



THE PANTHER PRIDE

December 2009

Volume 5, Issue 5

Important December Dates

- **Dec 2** - PAO Cheer Practice 5:30 - 7:30 pm in the Multi
- **Dec 3** - V/JV Wrestling vs. N. Platte/S. Harrison 6:00 pm
- Pee Wee Wrestling 5:30-8:00 pm in Multi
- **Dec 4** - PAO Cheer Practice 5:30-7:30 pm in Multi
- **Dec 5** - V Wrestling Tournament @ Dearborn 9:30 am
- **Dec 7** - Late Start 10:20 am
- V/JV BB vs. Norborne 5:00 pm
- FFA Fruit Delivery
- CTA Mtg. 7:30 am
- **Dec 8** - MS BB vs. Cameron 5:30 pm
- V BB @ Hardin-Central 6:00 pm
- Pee Wee Wrestling 5:30-8:00 pm in Multi
- **Dec 9** - EOC for American Government
- PAO Cheer Practice 5:00-8:00 pm in Multi
- **Dec 10** - V/JV Wrestling vs. Albany/KC Van Horn 6:00 pm
- MS BB @ E. Buchanan 5:30 pm
- Computer Buying Class offered by Extension Office 6-9 pm
- PAO Cheer Practice 5-8 pm in Multi-Purpose Room
- Pee Wee Wrestling 5:30-8:00 pm in Gym Mezzanine
- **Dec 11** - PAO Cheer Practice 5-8 pm in Multi-Purpose Room
- **Dec 12** - Polo Duals Team Tourney 9:30 am
- **Dec 14** - V BB vs. E. Buchanan 6:00 pm
- School Health Advisory Council Mtg. 3:15 pm
- **Dec 15** - K-12 Winter Concert 6:30 pm (make-up 12/17/09)
- **Dec 17** - Computer Buying Class offered by Extension Office 6-9 pm
- Tentative MS Sports Reception
- **Dec 18** - Early Out 11:20 am
- **Dec 21** - Winter Break (return on 01/04/09)
- BOE Mtg 7:00 pm
- **Dec 22** - Pee Wee Wrestling 5:30 - 8:00 pm in Multi
- **Dec 28** - V BB @ NCMC Shoot-Out TBA
- **Dec 29** - V BB @ NCMC Shoot-Out TBA
- Pee Wee Wrestling 5:30 - 8:00 pm in Multi
- **Dec 30** - V BB @ NCMC Shoot Out TBA

POLO R-VII SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

The Polo R-VII School District will accept declarations of candidacy from any person interested in running for a position on the School Board in the April 6, 2010, election. Persons interested may file at the superintendent's office located at 300 W. School Street, Polo, Missouri 64671.

Filing will begin on December 15, 2009, at 8:00 a.m. and will continue during the district's regular business hours, which are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. Filing will not occur on days that the school district's offices are closed due to inclement weather. Filing will also not occur during the holidays when the school district's offices are closed: Friday, December 18, 2009 through Friday, January 1, 2010. Filing will end on January 19, 2010, at 5:00 p.m.

There are 3 positions available with three-year terms.

Letter from the Office of the Superintendent

I want to take this opportunity to thank all parents and staff who have been involved in working and developing the District Improvement Plan under the federal guidelines of the No Child Left Behind Act and the district's Annual Yearly Progress Report. In addition, the district appreciated the input from the recent survey distributed to parents and their involvement in the parental meeting held at school in October. There were many quality ideas discussed and several have been included in the plan. It has been a worthwhile task for all involved and several quality programs will begin in the near future.

The main focus of the District Improvement Plan was on student achievement, with assessments, and increasing parental involvement. With this in mind, the district will be implementing an educational assessment tool in December designed to improve student achievement along with opportunities for parents to be involved in monitoring their child's educational progress. The program is termed "Study Island". The program is an on-line assessment practice tool designed specifically for each grade level and individual student progress rate. Assessments are aligned to MAP Tests and End of Course Exam expectations and grade level objectives. Parents and students will be able to access "Study Island" through the district's web site at <http://polo.k12.mo.us>. It is important to remember, this is just an educational tool, but one that can be very useful if used, and like anything else in life, nothing takes the place of practice, hard work, support, and dedication in reaching one's goals, dreams, and ultimate success. Included in this month's Panther Pride Edition is further information regarding "Study Island" and the implementation timeline.

On another note, I want to thank everyone for their understanding and patience with the cancellation of school and parent teacher conferences in October due to the increased number of student absences from illness. The four day break allowed recovery time for children and allowed for the custodians to clean and disinfect the classrooms thoroughly. However, we will have to make up the day on Monday, January 18th. Any other days missed due to inclement weather, etc. will be made up accordingly with the school make up day schedule on the school board approved calendar. Those additional days, if necessary, in order would be: February 15th, March 18th, 22nd, and 19th, plus May 19th, 20th, and 21st.

Last, I would like to acknowledge there are many positive accomplishments occurring in the district from academics to other activities. ACT Test Scores are improving at or above the national average, and more students scored higher on their individual MAP and EOC Tests than in prior years, just that we need to have more students score in the proficient category. Also, there are more students on the first quarter honor roll and with perfect attendance than in prior years. Students in activities are experiencing the character and values that are required to be successful in life, plus learning the realization it is a very competitive world requiring a positive attitude with perseverance. Congratulations to the teachers, students, and parents that are willing to try and work hard to see success in the classroom, success on the playing field, and success in life are worth their efforts and are priceless experiences! We encourage all students, parents, and patrons to be positive and involved in the education of students in the Polo R-VII School District!

