



THE POLO R-VII SCHOOL DISTRICT PANTHER PRIDE

November 2011

Volume 7, Issue 4

December Activities

- 1 - V/JV WR vs. N. Platte/S. Harrison 6 pm
- 2 - V GBB @ Albany Tourney TBA
- 3 - All State Band Auditions
- V BBB @ Albany Tourney TBA
- 5 - Late Start
- V BB vs. Ridgeway 6 pm
- Electrical Safety Mtg 12:30-3 pm in Multi
- Youth WR practice 5:30-8:30 pm
- 6 - MS BB vs. Cameron 5:30 pm
- 7 - Fall Activities Banquet for FB, SB, Cheer, Mgrs 6 pm HS Gym
- Youth WR practice 5:30-8:30 pm
- 8 - MS BB vs. E. Buchanan 2B and 2A games 4:30 pm
- 9 - Music Booster Game Night 5-9 pm
- JV BBB vs. Carrollton @ Norborne 5 pm
- JV GBB vs. Norborne to follow the boys game
- 10 - V WR Dual Team Tourney 9:30 am
- All District Band Concert
- 12 - V BB vs. Breckenridge 6 pm
- School Health Advisory Council Mtg 3:30 in Library
- Youth WR practice 5:30-8:30 pm
- 13 - Christmas Concert 6:30 pm (snow date 12-20-11)
- 14 - JV BB Lathrop Tourney thru 12-17-11 4:30 pm
- Youth WR practice 5:30-8:30 pm
- 15 - Financial Aid & Scholarship Mtg for Srs 3rd hour, V-T 5th hour in Room 115
- 16 - V WR @ St. Mary's Christmas Tourney
- V/JV BB vs. DeKalb 5 pm (Pink Out Game)
- 17 - V WR @ St. Mary's Christmas Tourney
- JV BB @ Lathrop Tourney TBA
- 19 - BOE Mtg 7 pm
- Youth WR practice 5:30-8:30 pm
- 21 - Early Out 11:20 am
- End of 1st Semester
- V BB @ NCMC Shootout TBA
- 22 - Winter Vacation school resumes 1-3-12 w/late start @ 10:20

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

As we are nearing the end of the first semester, the weather becomes much more unpredictable. Make sure you send proper clothes for recess time including coats, gloves, hats, etc. We do have some coats and hats in the elementary lost and found, so feel free to check those out and claim them if possible! Please remind your child to bring home any "extras" they might have at school to keep the classrooms as clean as possible.

Students in grades K-6 attended the assembly on Vietnam by Randy Nadler on November 4. Students were able to view many pictures of Vietnam while listening to Randy discuss his travels there. We would like to thank the Parent - Teacher Organization for sponsoring this assembly. On November 15, students in grades 1-5 participated in "Food Power," a walk through field trip of the human body.

The December character word of the month is citizenship. Citizenship means having the correct behavior in terms of duties, obligations, and functions. A few of the ways students are able to show citizenship are by walking correctly in the hallways, respecting others, listening when being spoken to, and speaking in an indoor voice. Sometimes students have trouble knowing when to use their indoor voices. When talking with your child, please discuss the proper times and places to use indoor voices.

Our PreK-12 Winter Program will be Tuesday, December 13 at 6:30 in the high school gymnasium. Students are to be here at 6:15 and the Preschool students will start the evening off with some songs. Mr. Dunker and Mrs. Henderson have coordinated the K-12 program this year.

School will dismiss on Wednesday, December 21 at 11:20 for our Winter Break. This will end our first semester (second quarter). School will resume on January 3 with a late start day. Grade cards will be mailed out after we return to school.

A reminder of upcoming dates are:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Mon., Dec. 5 | Late Start |
| | Electrical Safety Assembly (grades 4-6) |
| Tues., Dec. 13 | PreK-12 Winter Concert, 6:30 pm. |
| Wed., Dec. 21 | Early Dismissal at 11:20 for Winter Break |
| Tues., Jan. 3 | Late Start, Return to School |

I hope everyone enjoys their Winter Break with family and friends.

