



THE POLO R-VII SCHOOL DISTRICT PANTHER PRIDE

March/April 2010

Volume 5, Issue 8

Important March/April Dates

Mar 15 - BOE Meeting 7 pm
 - Children's Literature Festival in Warrensburg
 - PAO Mini Cheer Practice 5:30-7:30 in Multi
 - HS Quiz Bowl @ Hamilton 4:30 pm
 Mar 16 - Pee Wee Wrestling 5:30-8:00 in Multi
 Mar 18 - Winter Activities Banquet 6 pm
 - MAP Reward Day Grades 4-6
 - Pee Wee Wrestling 5:30-8:00 in Multi
 Mar 19 - Make up Day- School in Session
 - FFA Judging Contest @ Lathrop
 - PAO Mini Cheer Practice 5:30-7:30 in Multi
 Mar 22 - Make up Day - School in Session
 - PAO Mini Cheer Practice 5:30-7:30 in Multi
 - HS Quiz Bowl 4:30
 Mar 23 - Varsity Track @ UCM Indoor Meet TBA
 Mar 24 - FFA CDE's @ Gallatin 4:30 pm
 - PAO Mini Cheer Practice 5:30-7:30 in Multi
 Mar 25 - Spring Concert Grades 7-12 @ 6:30 pm
 - K & 1st Field Trip to Kaleidoscope 8:30-2:45
 Mar 26 - FFA NCMC Ag Club Contest @ Trenton
 - Green Hills Telephone Corp. Annual Mtg.
 - Early Out 11:20 am
 Mar 27 - Ensemble/Solo Contest @ St. Joseph Central HS
 Mar 29 - School Health Advisory Council Mtg 3:15 pm
 - PAO Mini Cheer Practice 5:30-7:30 in Multi
 - HS Quiz Bowl @ S. Harrison 4:30
 Mar 30 - FFA NW District CDE's @ NWMSU
 - Varsity Track @ Richmond 3 pm
 - MAP Testing Grades 3-8, Stanford Testing K-2
 - PAO Mini Cheer Practice 5:30-7:30 in Multi
 Mar 31 - FFA NW District CDE's @ NWMSU
 - MAP Testing
 - PAO Mini Cheer Practice 5:30-7:30 in Multi
 April 1 - Early Out 11:20 am
 - FFA NW District CDE's NWMSU
 - MAP Testing
 April 2 - No School
 April 4 - Late Start 10:20 am
 April 6 - FFA Area Award Night @ Chillicothe 6 pm
 - MS Track @ Orrick 4 pm
 - MAP Testing
 April 7 - MAP Testing
 April 8 - MAP Testing
 - Varsity Track @ Stanberry 3:30 pm
 April 9 - Large Group Contest @ Northwest
 - MAP Testing
 April 10 - Hideaway Lakes Annual Meeting 1 pm in HS Gym
 April 12 - MAP Testing
 - MS Track @ Norborne 4 pm
 April 13 - MAP Testing
 - Varsity Track @ Rock Port Bluejays Relays TBA
 April 14 - MAP Testing
 April 15 - State FFA Convention in Columbia
 - MAP Testing
 - Varsity Track @ Higginsville TBA
 - MS Track @ Hardin Fun Run 4 pm

Important March/April Dates

April 16 - State FFA Convention in Columbia
 - MAP Testing
 April 18 - State FBLA Contest in Columbia
 April 19 - BOE Meeting 7 pm
 - State FBLA Contest in Columbia
 April 20 - State FBLA Contest in Columbia
 - Varsity Track @ Cameron Invitational 3 pm
 April 22 - MS Track @ Orrick Invitational 4 pm
 - MAP Reward Day Grades 4-6
 April 23 - Varsity Track @ Brookfield Relays 10 am
 April 24 - Jr/Sr Prom
 April 26 - 2nd Grade Field Trip
 - Varsity Track @ Lawson Invitational 4 pm
 April 27 - MS Track @ Lawson Invitational 4 pm
 - Kindergarten Screening
 April 29 - Kindergarten Screening
 - FFA Banquet 6:30 pm in Multi

Days Missed 2009-2010 School Year (As of 2-22-10)

October 22nd, 2009	Sickness
October 30th, 2009	Teacher In-Service
December 8th, 2009	Inclement Weather
December 9th, 2009	Inclement Weather
December 10th, 2009	Inclement Weather
January 7th, 2010	Inclement Weather
January 8th, 2010	Inclement Weather
February 9th, 2010	Inclement Weather
February 22nd, 2010	Inclement Weather

Total Days Missed - 9 Days (7 due to Inclement Weather)
Planned Student Days in Calendar - 175 Days
Days to Make Up- 8 Days (1 Day Built In, Must Attend 174)

Make Up Days

Monday, January 18th
 Monday, February 15th
 Thursday, March 18th
 Monday, March 22nd
 Friday, March 19th
 Wednesday, May 19th
 Thursday, May 20th
 Friday, May 21st (Last Day of School, Early Out @ 11:20 AM)

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From the Elementary Office

by Beverly Deis

Principal

Are we ever going to get to go outside for recess? As long as I have been at Polo - which has been a very long time - I do not remember having this many days in a row of indoor recess. I sure hope parents are having patience with the boys and girls because I know the teachers are having lots of patience with them!

