



THE POLO R-VII SCHOOL DISTRICT PANTHER PRIDE

December 2011

Volume 7, Issue 4

January Activities

- 2 - Winter Vacation
- 3 - Late Start 10:20 am
 - V/JV BB @ Hardin-Central 5 pm
- 4 - Youth WR practice 5:30-8:30 pm
 - Copeland's CRBC Team Practice 3:30-5 pm in Multi
- 5 - V BB @ Osborn 6 pm
- 6 - After Prom Mtg Commons 6 pm
- 7 - V WR @ Rock Port Tourney 9 am
- 9 - V BB @ lathrop Tourney thru 1-14-12 TBA
 - Youth WR practice 5:30-8:30 pm
- 10- V/JV WR vs. Gallatin/Maysville/S. Holt 5:30 pm
- 11- Youth WR practice 5:30-8:30 pm
- 12- V/JV WR vs. Tarkio/St. Mary's 6 pm SENIOR NIGHT
- 14- V WR @ Plattsburg 9:30 am
- 16- No School - MLK Day
- 17- V BB @ Gallatin 6 pm
- 18- Youth WR practice 5:30-8:30 pm
 - BOE Mtg 7 pm
 - Copeland's CRBC Team practice 3:30-5 pm in Multi
- 19- V/JV WR @ KC St. Pius 6 pm
- 20- V/JV BB @ Braymer 5 pm
- 21- V WR @ Lathrop 9:30 am
- 23- Youth WR practice 5:30-8:30 pm
 - Copeland's CRBC Team practice 3:30-5 pm in Multi
 - MS Acad Team vs. Hamilton 4 pm
- 24- V/JV WR @ Lawson 6 pm
 - V BB @ Albany 6 pm
- 25- FFA Area State Degree Mtg @ Trenton 4:30 pm
 - Youth WR practice 5:30-8:30 pm
- 26- V/JV WR @ Carrollton 6 pm
 - Copeland's CRBC Team practice 3:30-5 pm in Multi
- 27- V BB vs. Princeton 6 pm
 - Court/Mat Warming Dance
- 28- V WR GRC Tourney @ Hamilton TBA
 - All State Band Concert Band
- 30- Youth WR practice 5:30-8:30 pm
 - Copeland's CRBC Team practice 3:30-5 pm in Multi
 - MS Acad Team vs. Cameron 4 pm
- 31- V BB @ S. Harrison 6 pm

Happy
Holidays!!!

From the
Mass Media
Staff

For All Your
School Information
Needs and Wants
VISIT OUR
SCHOOL WEBSITE
polo.k12.mo.us

From the Elementary Office

by Beverly Deis
Elem. Principal

I mentioned in a previous article about the weather being so unpredictable, and in Missouri, what else would we expect? I would like to thank all of the parents who listen to the weather and plan accordingly on how to dress their child(ren) for the school day. Please continue to send appropriate clothing for your child(ren) for inside and outside. Also, feel free to come and check out our lost and found - you might just "find" that lost coat or hat!

We are planning more parental involvement activities for the second semester, so be sure to watch for more information! Also, I would like to reiterate the importance of parents signing the planners/agendas every night. This is one of the best communication tools we have with parents and we like to know that you see it as a communication too as well.

The character education word for the month of January is, "trustworthiness" This means you are honest and dependable. Other words similar to trustworthiness are reliable and responsible. Please discuss the importance of trustworthiness with your child(ren) as we will be discussing trustworthiness in each classroom at school

The PTO will be having a Book Fair the week of February 20. Please mark this date on your calendar as I am sure the PTO could use your help with the Book Fair.

Be sure to ask your child(ren) about their school supplies. It seems we get half way through the year and students need pencils, erasers, paper, crayons, etc. New crayons are always fun to bring to school!

Now that we are in the second semester of school, students really have to "buckle down" on their attitude and on their assignments. Teachers have students practice testing with Study Island and Buckle Down. We will be taking the MAP tests and the Stanford Achievement tests in April and we need the elementary students to perform the very best they can so the school can meet the state and federal requirements. We have smart students at Polo Elementary and the test is the way students can "show what they know."

**Congratulations to the following winners of the Patriot's Pen Contest: Ryan Henry, Shelby Stump, Billie Thompson, Jenna Johnson, Mikayla Reavis, & Brittany Sheppard.



Thanks to Mr. George Laprade, Mr. Melvin Littrell & Ms. Majorie Murray of the Chillicothe VFW for sponsoring the essay contest.

Citizenship Award Winners

On Tuesday, December 20, 2011, Mrs. Deis held a drawing from the Panther Pride Citizenship/Leadership Board for the first semester. This year student names were added to the Panther Pride Bulletin Board for acts of citizenship, leadership, or just trying their very best on something in the classroom. The winners of the drawing were John Bost (sixth grade), Matthew Vaughan (sixth grade), Payton Tate (fifth grade), Jared Robison (fifth grade), Jade Misel (first grade), Josie Misel (first grade). Winners received various prizes. The Panther Pride Citizenship/Leadership Bulletin Board will resume at the beginning of the second semester. I would like to thank all of the students who were represented on the Panther Pride Bulletin Board and I would like to encourage all students to continue demonstrating appropriate citizenship skills.