Common Core State Standards

The students at Polo R-VII Schools take a variety of tests (such as Stanford Achievement Tests, MAP, and EOC) throughout their academic career. Currently, the guidelines Polo R-VII teachers use in the classrooms on a daily basis to prepare students for these tests as well as academic success are the grade level expectations (GLEs) and/or course level expectations (CLEs). However, within the next few years, guidelines are being revised and students will begin to be tested on Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The following article helps to provide parents with an introduction to the CCSS and what it means for their students.

A Parent's Guide to the Common Core Standards

Currently, each state has a separate set of education standards, lists of skills that students are expected to do by the time they graduate each grade. However, in response to concerns about American student achievement and just how prepared students are for college and careers, education leaders in 48 states, along with the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), have written a set of standards for student across the U.S. The common core state standards were released in 2010. Now, 44 states are working to implement them by 2013-2014. Here's what you should know and how to help your child prepare for the common core:

The Common Core Standards are State-Driven

The common core state standards are a set of learning skills that all American students should achieve, not a federal curriculum. They set the benchmarks and guidelines for what each student should learn, not how or what teachers teach.

Parent Tip: Find out if your state has adopted the common core at the common core standards web site.

The Standards are a Progression

In general, standards set a progression of skills that students learn as they move through school. Kindergartners work on phonics and letter sounds, while eighth graders work on building vocabulary and reading fluency.

Parent Tip: Look through the common core standards to get a feel for what your child will be learning as he moves through school. Read the English-language arts standards and the math standards at the common core web site.

Students will Delve Deeper into Core Concepts

One complaint about separate state standards was the concern from teachers that students were learning about too many topics in a year to fully understand them, says Carrie Phillip, CCSSO program director of common core standards implementation. The common core state standards, on the other hand, focus on the most important topics that students need to know. In math, that means that students focus on really understanding numbers in elementary school before they start to apply that understanding of numbers to data in middle school.

Parent Tip: As your child completes homework, help them hone in on the most important aspects and core concepts.

The Reading Standards will Get More Difficult

As the common core is implemented, students will be expected to read more difficult text sooner, and discuss what they read at a more complex level. For example, instead of pulling out individual text elements, such as characters, plot, and setting, students will be reading or listening to various stories, and will compare stories using their understanding of text elements.

Parent Tip: As you read with your child, ask her in-depth why and how questions that encourage her to analyze and synthesize texts. For example, read three different versions of the Goldilocks and the Three Bears and ask your child to compare and contrast them as you read. Also, as you build your child's library, see Appendix B for book ideas.

Focus on Informational Text

To prepare students for college-level work, there will be more of a focus on informational and expository text. In middle school especially, students will be reading informational text, including original documents, from the Declaration of Independence to presidential speeches.

Parent Tip: Encourage your child to research a topic he's interested in using informational texts and original documents.

Assessments Will Change

Compared to current achievement tests, common core assessments will likely be more difficult. Ideally, instead of multiple choice tests, students will be analyzing and synthesizing information, writing essay responses, and answering in-depth questions to show how much they understand.

Parent Tip: Ask your child to explain or show how they're solving problems. Then, have them think of multiple ways to solve a math problem, or answer a reading discussion question.

Focus on Practical Skills

The common core standards were designed with the workplace in mind. So, students will be working on taking the role of scientists, historians, researchers, and more. For example, says Bill McCallum, co-author of the standards and professor at the University of Arizona, the standards "describe what a mathematical practitioner does, make sense of problems, preserve and solve them, and critique the reasoning of others."

Parent Tip: As your child works through his homework, ask him how someone might use what he's working on in "real life." Help connect thinking in school to thinking at work by explaining how you solve problems, or use math every day.

As the common core state standards start to be implemented in schools, there will be some changes, but many things will stay the same. The most important aspect, as always, is to stay in contact with your child's teacher to find out how you can support this latest educational advancement at home.