I attended the Caldwell County Spelling Bee on February 18 and I was so proud of the representatives from Polo. The four boys representing Polo, Andrew Holland, Tristan Rardon, Kolton Roark, and Jesse Vaughan, did an awesome job! Please look for another article in this paper regarding the County Spelling Bee.

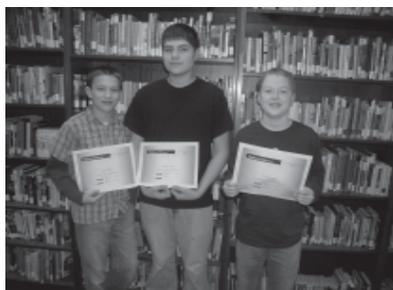
The Polo MAP night has been set for Thursday, March 11. This will be for students in grades 3-6 and their parents. We are looking forward to seeing which parents are smarter than a 5th grader (or 3rd, 4th, or 6th grader) in a game setting with MAP - like questions. It should be a fun and productive night as parents learn about the MAP tests given each Spring to the elementary students in grades 3-6.

The character education word for March is "reliability." Other words similar to reliability are dependable, steadfast, consistency, and trustworthy. Teachers will be focusing on reliability in the classroom and we ask for your assistance in teaching the students the importance of the character education words. I have no doubt; reliable students will be more productive and successful in school.

Thank you to numerous parents who helped Polo Elementary reach their goal in receiving "Time for Kids" for the 2010-2011 school year. Students received a "duck" to wear when they turned in their completed booklet, which seemed to be a terrific incentive for the students. The ducks could then be fed by teachers and staff members only if the student was doing exactly what he/she was suppose to be doing - and as we all know the plastic ducks can't eat, so the students received the candy or the reward!

The PTO book fair was a scrumptious success. The "diner" theme was well represented with the decorated bulletin boards, dress up days, and family night. Thanks to all PTO members (and staff members) who helped make this a huge success.

Just a reminder - mark your calendars now for the upcoming Spring MAP tests to begin on March 30 and end on April 15. Be sure to talk with individual teachers on date and time specifics. These tests are just one way our students show "Panther Pride in Excellence and Performance."



A Discussion on Bullying

Joni Ignatenko, a deputy with the Caldwell County Sheriff's office, who also serves at the School Resource Officer, recently spoke to the K-6 students about bullying. Deputy Ignatenko met with the students in small groups settings in the multi-purpose room. She discussed three types of bullying with the students:

1. Physical Bullying - hitting or fighting
2. Relational Bullying - gossiping
3. Verbal Bullying - name calling

Students were able to ask questions and interact with Deputy Ignatenko. She emphasized the golden rule of treating others the way you want to be treated. At the end of each session, Deputy Ignatenko reminded students if they would respect themselves and respect others, then bullying would occur.

Family Night at the Book Fair

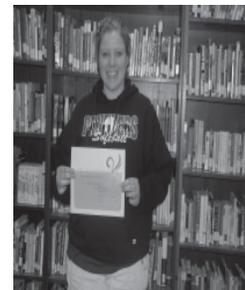
Family Night at the Book Fair, sponsored by the PTO, was a huge success for Polo School. The night consisted of many games including the menu relay game, sock hop, and tosses the salad. Attendees were also served root beer floats. During the games, the Book Fair was open to the public. This night was such a success because some Polo R-VII students volunteered their time to help. Those students were Sidney Copeland, Madison Curp, Ryan Henry, Andrew Holland, Tristan Rardon, Parker Smith, and Jesse Vaughan. The student helpers were rewarded with a free book from the PTO.

On Friday of the book fair, PTO organizers had a banana split eating contest for a few of the staff members. Here Marsha, Tina, Samara, Lynette, Sharla, and Patty pose with their supporters after the contest.



PATs on the Back

A Pat on the Back from the Polo R-VII School Board was given to Bridget Zabel at the regular March board meeting. Mrs. Zabel recently coordinated the Jump Rope for Heart activities with one night being dedicated to jumping rope. Polo School was able to raise close to \$1000.00 for Jump Rope for Heart.



The Polo R-VII Board of Education gave Pats on the Back to our students for their recent accomplishments with the local Spelling Bees. Kolton Roark (not pictured) received fourth place at the Polo Bee. Tristan Rardon received third place at the Polo Bee and fourth place at the Caldwell County Bee. Andrew Holland received second place at the Polo Bee and first place at the County Bee with Jesse Vaughan receiving first place at the Polo Bee and second place at the County Bee.

Polo Elementary + Jump Ropes= "Heart Heroes"

by Mrs. Bridget Zabel

PE Teacher

February is "Heart Awareness Month," and to help be aware on how to lead a healthy lifestyle our elementary students, K-4, participated in "Jump Rope for Heart". For about three weeks, students collected donations for the American Heart Association. The money that our students raised went towards scientific studies to find new medicines for heart-related diseases. This is such a great community service project; there are so many people that we know that are suffering from these diseases, such as high blood pressure and diabetes. This year's theme for "Jump Rope for Heart" was being a "Heart Hero." By raising money and jumping rope, you are being a hero by finding ways to save another's life.