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Newhart

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INFO

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From the Elementary Principal

by Mrs. Beverlyly Deis
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 elementary lost and found 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 Australia by Randy Nadler on December 16. Students will be able to view many pictures of Australia 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 Tuesday, December 15 at 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 songs. Mr. Dunker and Mrs. Henderson have coordinated the K-12 program this year.

School will dismiss on Friday, December 18 at 11:30 for our Winter Break. This will also end our first semester (second quarter). School will resume on January 4 with a late start day. Grade cards will be mailed out after we return to school.

We have had several QSP and School Mall Booklets returned. I would like to thank everyone for their support of these programs. By returning the booklets, you are helping our students receive the Time for Kids. I hope everyone enjoys their Winter Break with family and friends.

Polo BOE Pat on the Back

At the most recent Polo R-VII Board of Education Meeting, Madison Misel was awarded a Pat on the Back for receiving the All-State Softball award and Dalton Rardon and Lance Snodgrass received a Pat on the Back for receiving All-State Academic recognition.



TIME CAPSULE 2016

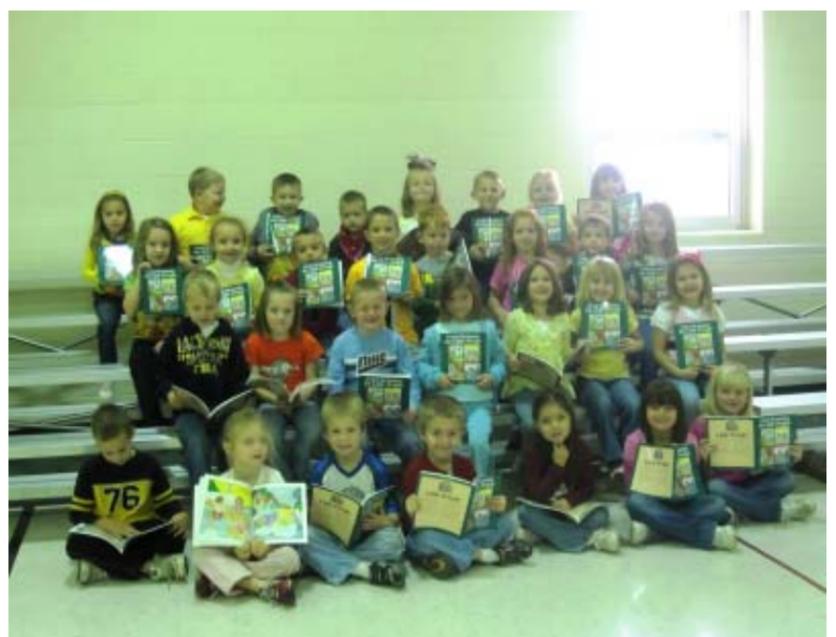
Sixth grade students in Mrs. Rardon's Reading class have been studying stories about archaeology and digging up the past. To reinforce this learning and add a little fun, students created a time capsule to rediscover in the year 2016 (their senior year). Students brought an item that had special meaning or one that helped to describe them. Additionally, the classes brainstormed current event topics for each student to write about on an index card. On the opposite side of the card, they wrote personal information about themselves.

It took us a few days to prepare the site, as everyone took a turn digging the hole. On a cool, wet, and windy October afternoon, we arrived at the burial site only to find the hole filled with water. Just a slight challenge, we scooped out most of the water and buried our capsule for the future. Students did not seem to mind the weather much, as you can see.



Bank Northwest Donates Book to Kindergartners

Polo R-VII Elementary would like to thank Bank Northwest for their dedication to the promotion of education. Bank Northwest donated books entitled, "Four Seasons for Little People" to the kindergarten students as part of the beginner's reading program. The quote on the card received with the books says, "It is better to build children than to repair adults." Our thanks to Bank Northwest!



Area II Fall Public Speaking Results

On Wednesday, November 4, the Area II FFA Association held the annual Fall Public Speaking Night at Gallatin High School. The event was attended by FFA advisors, judges, and public speaking participants. Thirty three FFA members from seventeen schools represented six public speaking categories to compete for a spot in district competition. The categories were; The Missouri Pork Association, The Missouri Sheep Producers, Missouri Institute of Cooperatives, Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation, Missouri Young Farmers and Wives Association, and the Missouri Farm Bureau. The participants put great effort into their speeches through research, writing manuscripts, and presentation.

In the Missouri Pork Association, first Lauren Dietzschold, Chillicothe, second Savannah Cox, Jamesport, third Lance Snodgrass, Polo, and alternate Travis Tvrdy, Cameron. Other participants included Justin Conover, Pattonsburg, Jeremy Livesay, South Harrison, and Allison Oyler, Hardin-Central.

The results from the Missouri Sheep producers was, first, Breanne Brammer, Gallatin, second Carrie Boon, Chillicothe, third Bridgette Ingersail, Cameron, and alternate Gregg Allnut, Trenton.

The Missouri Institute of Cooperatives Speaking Contest was comprised of; first, Madi Huston, Jamesport, second Kellin Ferguson, Chillicothe, third Tyler Tvrdy, Cameron, and participants, Michael Slater, Trenton, and Hank Bowers, Hardin-Central.

In the Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation, first was awarded to Taylor Lynch, Trenton, second Ashley Myers, Chillicothe, third Bill Jennings, South Harrison, and alternate Colton Layman, Hardin-Central. Haley Hurd from Polo also participated in the event.

The Missouri Young Farmers and Young Farm Wives Association winners were first Emily Folgate, Bethany, second RayAnn Armstrong, Cameron, third Amber Kiefier, Chillicothe, and alternate Megan Layman, Hardin-Central.

The results from Missouri Farm Bureau were first Cole Crawford, Hamilton, second Jon Black, Chillicothe, third Samantha Gibson, Norborne, and alternate Emily Dilley, Pattonsburg. Other participants were Bailey Hixon, Jamesport, Cody Grithens, Cameron, and Holly Stevens, Hardin-Central.