Elementary Counseling News

The Character Word of the Month for December was Caring. Students learned that caring means helping others unconditionally, having empathy for others, and showing compassion to others. Students in Kindergarten through 4th grade learned about caring through brainstorming what they thought the word meant. After brainstorming their own definition, students shared examples of activities they could do in order to show others that someone cared about them. Students in the lower elementary grades listened to the book, Clifford's Good Deeds by Norman Bridwell. All students had the opportunity to create "Caring Coupons" to give to their friends or family. Students worked to identify something they were willing to do so show someone that they cared about them. We talked about how important it is to always show others that someone loves and cares for them.

**Congratulations to Emily Fickess for being selected for the top MSHSAA Essay Contest & for moving on to Districts and to Jennifer Farmer for being our runner-up.

Things I wish Everyone Knew Why We Participate in Activities.

By: Emily Fickess

I participate in activities because of the glory of winning trophies, to gain respect, and to be rewarded with a good education. "I think sportsmanship is knowing that it is a game, that we are only as good as our opponents, and whether you win or lose, to always give 100 percent," said by Sue Wicks. The excitement of winning trophies hands out pride to the school and to the community. Respect comes from showing good sportsmanship to others. Education is a good aspect in my life and in many other people lives to.

To begin with, I take part in school fundamentals because of the feeling of winning trophies. My school band takes part in many competitions and wins trophies. Even if we do not win, the band gets good scores. In addition, it shows that I care about my community and the people that live in it. Gaining trophies also displays friendship and sportsmanship between the players.

To continue, I do these activities to gain respect. Activities like STUCO and helping with dances. Students enjoy dances and the STUCO gains many complements, which displays respect. STUCO influences students to be respectful and to show friendship at the same time. It also motivates people to be involved because the STUCO makes decisions that affect the school.

Most importantly, I participate in school activities to get a good education. When I am involved in sports, I keep my grades good so that I can play in games. Education effects if I play sports or even participate in school functions like band. Grades influence not just classmates but also my players and me.

I participate in activities because of the glory of winning trophies, to gain respect, and to be rewarded with a good education. In the quote in the beginning, I do give a 100 percent in all the activities that I do. I keep trying and I do not loose perseverance in a game "Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after another," as once said by Walter Elliott.

"Things I Wish Everybody Knew on Why We Participate in Activities"

By: Jennifer Farmer

I wish everybody knew that I participate in activities so people can get to know me better, so I can play in sports I like, and so I can take a stand for my fellow citizens and me. I believe that if everybody knew these three reasons, then people would want to participate in more activities. Beautifully stated, a poet named Helen Keller stated, "Life is either a daring adventure or nothing." That means that when I participate in activities, it puts a little bit of adventure in my life.

One of the reasons I participate in activities so people can get to know me better. Considering that positive aspect, I believe that the more people get to know me; the people might want to be my friend. I can participate in activities like art club, agriculture, and much more so, people will realize what kind of personality fits me. That explains why I believe people can get to know me better if I participate in activities.

My second belief, to play in sports I like, makes me wish that people knew why I participate in activities. I participate in basketball and softball. Sports like the two I stated helps me become a better teammate. Participating in sports also allows me to spend more time with friends.

My last and foremost important reason, to take a stand, makes me wish that people knew why I participate in activities. I want to be in student council so I can help get things that suit the needs of my fellow classmates. Taking a stand can really make a change in the lives of people every day. Sharing beliefs with other people around me makes me feel important.

In conclusion, I wish that everybody knew that I participate in activities to let people get to know me better, to play in sports I like, and to take a stand. I think that everybody should participate in at least one activity. Who knows; it could take on a whole other perspective.

Larkins Elks Hoop Shoot Winner



Congratulations to Kayla Larkins, 2nd Grade, for receiving 1st place at the Elk's Lodge Area Hoop Shoot Saturday. Kayla will advance to the District Hoop Shoot for the 8-9 girls division, Saturday, January 7th, 2012. Congratulations to the other Polo contestants who placed Saturday: Ariana Wolf- 3rd place (8-9 year old girls), Gavin Fitzwater and Logan Chapman- 3rd place tie (8-9 year old boys), Kallie Heil- 6th place (10-11 year old girls), Jared Robison- 3rd place (10-11 year old boys), Katelynn Minnis- 3rd place, Megan Latimer- 4th place (12-13 year old girls), Garrett Jones- 3rd place, Seth Pate- 4th place, Dylan Sales- 6th place (12-13 year old boys).

Polo Boys Albany Tournament Champions

(Submitted Article)

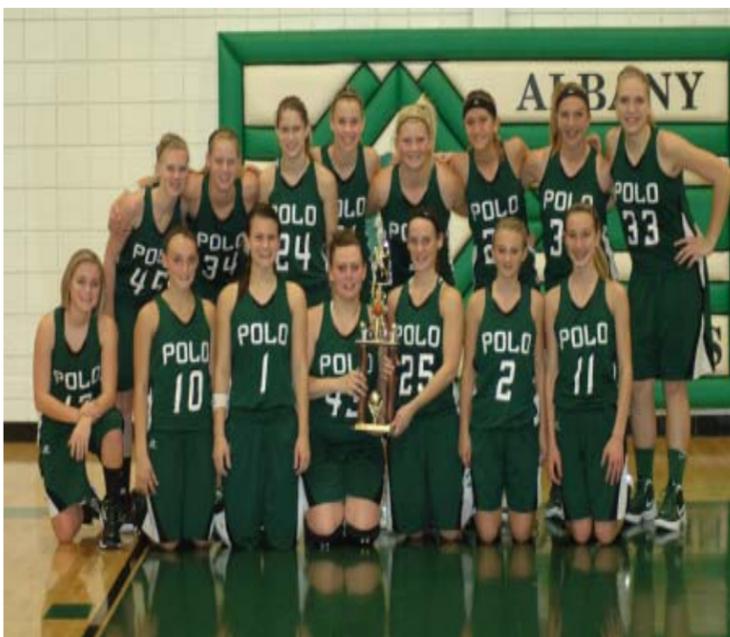
Polo boys and girls basketball teams participated in the Albany Tournament last week as a means to get in a few extra games before regular season begins. The Polo boys came out quick and committed few turnovers throughout the tournament.