On Wednesday, February 10th, 2010, Polo Elementary P.E. department hosted a "Jump Rope for Heart" event. It lasted about two hours, and during that time, students were engaged in jump roping, dancing and prize drawings. I would like to thank all of our local sponsors who donated prizes for this wonderful event. They would include: Polo Athletics- Free admission to home basketball games; Polo Booster Club- Panther stocking cap, hooded sweatshirts, and concession stand tickets; Polo Varsity Cheerleaders- Panther t-shirts; Polo Yearbook Staff- Free 2010 yearbook; Penny Copeland-Candy; Jill Rardon and the 6th grade class- Polo basketball t-shirt and money donation; Leatha Pfanmiller- Art sets; and Karen Grimes (Osborn) - Polo drawstring bag and hooded sweatshirt. Polo High School basketball players volunteered their time to help make this event successful. Several parents and other teachers joined in on the fun; you might have even caught Mrs. Deis and Mr. Newhart jumping along! Mrs. Jill Rardon was in attendance, and said, "It was a joy to see students working hard to help out a cause for others, even if their family or friends have not been affected by heart disease. Those little jumpers put their hearts and souls into it, and it definitely paid off with all of the money raised. The high school kids were a big hit too, and the green man was an interesting surprise!"

The 3rd grade class ended up raising the most money with \$323.80, and because of the outstanding service, they earned a free day of activity during their scheduled physical education time. The school's biggest "Heart Hero" is Jaime VanWey- 3rd grade, who raised \$82.15. Way to go 3rd graders! I couldn't be more pleased with my first year of doing "Jump Rope for Heart." Polo Elementary raised an impressive amount of \$922.80. I am really looking forward to next year to see what we can accomplish and what surprises might come up. Thank you to all parents and community members who donated to make this a wonderful success! Way to be a "Heart Hero!"

5TH GRADE GOES TO THE MOON

Students in Mrs. Rardon's 5th Grade Reading class have been studying the Apollo 11 mission to the moon. Both classes were asked to use the five step writing process to create this article. Their first step was to brainstorm important and interesting facts by creating an organizer. They then created a draft and revised as they went along. Finally, they edited their work and published this article.

All steps of this process were created on the Promethean board with students taking notes along the way. The students did a nice job working together to come to an agreement on the best way to write each sentence and to appeal to their readers.

The photo below shows the class with Mrs. Rardon's 40 year old newspaper, full of details about the Apollo 11 mission.



The three astronauts of the Apollo 11 mission were the first to explore the moon. The three astronauts' names were Armstrong, Aldrin, and Collins. On July 16, 1969 they launched from Florida to the moon. It took four days to get there and they had to eat tubed food.

Their landing spot had big boulders so they had to land on a flatter surface. They rode in a space vehicle called a rover. When they put the flag on the moon Armstrong said, "That's one small step for man . . . one giant leap for mankind." The flag never moved because there is no wind on the moon.

It took them nine days altogether to get to the moon and back. After they landed in the Pacific Ocean they got taken to a quarantine facility to be tested for alien germs. When Armstrong, Aldrin, and Collins were in the quarantine facility, President Nixon talked to them about their success. After they came out of the quarantine facility, the city of Chicago held a parade for the astronauts' success.

Our teacher, Mrs. Rardon, has a 40 year old newspaper that talks about the Apollo 11 and shows pictures of the mission. The newspaper is so old that it is turning yellow. When we did the moon crater experiment there was dust going everywhere. We dropped marbles in cocoa powder and flour. The force made craters in the cocoa powder and flour. In the cocoa powder there were clumps of powder that looked like rocks on the moon.

Written by: Austin Arthur, Haylie Arthur, Lauren Alden, Decon Brower, Tyler Chapman, Michael Frisch, Averie Heil, Ryan Henry, Joely Hicks, Jake Leonard, Douglas Lindaman, Gunnar Martin, Zackery Phillips, Tiffany Pimentel, Taylor Rash, Alex Scott, Shelby Stump, Garrett Thomas, KaLee Tarwater, Austin VanOster, Gavin Walker.

Polo R-VII School District -SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES-

A questionnaire was sent to each of the school board candidates. It included the following questions:

- 1) Give a short biographical sketch about yourself; ties to the district and community.
- 2) Why are you running to be a member of the Polo R-VII School Board?
- 3) Why would you be a valuable asset to the Polo R-VII School Board?
- 4) If elected, what would you like to see happen within the Polo R-VII School District?

Below are the answers provided by each candidate.

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

Below you will find information about the upcoming School Board election on Tuesday, April 6, 2010. The candidate questionnaire responses are included. The individuals running for the 2-three year positions available are: Stephen Mynatt, Shane Rardon, Bert Vaught II, and Chris Copeland. The individuals running for the 1-one year position is Allen Henry and Allison Shelton. We encourage everyone to exercise your right and vote.