The top three placing individuals will be advancing to district public speaking competition. Districts will be held Wednesday, November 18, at Cameron High School. District winners will then advance to state competition. Each speaking category will hold state competition at various times this winter. A special thank-you is given to all area agriculture instructors and judges for making this a successful event.

Mental Preparation part II: Defining Success

by Mr. Kyle Ross

It is not if you win, it is ^{Principal} HOW you win. It is not if you lose, it is HOW you lose.

Many times in life the situation that you are put in is a win or lose one. That is why so many people in society change jobs, educational careers, quit teams, or allow themselves to simply drift along without purpose. Because without purpose there are no defined expectations for someone to fall "short" of. Losing in any facet of life hurts and some people cannot handle it. For those people I would like to suggest re-focusing on HOW you lost. You can find success in your losses. Use those successes to help set out a better path for you the next time that you find yourself in a similar situation. This will help keep you motivated, moving forward and most importantly, keeps you happy with yourself. This type of thinking will also keep you from riding the emotional roller coaster that many of us get stuck on when we win or lose at something.

What you have to do in essence is "re-frame" what success is. Since I come from a sports/educational background it is what I feel most comfortable writing about, so you will have to bear with me on the examples that I am about to use for "re-framing."

A. Kyle loses the match by one point in the state finals. It was a devastating loss and very sad to witness since Kyle did everything he was supposed to do and deserved to win the state title. As the final minute of the match ticked away, I saw Kyle's will power melt and he made few attempts to escape. He got to his feet one time, but his opponent quickly threw him back to the mat. Towards the end of the match, Kyle's head was down; he made a frustrating look at his coach and had a defeated look on his face. He not only lost the physical and technical game, he lost the mental game.

B. Ross also lost in the state finals. However, his loss was much worse.... A 14-0 shutout! Ross was also ridden out the last minute of the match but his last minute looked different than Kyle's last minute. In Ross' match, he got to feet constantly and was either driven out of bounds or slammed back down to the mat. Every time that Ross hit the mat, or was re-started he sprang to his feet even though a 1 point escape would not change the outcome of a 14-0 match. Unlike Kyle, Ross was fighting for pride and was not about to lose the mental game. After the match, his opponent (the new state champion) looked like he'd been beaten and even looked relieved to have the match over with. He had to EARN that match.

You should be able to tell that even though Ross' loss was much worse, Kyle's loss was more devastating. HOW you lose/deal with problems does count. You can take this lesson and apply it to your job, a test, a family problem, etc. It is how you deal with life that ultimately defines who you are. As a person we will all be winners, and we will all be losers at some point in our lives. So armed with that knowledge you can now accept that there is a fear of losing and that you can defeat it mentally and that if you can define what being successful is then you have a better chance of getting there.

I would like to leave you with one of my favorite quotes because I believe that it is applicable to anyone's life: "If you get knocked down 7 times, then get up 8."

Letters to Santa from Mrs. Silvey's Kindergarten Class

Dear Santa,

Can I have a camera to take pictures of my family? I also want a stroller for my dolls. I will leave some cookies and milk for you.

Love,
Katelin Vaught

Dear Santa,

I want a Game Boy, and sheep game and a play horse game. I am going to wake up and be happy when I see the presents.

Love,
Kaylyn Chapman

Dear Santa,

I want a DS where you play games, and make-up and a play computer and Barbies. I am going to be good.

Love,
Emily Boyle

Dear Santa,

Thank you for getting me cars last year. Would you bring me motorcycles this year?

Love,
Luke Carr

Dear Santa,

I want a Game Boy and a Play Station. I might be going on another vacation and I might want to play Game Boy.

Love,
Haley Aubrey

Dear Santa,

I would like for Christmas a toy Barbie and a box of crayons. I would color a picture of you flying in the sleigh with your eight deer.

Love,
Abigail Cline

Dear Santa,

I want a Nintendo DS and a flat screen TV so I could watch TV and play the games when I don't have any work to do. I would share the flat screen TV with my sisters.

Love,
Mary Copeland

Dear Santa,

I want a music player with earphones, so I can listen to music.

Love,
Nick Covey

Dear Santa,

I hope you get presents for my sister and brother. Will you get me a nerf gun? One that has those little suction cups.

Love,
Collin Pieper

Dear Santa,

I love you. I want to be nice. There is a baby dinosaur I really like. His name is "Screecher". I really want him. And I want a toy car that goes through water and sand and can jump 50 high.

Love,
Madison Rechtermann

Dear Santa,

I want a new flat screen TV, because my other one is junk. I want a new toy Barbie and a new stuffed animal, please.

Love,
Kolbie Richey

Dear Santa,

I want a 4 wheeler so I can ride it. I also want new shoes. They need to be red. I also want a new bed.

Love,
Tyler Roberts

Dear Santa,

I want a gator with a trailer and truck and some hay bales. I also want a tractor - the toy kind. I want some Lincoln Logs too.

Love,
Evan Scott

Dear Santa,

May I please have a rifle for Christmas and a little deal that scares my brother - it is a little grizzly bear. I also want a little toy snake and a toy 4 wheeler.

Love,
Andrew Stone

Dear Santa,

I want a real horse saddle to ride China on, a 4 - wheeler, and a toy gun. I will be good for Mom and Dad and the teachers.

Love,
Wyatt Gilmer

Dear Santa,

I hope you have a good night. I will leave you some cookies and milk outside. I would like a 4 wheeler and a flat screen TV for my room.

Love,
Joshua Crandall

Dear Santa,

I want a 4 wheeler so I can ride it. I will share with Jackie and Jolie. I also want an MP3 player.