Monday night they tromped the Princeton Tigers 82-41. Scoring for the Panthers Austin Bowley & Dillon James 2, Toby Poje 4, Justin Hazelman 8, Jack Pile 11, Zach Freeman 13 (one 3 pointer), Ashton Shelton 15 points, (one 3 pointer) and he led in rebounds with 8, Dalton Mills led the Panthers in points with 27 (five 3 pointers).

Wednesday night they were matched up well against the Worth County Tigers. The Tigers are a small team in height, but very quick. This was a challenge for the Panthers and they seemed to get off on the wrong foot. The Tigers were leading 7-0 in the first quarter. Early in the second quarter the Panthers gained the lead and held it most of the time throughout the game, but did allow the Tigers to tie up with them several times. The Panthers squeezed by in the final 4 seconds of the game. Free throws made by junior Dalton Mills after being fouled while driving to the basket clinched the win for the Panthers, 55-53. This was a highly competitive game for both teams. Scoring for the Panthers Bowley 3 with 7 rebounds, Hazelman and Shelton both had 4, while Shelton led in rebounds with 12, Poje 8, Pile and Freeman with 11, and Mills with 14 (one 3 pointer).

Late Saturday night the Panthers played the Stanberry Tigers for the Championship. Polo came out a little slow, but competed with the Stanberry Tigers who were evenly matched with the Panthers. The score remained within 4 - 10 points throughout the game, with both teams holding the lead, but the Panthers pulled ahead in the final minutes of the game to take the Championship trophy with a final score of 66-56. Scoring for the Panthers was James 2, Poje 3, Bowley 5, Hazelman 6, Pile 9, Freeman 14 and led with Mills 27. Dalton Mills was named MVP for the Albany Tournament for the boys.

The Polo girls walked away with the third place trophy for their efforts. Looking a little rusty the Panthers met up with the Princeton Lady Tigers Monday night. Due to several turnovers and missed shots the Princeton Tigers defeated the Lady Panthers 51-30. Scoring for the Panthers Avery Snodgrass and Sid Copeland each had 2, Kadee Phillips 5, Jonna Stottlemire 6 (one 3 pointer), Sammie Copeland 14 with 18 rebounds. Wednesday night the Panthers took on the Worth County Tigers. This was not much of a competition for the lady Panthers and the final score was 62-28 Polo. Scoring for the Panthers Snodgrass & Segar 1, Sid Copeland 3, Phillips and Tabitha Poje 4, Missy Cawthon 8, Stottlemire 9 & Sammie Copeland 25 with 17 rebounds. The Lady Panthers then played the Stanberry Bulldogs for another win and third place on Friday night with a final score 46-18. Scoring for the Panthers Segar & Cawthon 2, Snodgrass with one 3 pointer, Phillips, Poje, Fickess & Sid Copeland all had 4, Sammie Copeland 10, while Stottlemire led with 13.



Girls: Photo (L to R)

Front row: Monica Fickess, Tabby Poje, Avery Snodgrass, Kadee Phillips, Jonna Stottlemire, Hailee Curp & Adriana Segar.

Back row: Anna Way, Missy Cawthon, Megan Knutter, Jessica Farmer, Danielle Allen, Cati Boruch, Sid Copeland & Sammie Jo Copeland.



Boys Photo: (L to R)

Front row: Austin Bowley, Ashton Shelton, Toby Poje, Justin Hazelman, Zach Freeman & Tristan Rardon.

Back row: Drew Williams, Dillon James, Mason Misel, Jack Pile, Coach Derek Kasner, Zach Feil, Dalton Mills, Asst. Coach CJ Ake, Duncan Parker, Tyler Feil & Coach Greg Keith.

Mrs. Noble Spotlight!

by: Ashley Allen
Staff Writer



Mrs. Noble may not be a new teacher this year but there is probably some stuff you didn't know about her like where she went to school, what she has a degree in, what she does in her free time. Mrs. Noble was born in Kittery, Maine. She has lived in Missouri her entire married life. She attended and graduated from high school in Louisiana. She was involved with student council, band, art, and also served as a peer youth leader at her church. She got the chance to meet Corrie

Ten Boom who authored the book, 'The Hiding Place'. She said "She was an amazing lady who survived the holocaust. Her story really impacted me personally and I carry a deep compassion for the Jewish people, to this day."

After high school she attended the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg. She was selected as the McNair Scholar and had the privilege to spend a year performing research on low level reading. She has presented her research at several conferences and she has earned a bachelor's in elementary education with an emphasis on instructional technology and her master's is in instructional technology and instructional design.

She is married and has 6 children. Before she got into public education and spent sixteen years homeschooling her children. She said that her children chose to attend high school and four of them graduated and has gone on to college. She is currently teaching middle and high school math comm.arts, and reading. She said "I love teaching and I really love coming to school each day!"

Growing up she traveled many places and lived in over ten states she says she still travels quite a bit. She is a lover of history and she enjoys visiting and learning about all kinds of historical places.