Shane Rardon

Question # 1. I have lived in Polo most of my life and am a graduate of Polo High School - Class of 1987. I am currently working for Bayer CropScience as a Human Resources Consultant and recently celebrated my 13th year with the company.

I served six years with the Army Reserves holding the position of Sergeant while also graduating from Central Missouri State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Communication.

My wife Jill and I have two sons, Dalton and Tristan, both students in the Polo School District and very active in our District's activities.

I have volunteered and worked with several committees such as the Polo Educational Foundation, which is a not-for-profit foundation that works toward raising funds to support functions, activities, groups and/or individuals within our School District. I have had the great privilege of being a volunteer track coach for our high school sprinters the past six years.

Question # 2. I have served on the Board for six years and have enjoyed it a great deal. I have been a part of many improvements at the school with several upgrades to the buildings and additions, which we were able to accomplish with the support of our community. I would like the opportunity to continue my support of our School District by being elected back on the School Board.

Question # 3. It takes a certain amount of time to gain knowledge and an understanding of all the issues a School District faces throughout the year. Having the opportunity to be re-elected will allow me to continue with the strategic plans we currently have in place and will provide stability to the board as we work through challenges the District will be facing in the future. Being a past Board member also allows a certain amount of consistency in regard to practices and policies governing the District.

Question # 4. Overall, I would just like us to continue improving every year. However, with the recent economic concerns we are facing today, this becomes an even bigger challenge. I have always pushed for improvements, but for this upcoming year, we may be struggling to keep some of the good programs we currently have in place. During hard economic times, there is more focus on setting priorities and being responsible concerning the budget and ensuring we do not take any steps backward.



Allen Henry

Personal Bio: I have a daughter, Megan, in the eighth grade and a son, Ryan, in fifth grade. My wife, Rosemary, currently works at the school. We are long-time members of the community. I received a Masters of Business Administration from Northwest Missouri State in 1990 and then spent the next two years working in the university administration as the Director of Institutional research. I also taught computer science courses while I was there. I then left the university and spent the next six years as a Senior Information Consultant at the Federal Reserve Bank. I have spent the past twelve years as the Director of Information Technology for Interconnect Devices Inc.

Why are you running for school board?

Education in Missouri is currently facing the biggest budget crisis it has seen in the past 50 years. We are entering this storm in sound shape and this is a testament to the hard work of our current school board and administration. However, this storm can easily wreck our beloved school if the course is not set with a deft hand. I firmly believe that my experience and knowledge is what is needed during this storm and I humbly ask that the community provide me the opportunity to continue to serve this school and its students.

Why would you be a valuable asset to the Polo R-VII School Board?

I have been on the school board for the past four years and am currently the school board president. During this time, I have devoted my highest efforts to ensure that we have the best school possible for our kids. In fact, I am Polo's Missouri School Board Association delegate and am on the regional leadership council. I spend this extra time to make sure that our district has a voice in state policy recommendations. In the past, I have worked in several different fields including higher education and the federal government. Doing this has given me an understanding of how the government funds and regulates schools and has provided me with several contacts that I use to help our district. In addition, I have spent a great deal of time becoming well versed in how the State and Federal governments finance and regulate schools, the formulas it uses to fund them, the policies involved, and the terminology used.

What would you like to see happen within the Polo R-VII School District?

My main goal is to have our school come out of this state budget crisis still a strong school that continues to ready our students for success. I am very proud of our school and I do not want to see it lose ground. In all honesty, now is the time that you need to have experienced school board members. We will already have one new member due to Lisa's retirement from the board. I would respectfully ask for you to not only vote to retain myself, but also to retain Shane Rardon on the board. He is a dedicated, and long-serving member of the board and brings years of valuable experience with him.



Chris Copeland

My name is Chris Copeland. I've lived in the Polo community all of my life. Both my wife and I are Polo Graduates. I married Penny Pitman 18 years ago, and we raise our four girls on a farm in the Polo school district. I am employed at the Bayer Crop Science division in Kansas City. I am an active member of Prairie Ridge Church; I have served as an elder in the past, and I currently serve as a trustee on our church board. I am a member of the Polo Masonic Lodge, and I also serve as President on the Lincoln Township board.

I'm running for the Polo R-7 School Board because I have always believed in public service, I think we have a responsibility to do what we can at whatever level we can. You have to be involved in the things that are most important to you, as for me the most important thing in my life is my children. I have a daughter in the High School, the Middle School, and two in the elementary. I know that I would be concerned with all aspects of the school, not just one area. I want to ensure fair, adequate funding and resources for all of them. Both my wife and I have been involved in trying to make our school a better place for many years. She has been very active in the elementary; she has a good relationship with the elementary teachers and parents through being involved in the PTO. I have been able to be more involved by coaching the CRBC and 5th and 6th grade basketball girl's teams, and becoming the league representative for Polo in the CRBC Basketball league. One of my goals was to get our kids started at a younger age to build our basketball program, start with a good foundation, and also try to teach values that are important in life.