Love,
Jackson Gentzell

Dear Santa,

Can you get me a play horsie that has a reward and their legs move? Please buy me a Swan Palace too. Please!

Love,
Shea Hall

**Letters to Santa from
Mrs. Hogan's Kindergarten Class**

Dear Santa,

I would like to have a real horse and a Barbie doll. I would also like some dress-up clothes and a baby doll. I have been good and I will leave cookies and milk for you. I would like a play car too.

Love,
Kaydence Norton

Dear Santa,

I would like a four wheeler and a hamster. I would also like a rabbit. I have been very good this year. Could you please bring me a pet frog too.

Love,
Kenny Oswald

Dear Santa,

Please bring me a play kitchen and a new backpack for my brother. I would like to have a lot of toys and a puppy too. I would also like to have a desk to do my homework on and a computer. I have tried to be very good.

Love,
Hailey Stanley

Dear Santa,

I would like to have a play horse and a Barbie. I have been good this year. I will leave you cookies and milk. Thank you very much.

Love,
Cheyanne Abeln

Dear Santa,

I would like to have a race car track and a pet Screetcher. I would also like to have a dog. I have tried to be really good. Thank you.

Love,
Conner Bruce

Dear Santa,

I have been very good this year. I would like to have a baby doll and a stroller for her. I would also like to have some skis. I will leave cookies and milk for you.

Love,
Alayna Chapman

Dear Santa,

I would like to have a horse and a Barbie. I would also like to have a stuffed bear and a dog. I have been really good this year. I will leave you a snack. Thank you.

Love,
Jolie Gentzell

Dear Santa,

I would like to have a Screetcher and a really fast bike. I would also like a piano so I can take piano lessons. I would like a video game too. I have tried to be very good this year. Thank you.

Love,
Mason Chapman

Dear Santa,

I would like to have a toy tiger and a bell. I would also like a bear and a drum. Please bring me a candy cane too. I would really love to have a dinosaur. Thank you.

Love,
Colby Cope

Dear Santa,

I would like to have a bouncy horse and a Bratz girl with make-up. I would also like a puppy that swims in the water and a baby that can stand up. I have been really good.

Love,
Kayla Larkins

Dear Santa,

I would like to have a dog and a dollhouse for my dolls. I would also like a teddy bear and a baby doll. I have been very good. Please bring me a play kitchen too. Thank you.

Love,
Kayla Smith

Dear Santa,

I would like a T-Rex dinosaur that is remote controlled. I would also like to have a hot rod set and a remote control truck. I have tried to be good this year. Thank you.

Love,
Jace Bolling

Dear Santa,

I would like to have an ipod and jewelry. I would also like to have a baby doll and a Barbie House. I really want high heels and dress up clothes. Please bring me a Bible too. I have been very good this year.

Love,
Josphine Salazar

Dear Santa,

I would like to have some dress-up clothes and a princess toy set. Please bring me my own Christmas ornaments and a stuffed animal. I have been very good this year and I will leave you some hot chocolate.

Love,
Jenee Qualman

Dear Santa,

Please bring me a computer and a camera. I would also like to have some books to read and an art center. Thank you.

Love,
Austin Cummings

FFA Barnwarming

by Alex Templeton
|Staff Writer

On Friday the 13, the local Polo FFA Chapter held Barn Warming in the Multi-Purpose gym at the school. With a turnout of over 40 members and even more non-members, the event was a success.

Throughout the night, everyone had the opportunity to dance and play games. The games included a sac race, cider chug and a rug game. Also, there was Freshman Initiation. This is a time for the senior members to 'welcome' the younger, new members to the chapter. This year, the senior Chapter Officers asked the freshman a question about FFA. If they answered the question wrong, they got a pie in the face. However, if they answered the question right, the senior officers received the pie in the face.

For Barnwarming royalty, each grade chose two FFA members to run for king and queen. The freshman candidates were Sammie Jo Copeland and Duncan Parker. The chosen sophomores were Katie Garrett and Alex Tate. Alex Templeton and Dillon Hufford represented the junior class, and Lance Snodgrass and Paige Ahart were the senior candidates. After the votes were tallied, Paige Ahart and Lance Snodgrass were the new king and queen. Lance received a light saber for winning, and Paige received a crown and a pink and white stick horse.

Wish List at Polo R-7

by Brittney McGinley
|Staff Writer

It is almost Christmas time again, little kids favorite holiday. Honestly, a holiday where your family comes together and give gifts, of course children love Christmas. I asked some seniors what was on their wish list and all of the presents were very interesting. Alishia Bolling said that here dream present to open would be to open the box and a pug dog be there or an engagement ring. The pug and ring combination is a little funny maybe Santa Clause will bring you both. I asked Ashleigh Jones, "If you could put anything on you wish list, what would it be?," she replied, "A new car (Dodge Challenger, 2010) and free tuition for any college of my choice." That would be an amazing gift for any of the 2010 seniors. Karlie Schafer said the three items on her wish list was, "warm socks, cooler friends, and a horse and buggy." Well that is all I have to say about that. Next, we have Haley Hurd, I asked her, "If you could give anything to anyone what would it be and to who?" She answered, "I would give my faith to anyone and everyone." The last senior I asked was Lance Snodgrass, my question to him was, is there an item on you wish list that is repeated every year? He replied, "A hippopotamus. I have asked for one EVERY YEAR, and for some reason my mom and dad think, I'm joking. Seriously though, what is NOT cool about a hippopotamus in your back yard?" Wishful thinking, Lance! Have a safe and wonderful holiday.

NHS Book Fair

by Alex Templeton
|Staff Writer

During the week of November ninth, the Annual Book Fair was held in the school library. Holding the book fair is one great way for the Polo School to support reading habits of both the elementary and high school alike. They also get the community involved in supporting the library by attending the evening sessions of the fair. Books of all reading levers were among the stock for sale.