She is passionate about the Native Americans she has spent some bit of time with the principal chiefs, elders, and elected officials to help bring restitution and resolution to those indigenous people. She says her primary focus is with the Cherokee and also has been successful in getting presidential signatures on their Resolution of Apology. She is also grateful for the help that Senator Sam Brownback from Kansas who has been closely working with them. In addition to that she is also working with a film company and they are working on making a movie about the Trail of Tears. She said that they have their script written and have recently learned that Johnny Depp is interested in the lead role in the film. She has been a great addition to the Polo R-7 school district.

Band Fundraiser

by: Ashley Allen
Staff Writer

On Friday December 9th the music boosters had a game night fundraiser. It was held from 5-9p.m there reason? The fundraiser was held to help the band raise money to go to Branson. They had video games like Wii, Xbox 360, Guitar Hero, Just Dance and more. They had board games like Yatzee, Twister, Jenga and Don't Break the Ice. There were tournaments for Just Dance and Guitar Hero.

Mr. Dunker said 50 people showed up! About 20 of them were band students and 30 were non band students. Emily Fickess won 'Just Dance' and the others didn't have one winner. They raised around \$200 dollars. Mr. Dunker said "next time will be even bigger with more concessions, more rooms, and more games. Overall it was a great turn out."

Panther Fall Banquet Sports Awards

by: Daniel Boruch
Staff Writer

The fall sports banquet was a huge success for many of the Panther athletes. Softball, Football, and cheerleading were all covered this year. Multiple athletes from different sports brought home quite a few awards for Polo. Starting with cheerleading which only saw one set of awards the captain awards which were given to Carlie Powers and Jonna Stottlemeyer who led the squad this year as senior captains. Next was softball which is coached by Becky Ross who has coached the team for three years now. Captain awards went to Jonna Stottlemeyer and Avery Snodgrass these two led the team the whole season. Team awards were well spread between the classes. Starting with freshmen most improved went to Adrianna Segar, Rookie of the year was won by Brooke Jones, Cati Boruch won both the Cy Young award and MVP award, and last but definitely not least Jessica farmer won the Panther award. Moving on to juniors Avery Snodgrass brought in the Panther award and Sam Copeland the Silver Slugger award. Finally lone senior Jonna Stottlemeyer received the Golden glove award. Academic all conference winners were senior Jonna Stottlemeyer, juniors Sam Copeland and Avery Snodgrass, sophomore Kelsey Gallion, and freshmen Jessica Farmer, Adrianna Segar, Madison Curp, Cati Boruch, and Sidney Copeland.

Now on to football the recipients of the captain awards and leading the team this year are Harley Martin, Austin Bowley, Justin Hicks, and Ashton Shelton. MVP awards this year went to Zach Freeman for offense, Justin Hicks for defense and Jake Hicks for special teams. The most improved award went to freshman Mason Misel who played center this year for the team. Hit man award this year was won by senior linebacker Harley Martin. This year two Panther awards were given out and they went to Michael Clark and Ashton Shelton. Finally academic all conference went to Senior Ashton Shelton, juniors Duncan Parker, Dalton Mills, Brady McCaskey, Zach Freeman, and Daniel Boruch, sophomore Alex Johnson, and Freshmen Tristan Rardon, Mason Misel, Brandon Latimer, and Jake Hicks.

Middle School Boys Basketball Wrap Up

by: Daniel Boruch
Staff Writer

The Middle School boys basketball team didn't do great this year only bringing in four wins but there is more to basketball than winning. Coach Kelly Green saw several positive aspects to the team including heart, effort and the ability to work as a team. While the team fell short of expectations, they never quit or stopped giving effort. Coach Green stated "It didn't matter if we were up by 10 or down by 20 the boys fought hard every minute of the game". The team's main defense this year was a 2-1-2 zone defense and offense they used the double screen dump to the posts. Starting for the team this year were Parker Smith, Brandon Hubbard, Jesse Vaughan, Gage Aubrey, Michael Leamer, and Alex Way. The two leaders of the team were Parker Smith and Michael Leamer. They are very good examples of hard work, dedication, maturity and lead by example. They were very positive with their teammates, didn't miss practice and set a good example in the classroom. Coach Green also gave several areas in which the team could improve. "We definitely could have taken care of the ball better and limited turnovers", which lead to the loss of the hardest game of the year against Orrick, in which the Panthers were ahead but lost due to turnovers and fouls. To end, I asked Coach Green what he looks forward to next year. He said "Seeing how much time and effort the current 7th and 8th graders put in to basketball to prepare them for next season. As I always tell my players, basketball cannot be practiced and played during basketball season alone. Dribbling and shooting comes from 365 days of hard work and dedication. That is why our team motto is defense, dedication, discipline. The 3d's are the key to success, don't show up expecting to learn the fundamentals, those skills need to be learned at a younger age, not from scratch." All and all you can never be disappointed in the heart and determination this team has shown. Good luck next year and have a safe holi-

Electrical Safety

by: Kara Frisch
Staff Writer



On Monday, December 5th, the 4th-6th graders attended an electrical safety assembly from 12:30-3:00 in the Multi-Purpose room. Rick Billinger came in to speak from Farmer's Electrical Cooperative. He did many demonstrations and explained to the students how

electricity works and safety precautions. After surveying the students, they said it was enjoyable and they learned a lot. Dylan Brower said he "learned to stay away from broken power lines and to not fly a kite around them." Summer Kerste said "her favorite part was when Rick electrocuted a fake person."