I think I would make a valuable asset to the school board because I'm looking forward, not backwards. I'm not coming in with an agenda. I am a positive addition. The school is a very big part of our life. I think we have a great school, with so much to build on and make even better. I know how to work within a board, I know that you listen to all sides and make a decision based on the facts. I am willing to listen to all that are involved to see what they need to help make their classrooms more adequate, their programs better, or to listen to the advice from a parent, so that your children can obtain the highest quality education that they deserve. I would also like to see more of what the administration and the school board have been doing towards education using technology. It seems that increasingly students have more information and knowledge than ever before due to access to the internet; it can be a powerful learning tool for students. Using computers, videos, and other kinds of technology makes lessons more interesting and more fun focused on the goal of improving education and helping children do better academically. Our school is doing that. With the addition of promethium boards and "Study Island" they are moving in the right direction.

I hope that we can all make a difference; I want to, that is why I am asking you to vote for me on April 6th.

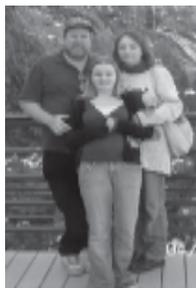
Stephen Mynatt

1. My name is Stephen Mynatt -- I live at - 21754 Shelton Road Polo, Mo. My home phone # is (816) 448-9638. My cell phone # is (816) 200-8488 I have lived in this area all of my life. I was raised in Lawson and graduated high school there. My wife of 32 years, with my four children moved into the Polo School district in 2001. I am a member of Faith Assembly of God in Polo. I teach Sunday School, run the sound equipment, and also am one of the board members.

2. I would like to offer my experience, knowledge and resources to do everything in my power to give our children the best education possible.

3. I have experience in handling business expenses as well and a financial and insurance background that will come in handy in these financial troubled times. I have experience on our church board as well.

4. I would like to improve our children's education while achieving a workplace environment that will not only make our educators happy, but allow us to retain the very best employees.



Bert Vaught II

Bert (Duce) Vaught II, a life long resident of Polo, is a 1989 graduate of Polo High School. He is married to Tania (Hamilton) Vaught, a 1993 graduate of Chillicothe High School. Bert and Tania are the parents of two daughters: Katelin, 6 years old (Kindergarten) and Hanna, 3 years old.

Bert received his Bachelors of Science degree from Central Missouri State University in Industrial Technology in 1995. He served in the United States Army Reserves from 1995 to 2003 specializing in logistics and nuclear biological and chemical decontamination. He then received his Masters of Business Administration degree from Baker University in 2000.

Bert works full-time as an Operations Manager for Odegard Crane and Display. He is also a Licensed Real Estate agent with Polo Realty. Bert has served on the Polo City Council for the past six years. While serving on the city council, he was the main advocate for the Polo business district improvements. He was able to replace the existing sidewalks and paved parking area at no extra expense to the taxpayers. He was also involved with improvement project with the Polo Community Center.

As a life long citizen of Polo, Missouri, it is very important to me to have a good, quality school. As my children are growing up in the community, I want them to be proud of the school they attend. I want them to have the same education and opportunities as kids in other school districts. I believe there are a few fundamental problems with the current system. I will be an advocate to change what is broken.

As a board member, I will bring strong business skills acquired throughout my career with a common sense approach for the taxpayers in the Polo school district. I will be a fair and impartial board member with an open mind. I want every child in the Polo school district to have a fair and equal opportunity to learn and succeed.

If elected, I will set priorities to retain our gifted teachers. Academics are my highest priority; therefore, we must retain, attract and reward our teachers. Our teachers are what make the difference in our children. We are very fortunate to have good teachers. Without good, quality teachers, our children can not succeed. We must continually recruit and maintain quality teachers.

I want to see that every student has their own text books. I want an updated library to help enhance our children's quality education. I would like to see jobs that come available within our school district that do not require a teaching degree be filled by local tax paying citizens of the Polo school district (let's spend our money where we make our money.) I want to ensure that money is spent wisely with a common sense approach. I would like to utilize our students' help whenever possible to save taxpayer dollars for jobs such as painting the football field. I hope to be instrumental in implementing these objectives.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would greatly appreciate your vote for the next school board member.

Allison Shelton

1. I am a long time member of the community. I was raised here in Polo. I graduated from Polo in 1990. I married Kendall Shelton in 1991, also a graduate of Polo High School. We have three sons Christopher a junior, Ashton a sophomore and Jonathan a 8th grader. We regularly attend Kingston Baptist Church. We've owned and ran our farm and our own business for the last 18 years.

2. The only way to make a difference is to get involved. Our students deserve the best educational opportunities as possible. My goal is to protest the future of education for all the students of Polo schools. The quality of education is my top priority.

3. I believe it is important to work together to achieve a common goal. And to incorporate independent thoughts and ideas into the process. As a member I would ask the tough questions and to keep the administrators accountable in order to promote a board that leads rather than follows.

4. If elected I would continue to improve school systems in a way that is as cost effective as possible. By keeping the budget balanced but to maintain the students education.