A total of over \$500 was raised for the local National Honor Society chapter. In past years, the money raised has been used to take elementary kids to the Literature Festival, bought gifts for rest home residences, adopt families during Christmas, and also has helped the Christian Youth Group with their service projects.

In conclusion, the book fair was a success. Librarian Sarah Davies thinks it's a "good project service for NHS, and it gives us money to do our service projects. It gives the kids a chance to shop for books." Hopefully, this year, the money will be used to send NHS members and elementary students to the Literature Festival.

Christmas Traditions

by Rita Stottlemyre
|Staff Writer

There are many Christmas traditions practiced all over the world. These traditions include putting up and decorating Christmas trees, hanging stockings for Santa Clause to stuff, kissing under mistletoes, eating candy canes and sending Christmas cards. Christmas is the time for friends and family to come together to show love and celebration. There are different traditions in different countries. In France, Santa Claus is called Peru Noel and he brings small gifts to people on December 6th, and then comes back on December 25th to deliver the rest. In Italy, the main exchange of gifts are on January 6th, which was believed to be the day the The Three Wisemen met Jesus.

The Polo students have traditions of their own. Senior Paige Ahart said that on Christmas Eve her Uncle Gil dresses up as Santa Claus to surprise Paige's sister, Joan and her cousin Andy. Austin Bowley, a sophomore at Polo, said that at his house they have gingerbread house competitions. "We build them then throw them off of the patio. The one that withstands the fall best wins. Whoever wins gets the biggest present under the tree," says Austin. Traditions can be something for the family to look forward in the hectic seasons. The traditions that are made in a family will stay in a family forever. Christmas traditions should be meaningful for all families.

The Polo Athletic Department is working towards acquiring Championship Banners to be hung in the gym for all sports in all previous years. The following list was compiled from all the data we could locate using CRC-GRC records, past yearbooks and other records. The Panther Pride will run the list again for you the public to confirm, agree, and or edit if anyone knows of any discrepancies in the list, years and or activities. This will be a lengthy process and we are asking your cooperation with the effort to honor those teams who have claimed conference, district/sectional and state titles and get them listed on banners and in the gym.

Thank-you

Coach Johnson/AD

Girls Basketball

Conference Champions

- 79 CRC Tournament Champs
- 80 CRC Champions
- 81 CRC Tournament Champs
- 82 CRC Tournament Champs
- 85 CRC Champions
- 86 CRC Tournament Champs
- 88 CRC Tournament Champs
- 89 CRC Champions
- 94 CRC Champions

District Champions

- 77 Regional Champions "State Quarterfinalist"
- 78 Regional Champions
- 79 Regional Champions
- 80 Champions
- 81 Champions finished State 3rd place
- 82 District Champions
- 83 District Champions
- 84 District Champions
- 88 "State Quarterfinalist"
- 89 District Champions
- 90 District Champions
- 91 District Champions
- 92 District Champions & 94 District Champs

Girls Track

District Champions

- 79 Champions
- 80 Champions
- 81 Champions
- 82 Champions
- 83 Champions
- 85 Champions
- 86 Champions
- 92 Champions
- 06 Champions
- 07 Champions

Conference Champions

- 80 CRC Outdoor Champions
- 81 CRC Outdoor Champions
- 82 CRC Outdoor Champions
- 83 CRC Outdoor Champions
- 92 CRC Outdoor Champions
- 05 CRC Outdoor Champions
- 06 CRC Indoor Champions

State Honors

- 81 "State Champions"
- 82 "State Runner-up"
- 83 "State Runner-up Indoor"
- 85
- 86
- 07 "State 4th place"

Volleyball

Conference

- 95 CRC Champs
- 97 CRC Champs

Softball

District

- 09 District Champs

Football

Conference Champs

- 85 CRC Champs
- 86 CRC Champs
- 95 CRC Champs
- 91 CRC Champs
- 97 CRC Champs
- 98 CRC Champs
- 02 CRC Tri-Champs
- 05 CRC Co-Champs
- District Football
- 97 Champions
- 98 Champions
- 02 Champions
- 03 Champions
- State Football
- 85 Semi-Finalists
- 86 Quarterfinalists

Wrestling

- 81 CRC Champions

Boys Basketball

Conference Champs

- 51-52 CRC Conference Champs
- 56 CRC Tournament Champs
- 63 CRC Conference Tournament Champions
- 67 Conference Champions
- 68 Conference Champions
- 78 CRC Tournament Champions
- 94 CRC Conference Champions
- 98 CRC Conference Tri-Champs

District Champs

- 30 Champions
- 86 Champions
- 90 Champions

Boys Track

Conference Champions

- 67 CRC Champions Outdoor Track
- 68 CRC Champions-Outdoor Track
- 71 CRC Champions-Outdoor Track
- 71 CRC Champions-Indoor Track
- 72 CRC Champions-Outdoor Track
- 85 CRC Champions ???
- 86 CRC Champions Outdoor Track
- 87 CRC Champions Outdoor Track
- 98 CRC Champions Outdoor Track
- 98 CRC Champions Indoor Track
- 99 CRC Champions Indoor Track
- 03 CRC Champions Indoor Track
- 04 CRC Champions Indoor Track
- 05 CRC Champions Indoor Track
- 05 CRC Champions Outdoor Track
- 06 CRC Champions Indoor Track
- 06 CRC Champions Outdoor Track
- 07 GRC Conference Champions

District Champions

- 83 Champions
- 86 Champions
- 87 Champions
- 90 Champions
- 91 Champions
- 05 Champions
- 06 Champions
- 07 Champions
- State Championships
- 87 1st place
- 98 4th place
- 05 1st place
- 06 1st place
- 07 1st place

READING BUDDIES WORK WONDERS

Reading Week is always a fun time for the elementary students and teachers. During the week of November 16th-20th, students needed to discover what color the quoted word was and wear that color on that given day. On Monday we "lovat" that you like to read. Read at least ten minutes. Tuesday - per "suade" your teacher to read to you. Wednesday - Read all the "whey" around the multi-purpose room. On Thursday - say "yell-ow" to one good book and finally on Friday - read "teal" your teacher stays STOP!