Turkey Bowl

by: Justin Hazelman
Staff Writer

This year's turkey bowl will be held on Wednesday, December 21st, 2011. The President, Sarah Thomas and Vice President, Justin Hazelman will help run the turkey bowl while other members help with various tasks. These tasks include setting up the pins, retrieving the turkey, and keeping score for the participating students. Each class, grade 5-12, will have one boy and one girl representative to participate in the turkey bowl. The bowl times are as follows: 5th and 6th graders will bowl at 8:30, 7th and 8th grade at 9:10, 9th and 10th grade at 9:50, and 11th and 12th grade at 10:30. The cost of admission is the same as last year, 2 canned goods or \$1. The turkey bowl has been going on for many years at Polo High School, and it's a tradition that will continue for many more.

Organizations Come Together For Some Winter Fun!

by: Justin Hazelman
Staff Writer

The Polo FCCLA, FBLA, and NHS organizations will be traveling to Crown Center on Monday December 19th, after school. The bus will leave at 3:10 and depart from Crown Center at 10:00 pm. The organizations took this trip last year as well, and it proved to be a good time for all the members. There will be 27 members from these organizations involved in this trip.

Crown Center offers many opportunities for the students to find something to do. There are many restaurants to choose from, including 3 stories worth of stores to accommodate all your shopping needs. Same as last year, there will be ice skating outside at the price of \$6 for skates. This is only the second year these organizations have taken this trip, but it looks to be a new yearly tradition for FCCLA, FBLA, and NHS.

Polo Varsity Basketball Girls

by: Megan Knutter
Staff Writer

Polo Girls' basketball team is back for another great season. Their first opponents were the Princeton Tigers at the Albany tournament. All of the nerves were racing through all of the players' minds. By the end of the first quarter with a score of (12-6), everyone's pregame jitters had calmed and were focused and played basketball. Polo Lady Panthers weren't exactly on their game that night, they had several loose balls and steals from the other team, and their shots seemed off. The final score was 30-51, with the victory to Princeton. The Polo Lady Panthers knew they had to step up their game and fix their mistakes, and prepare for their next game two days later. The next day in practice, players and coaches focused on mistakes, made and perfected plays. They spent extra time on free throws and other shots. By the end of practice, everyone had forgotten about the previous game's mistakes and was pumped for the game the next day against Worth County.

November 30, During the Albany tournament, Polo played the Worth County Tigers for the second round. Everyone was so excited to go out with a clear mind and focus on beating their opponents. Before the game, Coach Keith's goal of the night for the players was to keep the Tigers under 30 points and for us to score over 60. Going on the court, the players didn't have to worry about pregame jitters, they were ready to show the coaches that they could accomplish the goals. The starters were Jonna Stottlemire, Tabitha Poje, Sammie Jo Copeland, Avery Snodgrass, and Kadee Phillips. The 5 players to sub in for the starters were Cati Boruch, Sidney Copeland, Missy Cawthon, Adriana Segar, Monica Fickess, and Megan Knutter. The whole team worked really hard and headed to the locker room at halftime with smiles because the score was 31-12. Coach Keith was extremely happy with the way the girls were playing tough defense and running the plays. He expected the same thing for the second half. The girls' worked really hard and played good defense, causing the Tigers many turnovers and made several steals. The Panthers had a great game and won with the final score of 62-27, the first of many victories to come.

December 2, 2011, Polo vs. Stanberry. This was a very important game for the Lady Panthers, if they played their hardest and won the game; they would be 2-1 and would take home the third place trophy from the Albany tournament. Multiple teammates were having team bonding times while playing Scattegories, while others were listening to music or talking to other teammates. When they arrived in Albany all of us girls went to the locker room and got ready had listened to music and bonded before the game by dancing, and singing to the songs. When it was time to go out to play our opponents the Stanberry bulldogs, we went from having fun to getting serious about our game. It was a big game, we were playing for third place trophy and if we lost we wouldn't get a trophy for fourth.

Coming in to the game all the players heard that Stanberry barely beat Albany (46-43) and that Worth County beat Albany (47-29). They knew that Stanberry wasn't going to be that good hearing that, but we stayed focus. They were determined to accomplish Coach Keith's goal for the night. He said "Our goal for tonight is for them to not get over 20 points and we score 50 points or more. It's a tough one to get, but if we play a great game then it's possible." Excitement was building as the end of 4th quarter drew near. 3...2...1...1... Polo won third place in Albany tournament with the final score of 46-18. They didn't obtain both of the goals that Coach Keith had set for them, but they kept them under 20 which was the main goal. The previous year, the girls were played for fifth in the same tournament and this year they got third. Hopefully next year it will be for the first place trophy.

After the tournament the Polo lady panthers have had one other game and it was at home versus the Ridgeway Owls. They had only 8 players against our 15 players, so we have advantages over them for substitutes and our players to getting to take rests when they needed them. We also had a big size advantage against the Ridgeway ladies, so we had more opportunity down low for baskets. We were a little faster than their team, but they kept up and tried their best to defend us. Going into the locker room at halftime the score was 34-6. Coach Keith decided that the starters wouldn't be playing that much in the second half since we were ahead by so much. He gave the other players that don't get to play that much varsity and those players played the third and fourth quarter. These players are Anna Way, Brooke Jones, Jessica Farmer, and Danielle Allen. He also put Tabitha Poje (a varsity starter) in with the other player so they would have a ball handler. The third and fourth quarters went by really fast. The whole team did great with a final score of 62-21. They once again accomplished one out of the two goals set for the night. The teams scored over 60, but were off only one keeping them under 20. The Polo Lady Panthers are at a record of 4-1 and are working hard to have a better record than they have had in the previous years. Come out and support you Lady Panthers Basketball Team.