Patriot's Pen Contest Winners

The Patriot's Pen Competition is sponsored through the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Ladies Auxiliary Post. Middle school students in Mrs. Erickson's communication arts classes were assigned an essay on "When is the right time to honor our military heroes?" This event was sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Ladies Auxiliary Post 858 from Chillicothe, Missouri. Commander George Laprade, Melvin Littrell, and Marjorie Murray of VFW Post 858 from Chillicothe presented the essay winners a certificate and check. The winners from the seventh grade were: Aimee Walker, Wiley Martin, and Mason Misel. The winners from the eighth grade were: Megan Henry, Ashley Adams, and Jackson Pile. Students received checks in the amount of \$25 for first place, \$15 for second place and \$10 for third place. Congratulation to these students!

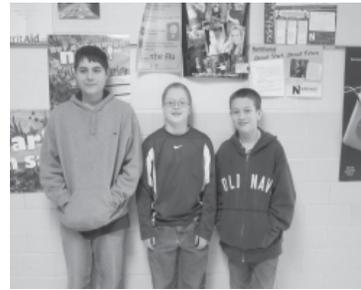


Front Row (L to R): Marjorie Murry, Chairperson; Aimee Walker; Wiley Martin; and Mason Misel. Back Row (L to R): Denise Erickson, Middle School Communication Arts instructor; George Laprade, Commander Post 858; Kyle Ross, High School Principal; and Melvin Littrell, Co-Chairperson.



Front Row (L to R): Marjorie Murry, Chairperson; Megan Henry, Ashley Adams, and Jackson Pile. Back Row (L to R): Denise Erickson, Middle School Communication Arts instructor; George Laprade, Commander Post 858; Kyle Ross, High School Principal; and Melvin Littrell, Co-Chairperson.

Polo Middle School Ruled the County Spelling Bee



February 18, 2010 was a night of entertainment and excitement as local school Spelling Bee Champions competed in the Caldwell County Spelling Bee. After many grueling rounds of spelling words, the night

ended with Polo Middle School at the top. Andrew Holland, seventh grade, received first place, Jesse Vaughan, sixth grade, received second place, and Tristan Rardon, seventh grade, was the second alternate. The two winners will compete in the Regional Bee on March 6 in St. Joseph. The alternate will be able to attend if one of the winners is unable to attend.

Literature Festival

by Dillon Hufford

Staff Writer

On March 15th Polo sent a bus load of young, eager to learn readers on a trip to the Literature Festival in Warrensburg. While on this literature festival, the students got the opportunity to listen to famous authors. The authors then talked about their books and the stories they wrote. Many times the authors will inform the students on their life and the choices they have made while growing up. Here, during this festival the students and the chaperones had lunch break. After or even during lunch, the students had a chance to go to the auditorium, where they can buy books and have those books signed by the authors. This was a very good learning experience for the young readers.

HELP FOR HAITI

by Linda Pilger

Staff Writer

The Polo Christian Youth Group is having a fundraiser for the Haitian survivors. PCYG is asking teachers around school to participate to have their names put on jars and students put their money into the teacher's jar for who they wish to win. The teacher who wins has to dye their hair green the next day. The teachers who are participating are as follows: Mr. Guerriero, Mr. Ross, Coach Keith, Mr. Gagnon, Mr. Fickess, Mrs. Ross, and Mrs. Henderson. The contest began the week of February 15 and ends the week of March 15.

During FBLA/FCCLA week, students and faculty at Polo were allowed to wear a hat during the day if they contributed a dollar to the "Hats for Haiti" fund. The money FCCLA and FBLA earned was contributed to help PCYG in their Help for Haiti. FBLA/FCCLA raised \$58.00 in their efforts. The money PCYG earns is going to the Red Cross Foundation.

Thanks to everyone who donated in whatever way they could. I am sure our donation is greatly appreciated.

Teacher Spotlight Ms. Pam Thrasher

by Rita Stottlemire

Staff Writer

Pam Thrasher is the High School Language Arts teacher at Polo High School. She also teaches dual-credit courses. She was thirty years old when deciding to become a teacher. Ms. Thrasher started her teaching career at Polo three years ago. She wanted to teach language because her experience in the corporate world made her realize the need for quality communication skills. She plans to eventually teach at the college level. Her favorite thing about teaching is being able to know students. She says, "...and be there when they need me, and help them anyway I can."

As a child, Ms. Thrasher wanted to be a pediatrician. She wanted to help keep children healthy. She changed her mind when she quickly determined that she would never go back to her office if she ever lost a patient. Ms. Thrasher said that if she weren't a teacher she would want to go back to the corporate world as an IT Executive. "I love technology, I love the thrill of the challenge and I really loved developing my staff." She helped them learn and grow intellectually and technically. She gave promotions, raises and bonuses. She loved seeing them succeed.

Ms. Thrasher has too many memorable moments at Polo to name. Although, she says, "I loved that my LA II class in 2008 (the 2010 senior class) gave me nightmares initially, but I soon looked forward to that class every day." She loved laughing with the students and seeing each student develop into the adult they are becoming each day. "I enjoy them," she says. After hiring new college graduates and experiencing poor communication in the corporate world, Ms. Thrasher decided she would eventually like to influence the people before they reported to people like her. She says, "My final goal is to teach college (business and communication), but for now I am very happy teaching the high school age group. All I want to do is help and be there for anyone who needs me."

