH	27 NO SCHOOL	28 NO SCHOOL

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November 2008 Activities Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 *All District Band Auditions @ St. Joseph
2	3 *Late Start 10:30 a.m. *MS BB @ Osborn 6:30 pm	4	5 *FFA Area Fall Speaking Contests @ Gallatin 4:30 pm *Varsity FB Regionals	6 *FCCLA Meeting 6:30 pm	7 *Barnwarming Dance 7:00-10:00 pm	8 *MS BB Tournament @ Norborne 11-8-08 to 11-14-08
9	10 *Community Blood Drive in Multi-purpose room 1:30-6:30 pm	11 *Kindergarten & 1 st Grade Field Trip to KC	12	13 *Fall Sports Banquet Grades 9-12 FB, SB, & Cheerleading 6:00 pm HS Gym	14 *2 nd Quarter Mid-Term	15
16	17 *BOE Meeting 7:00 pm	18 *MS BB @ Braymer 6:00 pm	19	20 *MS BB vs. Orrick 5:00 pm	21 * Scholastic Winter Sports Pictures	22
23	24 *MS BB @ Norborne 6:00 pm	25	26 *Early Out 11:30 am	27 *NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Day	28 *NO SCHOOL	29
30						