FFA Update

by: Megan Knutter
Staff Writer

What FFA has been up to lately is the fruit sales. Everyone is buying fruit such as Oranges, Apples, Grape fruit, Pears, and Tangerine. They also are selling cookie dough, and sausage, cheese, and candy. They are stating applications for proficiency awards; these are based on the efforts the students into their SAE projects. SAE is a Supervised Agricultural Experience, where you work in a certain field such as Beef, Ag sales, Ag services, Swine, Poultry, Ag education, Equine, Food services, Home and community services, Ag mechanic, and Turf and Glass Management. They are currently preparing to close out this year's records books, which are records of everything they buy or sell, and inventory of all ownerships.

The students involved in the AG structures class are currently learning to use equipment such as a Welder, Torch, and a Plasma cutter. They are preparing to build a metal project next semester but must learn to use equipment properly. Students are required to pass a safety exam on each piece of machinery before they are allowed to use it.

Third Grade Spotlight

by: Malorie Rood
Staff Writer

I interviewed Mrs. Dixon and I asked her questions about her class. Mrs. Dixon and Mrs. Meyer's third grade class consists of thirty-two students. Major assignments that they are working on after Christmas break is all of the third graders will be able to write in cursive clearly. The subject that the third graders enjoy best is Math. They love solving problems, learning new math concepts daily and mastering these so they will be proficient and advanced on the MAP (Missouri Assessment Program) test. Activities the students enjoy the most are IPI activities (Instructional Practices Inventory) making learning fun with small cooperative learning groups. Mrs. Dixon says "Mrs. Meyer's and I are very fortunate to have thirty-two students with enthusiasm for learning and excited to come to school each day not knowing what we have in store for them."

Mrs. Dixon chose to interview Mallory Clevenger, who is a third grader in Mrs. Dixon's class. Her birthday is April 21st, 2003. Mallory is eight years old and she has two sisters (one older and one younger); one younger brother and soon a new baby brother. Mallory's favorite color is purple. She likes art, playing softball, and her favorite food is pizza. When it's recess time, she spends most of her time going down the slide.

FBLA Update

by: Jonna Stottlemire
Staff Writer

What's happening in FBLA? FBLA member meet on December 1st, to discuss important business for Christmas. The chapter has decided to adopt a few individuals this holiday season to help them in their time of need and try and bring some joy to their lives during this hard time. If you feel inclined to help by donating, please either bring the donations to Mrs. Arth. Items that we are seeking are: blankets, space heaters, drawing supplies, food items, hygiene items, toys for girls, books, music, hair accessories, hair brushes, earrings, toiletries, gift cards, coloring books/crayons/markers, women's large shirts, girls shoes and socks size 9.5, women's pajamas pants, women's large sweatshirts, girls size 7/8 shirts and pants, girls size 12/14 shirts and pants, underwear, girl's pajama sizes 6/7 and 8/10. FBLA members would greatly appreciate your help, if unable to get these products a donation would be greatly appreciated as well.

On December 19th, the FBLA member took a trip to Crown Center. They left after school, once they got their members were allowed to ice skate and shop until it was time to head back. Other organizations that went were FCCLA and NHS. All of the member that went had a good time and look forward to going again next year!

Winter Driving Safety

by: Alex Tate
Staff Writer

Now that it is December, everyone knows that the snow is going to be here, but we all have to go to work and school. So that everyone is safe on the road, here are some safety tips to prevent accidents and sliding into ditches: one of the things you can do is drive slower than normal to prevent losing control of your vehicle, as well if you start to slide you also need to know how to correct your slide. Keep a light touch on the controls, smooth operation is the key to keeping control in slippery situations, when you are nervous you could start to clench on the steering wheel, which could make you lose control. Also make sure your car tires are in good condition. I also would recommend a qualified technician to check your cars ABS and traction control systems, if it has those features but if not then feather your breaks. If you follow all of these tips, you should make it through the winter driving conditions. But if some how you get stuck, stay in your car with the heat and call a tow truck immediately.

For the people and families that plan on traveling this winter, here are some tips you need to know before you go. One thing you need to have is a winter travel safety kit, with includes a cell phone, ice scraper, tow rope, matches, blankets, and some candles. Your body needs more nourishment in cold weather than it does on a balmy summer day so eat enough food and pack extra food when you head on your trip. Also, carry extra water or other drinks with you. It also helps if you plan out your trip and know the weather conditions. So following all of these steps you should be safe and good to go on your trip safely.

Coming Back To America

by: Alex Tate
Staff Writer

Ben Branstietter (Frenchy) was born here in America but then he moved to France when he was five years old. He currently lived in France for 10 years then decided to move back here to America and he currently lives in Polo, Missouri. Ben came to Polo his sophomore year and he is now a senior this year. When he first moved here, he was shy and didn't talk very much but now he has been here for about two years and we have him speak French for us, which is fun.

I asked Ben some questions about living in France and in America and this is what he had to say: What was it like to live in France and he said "you know, it sucked but it had some good moments". I also asked how it was coming back to America "it was great but stressful". I asked if the food was better here or in France and he said he liked them both. Also I asked if he liked living in America or France better he replied "America".