NHS Inductees Selected

Congratulations to Dillon James, Jonna Stottlemire, Emily Templeton, and Sarah Thomas. They will be inducted into the Polo chapter of the National Honor Society on April 5. The induction ceremony will be held in the library at 6:30 p.m., and friends and relatives are invited.

PATs on the Back

PATs on the Back were given out during recent Polo R-VII Board Meetings recognizing four organizations, the Polo Music Booster Club, the Polo Athletic Booster Club, the Polo Community Teacher Association, and the People Who Care Organization, for their monetary donations to assist with the purchase of clickers for the newly installed interactive white boards. Representatives from each organization who present at the board meeting to receive the PATs on the Back were: Music Booster Club - Jill Rardon, Lori Hicks, and Andrew Dunker; Athletic Booster Club - Jill Rardon; Community Teacher Association - Linda Pugh; and People Who Care Organization - Patty Walker.

Varsity Girls' Basketball

by Kaylie Sorensen

Staff Writer

The last time you saw the Lady Panthers they were preparing to battle the Hamilton Hornets. They have progressed as a team, though they couldn't pull out a win against the Hornets. Even though our ladies weren't victorious, they grew as a group and have improved greatly.

After their loss, they regrouped and prepared to take on the Stanberry Bulldogs. The game was a close battle, but the ladies just couldn't pull out a victory. The game ended with the Panthers trailing by 24 points, the overall score was 30-54. Even though they couldn't pull out a win in those past two games, they were victorious over the Worth County Tigers. The ending score was 53-15. The Lady Panthers gained confidence after this game. They went into the King City game feeling very confident. The beginning of the game was fierce. Our ladies started the first quarter very well and the score showed how well they were working together. However, later in the game, they let it slip and the final score was 50-58. That doesn't mean the team hung their heads. They practiced hard and got prepared for their game against Maysville on Friday, February 19th. Captain Katelyn Sanders had high hopes for their team. "The team was finally coming together and showing true teamwork." As districts neared, the whole team had a common goal of coming out with a win 1st round and progressing from there.

Co-Captain Madison Misel felt the same. "I felt we had improved tremendously. As the year had progressed, we became more of a team rather than individuals and it showed on the court. I feel that if we kept progressing the way that we were, we are going to go a long way in the future."

Junior Forward Courtney Arthur was hopeful going into districts. "I felt we improved greatly."

Junior Guard Nikki Junco talked about her experiences excitedly. "I felt we have improved a lot. I feel confident and good about this team."

While the Maysville game was cancelled, there were about two or three more home games left before Districts in Sweet Springs, Missouri.

Polo Wrestling Recap

by Brittney McGinley

Staff Writer

The Polo Wrestling team has been very successful, breaking their personal record by three wins; the Panthers were 17-7. The record has not been broken since 2007. The All GRC boys are James Taylor- 3rd place, Lance Snodgrass- 3rd place, Justin Hicks-1st place and Harley Martin-1st place. The All Districts are James Taylor 1st place, our first polo champion; Lance Snodgrass 3rd place; Justin Hicks 2nd place; and Harley Martin 2nd place. Lastly All State was Justin Hicks in 3rd place. In tournament wins, the North Platte and the Plattsburg had no team scores, at Rockport Polo took 2nd; at Lathrop they took 4th; and at the Polo Duals they took 5th. For the GRC tournament, they received 5th, Districts they received 6th out of 14 teams and the State Dual they placed 24th out of 45 teams. The only teams that Polo lost against were Stanberry, Ruskin, Gallatin, Tarkio, Lawson, Lathrop, and Knob Noster. Good Job Polo Panther Wrestlers, what a great year!

March 2010 Activities Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 *Late Start 10:20 am *Varsity BB Districts TBA (thru 0*) *FAO Mini Cheer Practice 5:30-7:30 in Multi	2 *Pee Wee Wrestling 5:30-8:00 in Multi	3 *FBLA Spring Blood Drive 2-7 in Multi	4 *Pee Wee Wrestling 5:30-8:00 in Multi	5 *FFA Judging Day @ Hamilton *FAO Mini Cheer Practice 5:30-7:30 in Multi	6
7	8 *HS Quiz Bowl @ Gallatin 4:30 *Elementary Softball Camp thru 11* @ 5-8 pm in gym	9 *Pee Wee Wrestling 5:30-8:00 in Multi	10 *Varsity BB Sectionals TBA *Area/State FFA Officer Interviews @ Gallatin 4:30 pm	11 *Pee Wee Wrestling 5:30-8:00 in Multi *MAP Night Grades 3-6	12 *FFA Ag Contest @ Brunswick *End of 2 nd Quarter	13 *Varsity BB Quarterfinals TBA
14	15 *BOE Mtg 7 pm *Children's Literature Festival Warnersburg *FAO Mini Cheer Practice 5:30-7:30 in Multi *HS Quiz Bowl @ Hamilton 4:30	16 *Spring Concert Grades 7 th -12 th @ 6:30 *Pee Wee Wrestling 5:30-8:00 in Multi	17	18 *Winter Activities Banquet 6 pm *MAP Reward Day Grades 4-6 *Pee Wee Wrestling 5:30-8:00 in Multi	19 *Make up day: School in Session *FFA Judging Contest @ Lathrop *FAO Mini Cheer Practice 5:30-7:30 in Multi	20
21	22 *Make up day: School in Session *FAO Mini Cheer Practice 5:30-7:30 in Multi *HS Quiz Bowl 4:30	23 *Make-up date for Spring Concert *Varsity Track @ UCM Indoor Meet TBA	24 *FFA CDE's @ Gallatin 4:30 pm *FAO Mini Cheer Practice 5:30-7:30 in Multi	25 *K & 1 st Field Trip to Kaleidoscope 8:30-2:45	26 *FFA NCMC Ag Club Contest @ Trenton *Green Hill Telephone Corp Annual Mtg *Early Out 11:20 am	27 *Ensemble/Solo Contest @ St. Joseph Central HS
28	29 *School Health Advisory Council Mtg 3:15 pm *Mini Cheer Practice 5:30-7:30 in Multi *HS Quiz Bowl @ S. Harrison 4:30	30 *FFA NW District CDE's @ NWMSU *Varsity Track @ Richmond 3 pm *MAP Testing Grades 3-5, Stanford Testing *FAO Mini Cheer Practice 5:30-7:30 in Multi	31 *FFA NW District CDE's @ NWMSU *MAP Testing *FAO Mini Cheer Practice 5:30-7:30 in Multi			