Each week the third graders buddy read with Mrs. Erickson's first hour class. The students participate in round robin reading, reviewing for the weekly reading assessment test and quiz students over the weekly spelling words. Seeing students actively engaged in learning is part of our Instructional Practices Inventory that our classes are using.



Kindergarten Classes Enjoy Guest Readers

The Kindergarten classes here at Polo R-VII welcomed three "guest readers" into their room in celebration of Reading Week. The "guest readers" were Mrs. Beverly Deis, Elementary Principal, Mr. Kyle Ross, High School Principal, and Mr. Robert Newhart, Superintendent. The kids enjoyed having all of the readers read to them and patiently and attentively listened. The Kindergarten classes would like to thank the "guest readers" for taking time out of their very busy day to spend valuable time with them reading books.



SADD Candy Cane Sales

by Linda Pilger

Staff Writer

The Students Against Destructive Decisions are having their annual candy cane sales for Christmas. The proceeds are going to the Polo Chapter to support Polo School District campaigns such as Red Ribbon Week, Arrive Alive, safe driving, anti-tobacco for Middle School students, and MoDot sponsored seat belts awareness. Most importantly, the campaigns are to educate students to take precautions, to save others' lives, and abstain from breaking the law. The candy cane sales will be held during the week of November 30 through December 4 for the Middle School and High School lunch periods. Delivery will be on December 11 during first hour. "Imagine the joy in your friends' eyes as they realize your friendship matters to them. In addition, candy canes are YUMMY," says Mrs. Thrasher eagerly waiting to see the outcome of the SADD candy cane sales. If you are not able to buy during lunch, please see Mrs. Thrasher or a SADD member to place your order.

Preparing for Winter Weather Driving

by Brittney McGinley
|Staff Writer

On November 17, 2009, the first snow fell in Polo, Missouri. I believe it is critical to know how to drive in the snow properly. To start, make sure all that all your electrical system is working properly such as battery, ignition, headlights tail lights, hazard lights and turn signals. Following that, make sure your brakes are adjusted for equal braking. After you have checked your brakes, look at your tires and see if your tread on your tires are adequate for the road conditions. After you check the tread, your tire pressure is the next thing that needs to be checked. Once your tired pressure is at the standard amount for every 9 degrees Fahrenheit the temperature drops you let out 1 psi (pounds per square inch). Heating/cooling system comes next; check the radiator and hoses for leaks to make sure you have enough antifreeze for the coldest weather. The windshield wipers are another important element to check; make sure that they are functioning efficiently. Replace them if they are old or worn. One of the most important things you need to check, even when it is not snowing outside, is the fuel but why it is so important during winter because it is more likely to be stranded on the side of the road.

There are many items to have in your car for an emergency such as tire chains, bag for sand or kitty litter, traction mats, snow shovel, snowbrush, ice scraper, jumper cables, warning devices such as flares or emergency lights, fuel line de-icer, extra windshield wiper fluid, roll of paper towels, flashlights with extra batteries, blanket and/or extra clothing, first aid kit, snacks and water, matches, and emergency candles road maps, just to name a few.

After all these tasks are completed, then driving comes into play. To begin buckle up, make sure that you are driving at an appropriate speed. Driving under the speed limit is the most precautious measure against an accident happening. A reason to drive under the speed limit is "black ice", it is invisible, but could be identified as making the road look like shiny new asphalt opposed to grey-white. Do not use your cruise control. For winter driving, it is crucial that the driver is in complete control. Drive with you low-beam headlights on, not only are they brighter than daytime running lights but they also activate taillights. Steer with smooth and precise movement. Changing lanes too quickly and jerking the steering wheel while braking will cause skidding. Slow down when you approach a bridge with flashing lights because bridges freeze faster, considering that they are in open air and the bridge cools down faster.

If you start to skid, do not panic. Look where you want your vehicle to go and steer in that direction. Do not brake or accelerate. If you are driving an automotive transmission, shift into neutral but if you are driving a manual, then you need to declutch. If you follow these helpful tips you will be less likely to have an accident this winter. Drive Safe!

Football: Post Season Honors

by Dillon Hufford
|Staff Writer

Although the 2009 football season wasn't as successful as hoped, a handful of athletes received post season honors. These honors include the all conference and the coaches all district awards. All conference honors were received as followed; Junior Logan Dixon received second team running back and second team return specialist; Senior Dalton Rardon received second team defensive back, Senior Lance Snodgrass receives second team defensive lineman and Sophomore Ashton Shelton received the honorable mention linebacker.

The athletes receiving the coaches all district honors consists of; Sophomore Harley Martin receiving the coaches all district outside linebacker; Sophomore Ashton Shelton receiving the coaches all district linebacker and receiver. Junior Logan Dixon received the coaches all district runningback, another Junior Nick Allen receives the coaches all districts defensive lineman; and Senior Lance Snodgrass receives coaches all district offensive lineman. All the athletes who went out for football this year worked hard and we hope to see the underclassmen return for next season.