New Year Resolutions

by: Malorie Rood
Staff Writer

I have asked a couple teachers what their New Year Resolutions were, their replies were:

Mr. Holt says "I need to get back to the gym and resume exercising. Try to learn more student's names, beyond those in my classes. Also, get more preparation work done for my classes in order for the class time to be smoother."

Mrs. Phares says "I want to improve my health by exercising more consistently. Continue enjoying life by making time for friends and family - especially the first grandson due in January. Also, I need to remember 'you never know when you're making a memory' and keep doing my best to motivate the best in others."

I also asked a couple students how they will be bringing in the New Year. Their replies include:

Emma Tormey says "staying up late, hanging out with friends, watching the ball drop at midnight and drinking sparkling grape juice! That will conclude my evening!"

Katie Garrett says "I will be visiting family and friends and also playing Charades."

I, Malorie Rood will be bringing in the New Year by enjoying time with friends and family and watching the ball drop at midnight. I will also spend the evening with my friends Katie Garrett and Emma Tormey, which I'm sure will end up to be a success.

From these results, it looks like everyone has a positive outlook to the New Year. I wish each of you a safe and joyful New Year!

Youth Wrestling

by:Harley Martin
Staff Writer

The Polo youth wrestling program has been successful for many years, but this year in particular looks to be an exceptional year for many youth wrestlers. The youth wrestling team practices long and hard for the many tournaments they go to over the season. The youth wrestling team practices from 5:30 p.m to 8:30 p.m on Mondays and Wednesdays. Many thanks go out to the parents that help run practice and take the little wrestlers to their tournaments. The two tournaments happening this weekend are the tiger style and freedom tournaments on Sunday December 18th. The youth tournament is putting forth full effort into this year and it would be appreciated if you come out to support them.

Let's Wrestle

by:Harley Martin
Staff Writer

As the weather cools and the winter inches closer it becomes time to roll out the wrestling mats. The Polo Panthers are ready to wrestle. They have been hard at work every day since November 9th. The wrestling squad started the season very well with two dual victories, by shutting out North Platte and beating Bethany with ease. The wrestling team this year consists of senior wrestlers, Harley Martin, and Michael Clark. The junior wrestlers on the team are, Justin Hicks, Brady McCaskey, the one lone sophomore is Alex Johnson and the freshmen class brings six wrestlers to the team including Bailey Heil, Brandon Richardson, Jake Hicks, Wiley Martin, Caleb Bolling, and Dakota Generaux. The wrestling captains this year are Harley Martin, Justin Hicks, and Michael Clark. The wrestling team will be in action again on December 16th -17th at the St. Mary's Christmas tournament in Independence, Missouri. The Polo wrestling team is working very hard and would like to see everyone come out and support them.

Winter Concert

by:Austin Bowley
Staff Writer

This year the Polo elementary performed their annual winter concert. Grades kindergarten-6thgrade and the Polo High School band performed as well. The day of the concert was December 13 and it was held in the Polo High School gym.

The students sang classic Christmas songs. Some of the favorites were Rocking Around the Christmas Tree, Alvin and the Chipmunks, and Christmas Time is Near. When asked about their favorite part of the winter concert, the unanimous answer I got, was singing.

The gym was packed with parents and friends. The kids sang and talked and made the gym erupt with applause and with laughter. The singing portion of the concert went over very well and the kids were full of smiles and looked like they were having a very fun time. They were very impressive and put on a very very good show.

After the elementary was done singing, the 5th and 6th grade bands performed some Christmas songs that they have been practicing hard on. You could tell they have been working hard because for being new to the whole instrument part they were surprisingly good. Mr. Dunker has done a good job with the future of the Polo Marching Band.

After the elementary wrapped up their band performance, the High School band got ready for their turn to wow the patrons at this year's winter concert.

The Jazz band was up first and they added a very nice jazz style to classic Christmas songs and had the whole gym getting into their performance. Jesse Vaughn did a good job on the drums and the rest of the jazz band was downright amazing. The band was last and finished up the concert. They were outstanding and were very special to listen to.

One of the highlights of the evening was the Choir performance. They sang with great unison and the solos were absolutely without a question breathtaking. The singing talent of Polo was unveiled and from that performance the town of Polo should expect more great singing performances from the choir.

Panther Basketball

by:Austin Bowley
Staff Writer

The 2011-12 boys basketball season is under way. The boys are off to a 5-0 start and they have been playing very good basketball for the start of the young season. They got 1st place in the Albany Tournament with avenged wins over Princeton, Worth County, and Stanberry. They have had excellent production from returning starters Dalton Mills, Zach Freeman, Jack Pile, and Ashton Shelton while at the same time having improved bench play from Justin Hazelman, Dillon James, Toby Poje, and Austin Bowley. The players have started this year from right where they left off last year.

The hard work they put in this past summer from weightlifting, shoot arounds, shootouts, and summer league at the Chillicothe YMCA have seemed to be paying off. The key ingredient for this early season success is most likely the drive the team has to be great and how hard they work at practice. Coach Keith has instilled a drive in the boy's basketball team to never accept how good you are because you can always get better. Coach Keith's constant reminders of how good they can be and his demand of excellence have driven this year's team to not be anywhere close to happy with their good start. They have big dreams for this season and they understand that to accomplish their dreams they have to be the hardest working team in Class 2 Missouri basketball.

When I asked my teammates what their definition of a successful season is their answers were all the same: to win every game, play at a championship level game in and game out, and bring home 1st place in every tournament, including the State playoffs.