April 2010 Activities Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 *Early Out 11:20 am *FFA NW District CDE's NWMSU @ Maryville *MAP Testing	2 No School	3
4	5 *Late Start 10:20 am	6 *FFA Area Award Night @ Chillicothe 6 pm	7 *MAP Testing	8 *MAP Testing @ Stanberry 3:30 pm	9 *Large Group Contest @ Northwest *MAP Testing	10 *Hideaway Lakes Annual Meeting 1 pm in HS Gym
11	12 *MAP Testing *MS Track @ Norborne 4 pm	13 *MAP Testing *V Track @ RP Bluejay Relays TBA	14 *MAP Testing	15 *State FFA Convention in Columbia *MAP Testing *V Track @ Higginville TBA *MS Track @ Hardin Fun Run 4 pm	16 *State FFA Convention in Columbia *MAP Testing	17
18 *State FBLA Contest in Columbia	19 *BOE Mtg 7 pm *State FBLA Contest in Columbia	20 *State FBLA Contest in Columbia *V Track @ Cameron Invitational 9 pm	21	22 *MS Track @ Orisk Invitational 4 pm *MAP Reward Day for Grades 4-6	23 *V Track @ Brookfield Relays 10 am	24 *Jr/Sr Prom
25	26 *2 nd Grade Field Trip *V Track @ Lawson Invitational 4 pm	27 *MS Track @ Lawson Invitational 4 pm *Kindergarten Screening	28	29 *Kindergarten Screening *FFA Banquet 6 pm in Multi	30	

March 2010 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 Late Start-No Breakfast Sweet & Sour Chicken, Broccoli, Fruit	2 Cereal, Oatmeal, Toast, Fruit Salisbury Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Fruit	3 Pop Tart, Ham, Fruit Ravioli, Green Beans, Fruit	4 French Toast, Sausage, Fruit Hamburger on Bun, Tater Tots, Fruit	5 Biscuit with Sausage Gravy, Fruit Shrimp, Peas, Fruit
8 Cereal, Oatmeal, Toast, Fruit Corn dog Nuggets, Baked Beans, Fruit	9 Pop Tart, Ham, Fruit Sub Sandwich, Glazed Carrots, Fruit	10 Muffin, Ham, Fruit Chicken Pattie on Bun, Green Beans, Fruit	11 French Toast, Sausage, Fruit Pizza, Corn, Fruit	12 Biscuit with Sausage Gravy, Fruit Grilled Cheese, Soup, Fruit
15 Cereal, Oatmeal, Toast, Fruit Taco Stack, Spanish Rice, Fruit	16 Pop Tart, Ham, Fruit Meatball Sub, Green Beans, Fruit	17 Breakfast Pizza, Fruit Beefy Nuggets, Mashed Potatoes, Fruit	18 French Toast, Sausage, Fruit Roasted Chicken on Bun, Corn, Fruit	19 Biscuit with Sausage Gravy, Fruit Shrimp, Parsley Potatoes, Fruit
22 Cereal, Oatmeal, Toast, Fruit Chicken Quesadilla, Corn, Fruit	23 Pop Tart, Ham, Fruit Hotdog on Bun, Baked Beans, Fruit	24 Donuts, Sausage, Fruit Chicken Nuggets, Green Beans, Fruit	25 French Toast, Ham, Fruit Hamburger on Bun, French Fries, Fruit	26 Biscuit with Sausage Gravy, Fruit Tuna or Bologna Sandwich, Peas, Fruit
29 Cereal, Oatmeal, Toast, Fruit Burrito or Corn dog, Pinto Beans, Fruit	30 Pop Tart, Ham, Fruit Pasta with Meat Sauce, Green Beans, Fruit	31 Scrambled Eggs, Ham, Toast, Fruit Pizza, Corn, Fruit		

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