Teacher Spotlight

by Rita Stottlemyre
|Staff Writer

David Fickess Jr. is a high school science teacher at Polo. Mr.Fickess graduated from Polo High School. He has been teaching at Polo for six years. He teaches biology, chemistry, geology, meteorology, anatomy, and physiology. He said that his favorite thing about teaching is the kids, the summertime, and the variety of topics and tasks that teaching involves. Mr. Fickess didn't always want to be a teacher though; he originally went to college to pursue a career in electrical engineer. As a child, he wanted to be a professional bull rider. If Mr. Fickess wasn't a teacher, he said that he would like to be an inventor. He said, "...I like to create and modify things to make them more useful to me, and others. I also enjoy farming because I like to grow things." David said that one of his favorite memories of teaching at Polo was when he took a group of students to a Chemistry contest in Maryville. He said, "...the professor was tossing out candy for students giving correct answers. I just told Alyssa LaMarr to pay attention to the professor because she was talking. Right then he tossed a king sized Snickers from forty feet away and smacked her upside the head because she was talking to the kid beside her and she didn't see it coming. You should have seen the shocked look on her face." Mr. Fickess isn't the only one with memories in science class. Junior Alex Templeton says that her favorite part of being Mr.Fickess' class was getting to sit in his recliner chair. Rita Stottlemyre, a senior at Polo, says she will never forget the time she brought in her sick fish for Mr.Fickess to take care of. The next day he had to tell her that the fish hadn't survived, she was devastated. A senior, Jessica Vassmer commented about her memories with Mr. Fickess. "He usually just makes fun of me all the time," she said. His jokes have always made the students laugh and he has always been a great science teacher at Polo High School.

Travel to Study Island

Ready to escape the winter blahs?
One click and you will be at the Isla
The Study Island
Where you and your family can have
a quick and easy get away
while mastering
standards specific
to your child's grade level.



to see and games to play -
the comfort of your own home!

Watch for more information on this new Island adventure.

FIRST QUARTER PERFECT ATTENDANCE AWARDS

by Katelyn Sanders

Staff Writer

An assembly was held on November 6th to honor all Polo students that received perfect attendance first quarter. A drawing was held in three age divisions: Kindergarten through 4th, 5th through 8th, and 9th through 12th. The prize for each category was a \$100 Wal-Mart gift card. The winners were Matt Vaughan, Gunnar Martin, and Savannah Cline. The children who did not receive a prize but still had perfect attendance were awarded a coupon for a free personal pan sized pizza from Pizza Hut in Cameron. The students were very excited for these rewards and the school district is hoping that will be incentive to come to school every day. These drawings will be held after every quarter and new coupons distributed. There also will be a grand prize drawing to the end of the year with the Richmond Wal-Mart providing the grand prize. So get up on time and come to school every day!



Wrestling

by Kaylie Sorensen

Staff Writer

Last year, we had the honor of having 4 Varsity wrestlers compete in State at Columbia. We hope this year will be just as successful if not more.

Wrestlers have already started preparing for the upcoming season. Pee Wee Wrestlers have already had practices here in the Polo R-VII Multipurpose Room also. Varsity wrestlers do not have their first dual until December 3rd on home turf at 6 p.m. against North Platte and South Harrison followed by the North Platte Tournament at Dearborn on Saturday, December 5 at 9:30 a.m.

The Varsity wrestlers feel confident that this season will be just as good, if not better than the last. Incoming freshmen are showing major potential. It is in the high hopes of the wrestlers to go to State and win big.

Come out and support your Panther Wrestlers for not only their first meet, but all the meets that follow. They would sure appreciate the encouragements.

Lady Panther Basketball in the Making

by Katelyn Sanders
|Staff Writer

Winter sports season is taking off here in Polo, America. The Lady Panthers basketball team has been practicing for weeks and the girls are coming together. There will be two returning seniors, Katelyn Sanders and Ashleigh Jones, and one senior addition, Alishia Bolling. The other varsity returners include juniors Alex Templeton, Courtney Arthur, Nikki Junco, Maddy Misel and sophomores Jonna Stottlemire and Kadee Phillips. The team doesn't end there, as we have Jordin Langdon, Avery Snodgrass, Sammie Copeland, Taylor Stanley, and Monica Fickess all lacing up their shoes as well.

When Coach Keith was asked about his young team he responded, "I'm very impressed with the way practice is going; the girls have shown outstanding work ethic. I'm just ready to get the season going." He's not the only one ready for the season to start as sophomore Jonna Stottlemire says, "I can't wait for our first game. As soon as I step on the court, I'm ready to play." The girls have been pushing each other every day and are ready to show the Polo Panther fans what they can do.

NHS Officers

by Paige Ahart
|Staff Writer

This year's Nation Honor Society President is Lance Snodgrass. He conducts the meetings and oversees activity of the members. Dalton Rardon is the vice president. He helps Lance and fills in when Lance is not present. The secretary position is filled by Haley Hurd. She keeps notes of our meetings, what members are present, and other records. The treasurer this year is Ashleigh Jones. She keeps a record of our treasury and receipts and expenses. The reporter position is filled by Paige Ahart, who writes articles on what NHS is doing.

Some activities the NHS has participated in are the Halloween carnival, the book fair, and putting up flags with the veterans in honor of Veterans Day. All of the NHS students were very willing to help the community with the carnival and the school with the book fair. The carnival was a big success; almost all the NHS members were there, along with FCCLA. There were at least 1 student helping at each booth, and some had two. The book fair had two NHS members working each hour for the last half of the day for a week. The members helped the younger students pick out books they wanted and write down names of books. To help the veterans, at least 4 NHS members come to the American Legion at 7 in the morning and help hang flags all along Main Street and Highway 116. The members don't like getting up so early, but they do it anyway, because they are the model students of the school.

Senior Class Spotlight

by Paige Ahart
|Staff Writer

For this month's class spotlight, we have the seniors of 2010. I asked a few students some questions about what they are doing after high school or of a memory and the teachers about what they thought of our class.