The team's goal might seem farfetched for a Polo Basketball team but this year's team is not a typical team for Polo and they won't have typical results. Coach always tells his players "It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit" and this year teams honestly doesn't care who gets the credit because in their eyes as long as they keep winning they could care less if anyone talks about them or the team. They plan to let their play speak for themselves.

They have one goal: To win and to keep winning and they have enough drive to accomplish that goal and maybe open up a few eyes on the way.

CHRISTMAS TIME!!

by: Jonna Stottlemyre
Staff Writer

It's that time of the year again! Everyone is getting ready for Christmas. People are hanging up lights, Christmas stockings, and Christmas trees and making fudge. The students and teachers are getting ready for Christmas break. Children start making their Christmas lists, and parents begin to threaten them that if they are not good they will get coal in their stocking.

Christmas is a holiday that is not just celebrated in America but around different parts of the world as well. The root of Santa Claus depends on which country's story you choose. Santa Claus is also known as Saint Nicholas, Father Christmas, Kris Kringle and just simply Santa. Santa Claus is a figure with legendary, historical and folkloric aspects who in many cultures is said to bring gifts to the homes to children. Santa Claus is generally characterized as being a jolly, rounded, white-bearded man wearing a red coat with white collar and cuffs, white-cuffed trousers, and a black leather belt and boots.

According to a ritual which can be traced to the 1820s, Santa Claus lives in the North Pole, with a large number of magical elves, and nine flying reindeer. Santa Claus has been believed to make a list of children throughout the world, categorizing them according to their behavior. This is called the naughty and nice list. If the children are good Santa will deliver presents, including toys and candy but for the kids that are bad they receive coal in their stockings. He does this deed with the aid of the elves that make the toys in the workshop and the reindeer that pull his sleigh. Another ritual of Santa is how he enters the houses of all the boys and girls he visits. He enters through the chimney. It is said that when there is no chimney he tosses coins through a window in order to enter the house.

As Christmas comes closer, and children get more anxious. Parents take their children to malls where they are allowed to take a picture with Santa, and tell him what they want for Christmas. On Christmas Eve children go to bed earlier and leave out milk and cookies for Santa. Then on Christmas morning children wake up bright and early to see what Santa had left them under their tree. Many people would agree that this is the best time of the year, because you get to see your family, and open presents. This year the top ten Christmas gift for 2011 is, at number 10; Xbox 360 with Kinect, number 9; 3D LCD/LED Television, number 8; Apple iPad2, number 7; Espresso Coffee Machine, number 6; Sports/Concert Tickets, number 5; Golf Clubs, number 4; Clothes, number 3; Foot Massager, number 2; Pet, and this year's top gift for 2011 is an Amazon Kindle. Throughout Christmas day families are listening to Christmas carols. The top ten most played Christmas songs are at number 10; Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, number 9; Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas, number 8; It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas, number 7; Do You Hear What I Hear, number 6; It's the Most Wonderful Time of The Year, number 5; Jingle Bell Rock, number 4; Let It Snow, number 3; The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting On an Open Fire), number 2; Winter Wonderland, and number 1 with being aired on the radio 64,317 times is Sleigh Ride.

Although just like presents, and music, the food is just as important. Most families eat the same dishes as those of Thanksgiving, such a turkey, ham, stuffing, rolls and green beans. Christmas is a time to spend with family, friends and loved ones. At Christmas, we should look back and be thankful for yet another year. I hope everyone has a great and safe Christmas! Travel safe and Happy New Years!

January 2012 Activities Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 *Winter Vacation	3 *Late Start 10:20 am *V/JV BB @ Hardin-Central 5 pm	4 *Youth WR practice 5:30-8:30 pm *Copeland's CRBC team practice 3:30-5 in Multi	5 *V BB @ Osborn 6 pm	6 *After Prom Mtg Commons 6 pm	7 *V WR @ Rock Port Tourney 9 am
8	9 *V BB @ Lathrop Tourney thru 1-14-12 TBA *Youth WR practice 5:30-8:30 pm	10 *V/JV WR vs. Gallatin/Maysville/S. Holt 5:30 pm	11 *Youth WR practice 5:30-8:30 pm	12 *V/JV WR vs. Tarkio/St. Mary's 6 pm - Senior Night	13	14 *V WR @ Plattsburg 9:30 am
15	16 NO SCHOOL - MLK DAY	17 *V BB @ Gallatin 6 pm	18 *Youth WR practice 5:30-8:30 pm *BOE Mtg 7 pm *Copeland's CRBC team practice 3:30-5 pm in Multi	19 *V/JV WR @ KC St. Pius 6 pm	20 *V/JV BB @ Braymer 5 pm	21 *V WR @ Lathrop 9:30 am
22	23 *Youth WR practice 5:30-8:30 pm *Copeland's CRBC team practice 3:30-5 in Multi *MS Acad Team vs. Hamilton 4 pm	24 *V/JV WR @ Lawson 6 pm *V BB @ Albany 6 pm	25 *FFA Area State Degree Mtg @ Trenton 4:30 pm *Youth WR practice 5:30-8:30 pm	26 *V/JV WR @ Carrollton 6 pm *Copeland's CRBC team practice 3:30-5 pm in Multi	27 *V BB vs. Princeton 6 pm *Court/Mat Warming Dance	28 *V WR GRC Tourney @ Hamilton 8:30 am *All State Band Concert
29	30 *Youth WR practice 5:30-8:30 pm *Copeland's CRBC team practice 3:30-5 pm in Multi *MS Acad Team vs. Cameron 4 pm	31 *V BB @ S. Harrison 6 pm				