I asked a few of the seniors a question to see what their plans are after high school or about a favorite memory. Where are you planning on going to college? Brittney McGinley said, "I want to go to UCM, but I really just want to stay in high school forever." A.J. Wells said, "I'm planning on going to Maple Woods." What are you majoring in? Katelyn Sanders is majoring in business management. Dalton Rardon is going for secondary education and coaching. Lance Snodgrass said, "Plant science and really cool stuff." Andra Young is majoring in accounting. Alishia Bolling is going into nursing. What is your favorite high school memory? Lance Snodgrass said, "The trip to state FFA my sophomore year with Jake Roberts, Ryan Barnes, Megan Snodgrass, Alan Vassmer, Mitch Huntley, and Zach Tormey."

I asked some of the teachers our class has had for 4 years to give us a statement on our class. What is your favorite memory of a student in this year's senior class? History teacher Coach Gagnon said, "I remember fondly when A.J. Wells fell down the hill at South Harrison his sophomore year and injured himself so he couldn't play that night." Where do you imagine the senior class will be in 10 years? Math whiz Mr. Guerriero said, "The senior class has a large number of students who show signs of leadership. I imagine many will do well and some might become leaders in business or for society." Biology buff Mr. Fickess reeled off some predictions, "3 will become barbers, 6 will graduate from college, 4 will still be considering getting a job, 8 will be working construction, 2 will work at auto assembly plants, 1 will be a Hollywood stunt man, 2 will be professional hunters, 1 will still be trying to get their GED, and the rest will work at Wal-Mart." What piece of advice do you have for the class of 2010? Foreign language teacher Mr. Sterner said, "Most of the seniors need to learn to try to understand, and then be understood. You figure it out." Principal Ross said, "Stop waiting for your life to start. It doesn't start tomorrow, next week, or next year. It is today... This minute, right here, right now. So as the great Muhammad Ali said, 'Don't count the days, make the days count!'"

December 2009 Menu

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

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1 Pop Tart, Ham, Fruit Meatball Sub, Green Beans, Fruit	2 Hashbrown, Sausage, Toast, Fruit Beefy Nuggets, Mashed Potatoes, Fruit	3 French Toast, Ham, Fruit Pizza, Corn, Fruit	4 Biscuit with Sausage Gravy, Fruit Shrimp, Peas, Fruit
7 Late Start-No Breakfast Creamy Chicken over Biscuit, Mixed Vegetables, Fruit	8 Cereal, Oatmeal, Toast, Fruit Chicken Pattie on Bun, Corn, Fruit	9 Pop Tart, Ham, Fruit Corn dog Nuggets, Baked Beans, Fruit	10 Waffle, Sausage, Fruit Hamburger on Bun, Tator Tots, Fruit	11 Biscuit with Sausage Gravy, Fruit Tuna or Bologna Sandwich, Glazed Carrots, Fruit
14 Cereal, Oatmeal, Toast, Fruit Nachos, Refried Beans, Fruit	15 Pop Tart, Ham, Fruit Chicken Nuggets, Corn, Fruit	16 Breakfast Pizza, Fruit Hotdog on Bun, Baked Beans, Fruit	17 Donuts, Ham, Fruit Christmas Dinner	18 Biscuit with Sausage Gravy, Fruit Early Out – NO LUNCH
21 NO SCHOOL WINTER BREAK	22 NO SCHOOL WINTER BREAK	23 NO SCHOOL WINTER BREAK	24 NO SCHOOL WINTER BREAK	25 NO SCHOOL WINTER BREAK
28 NO SCHOOL WINTER BREAK	29 NO SCHOOL WINTER BREAK	30 NO SCHOOL WINTER BREAK	31 NO SCHOOL WINTER BREAK	

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December 2009 Activities Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 *PAO Cheer Practice 5:30-7:30 pm in the Multi	3 *V/JV WR vs. N. Platte/S. Harrison 6:00 pm *Pee Wee Wrestling 5:30-8:00 pm in Multi	4 *PAO Cheer Practice 5:30-7:30 pm in Multi	5 *V WR Tournament @ Dearborn 9:30 am
6 *Late Start 10:20 am *V/JV BB vs. Norborne 5:00 pm *FFA Fruit Delivery *CTA Mtg. 7:30 am	7 *MS BB vs. Cameron 5:30 pm *V BB @ Hardin-Central 6:00 pm *Pee Wee Wrestling 5:30-8:00 pm in Multi	8	9 *EOC for American Government *PAO Cheer Practice 5:00-8:00 pm in Multi	10 *V/JV WR vs. Albany/KC Van Horn 6:00 pm *MS BB @ E. Buchanan 5:30 pm *Computer Buying Class offered by Extension Office 6:00-9:00 pm *PAO Cheer Practice 5:00-8:00 pm in Multi *Pee Wee Wrestling 5:30-8:00 pm in Gym Mezzanine	11 *PAO Cheer Practice 5:00-8:00 pm in Multi	12 *Polo Dual Team V WR Tourney 9:30 am
13 *V BB vs. E. Buchanan 6:00 pm *School Health Advisory Council Mtg 3:15 pm	14	15 *K-12 Winter Concert 6:30 pm (make-up date 12-17-09)	16	17 *Computer Buying Class offered by Extension Office 6:00-9:00 pm *Tenative MS Sports Reception	18 *Early Out 11:20 am	19
20 *Winter Break (return on 1-4-09) *BOE Mtg 7:00 pm	21	22 *Pee Wee Wrestling 5:30-8:00 pm in Multi	23	24	25	26
27 *V BB @ NCMC Shoot Out TBA	28	29 *V BB @ NCMC Shoot Out TBA *Pee Wee Wrestling 5:30-8:00 pm in Multi	30 *V BB @ NCMC Shoot Out TBA	31		