Source: Education.com, August 2011

5th and 6th Grade PE is "Thrilling!"

by: Bridget Zabel
PE Teacher



On October 31st, Halloween, the 5th and 6th grade performed a line dance to the pop hit, "Thriller." They worked hard on this dance for a week in PE class, and showcased their abilities in the big gym to elementary students, teachers, and their families. Chance Carr appeared as our "Michael Jackson" in the performance, as he danced around the "zombies" of fellow students.



FOOD POWER

by: Beverly Deis
Elem. Principal

Students in first through fifth grades traveled to Hamilton on Tuesday, November 15 to participate in "Food Power" sponsored by the University of Missouri Extension Department. The students were met by Ms. Tracy Minnis, who had been coming to the elementary this fall with lessons on eating right, exercise, hand washing and fighting germs and making healthy choices.

Small groups visited stations addressed topics such as where the ingredients for pizza originate, the steps taken for milk to come from the cow to our table, fighting germs, and eating a variety of foods each day. Students then entered a model of the human body. They started in the mouth, learning about the teeth, tongue and taste buds. They traveled through the esophagus to the stomach where they learned how food breaks down to into a form usable for our bodies. They left the stomach and wound through the intestines. On the way they learned about their bones and skeleton and muscles and the importance of exercise.

In charge of each station were members of the Polo National Honor Society. Teaching concepts and asking questions were Carlie Powers, Monica Fickess, Dillon James, Rhea Rardon, Emily Templeton, Alex Gaines, Sammie Copeland, and Sarah Thomas. The elementary students returned to school with a better understanding of how their bodies use food.

Basketball Cheerleading

by: Ashley Allen
Staff Writer

A new basketball season means new basketball cheerleaders. The returning coach is Ashley Lee. There may not be a new coach but there are some new faces when it comes to this year's cheerleaders. They are Danielle Allen, Adriana Segar, Brooke Jones, Skylar Howe which are freshmen. The only returning cheerleader from last year is Loren Wagner, who is a sophomore this year. She is ready to teach the other girls the ropes. The girls have said that they are excited and ready to start the basketball season.

Which Career Path Will You Take?



Polo R-VII Elementary was host to the first annual Career Day held on Monday, November 4, 2011. The six career paths of Health, Helping, Nature, Business, Fixing and Building, and Creative were presented by various volunteers. Volunteers included Mike Arway, Department of Agriculture; Larry Snyder, The Hamilton Bank; Shane Rardon, Bayer Corporation; Joni

Loxterman, Cake Decorator; Jessica Silvey, EnRaged Designs; Tim Boydston, US District Court; Jeromy Rothove, US Army; Dr. Daniel Renfro, Renfro Veterinary Services; Stephen Epperson, EMT; Shannon Silvey, EnRaged Designs and Construction; and Paul Miller, Ameren UE. Members of the parental involvement committee provided a hospitality room for the presenters.



Students in grades K-6 were able to spend time with each presenter. Parents were also invited to attend the Career Areas with their children as part of Polo Elementary Parental Involvement. Students

commented it was a fun day and they learned so much about various careers. Polo R-VII hopes to make this an annual event promoting the six career paths.



FCCLA Trip to Tan-Tar-A

by: Kara Frisch
Staff Writer

On October 23rd, FCCLA members Malorie Rood, Emma Tormey, Sarah Thomas, and Haley Harrison took a 5 hour trip to Osage Beach. The members arrived at Tan-Tar-A Resort to attend the Access FCCLA conferences. Over 400 people attended conferences at Tan-Tar-A. Malorie and Emma attended the "Chapters in Action" Conference. This focused on three national programs;

community service, family first, and FACTS (Family, Action for Community Traffic Safety). They returned on October 24th. The members had a great time and the trip was a total success.



No "Bones" about it, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

by: Bridget Zabel
PE Teacher

If you walked through the Multipurpose Room during the month of October you would have seen some different things decorating the walls. The elementary had a class mascot, "Frank, the skeleton." He taught the students about some of the bones in their body. Of course, we didn't learn all 206 bones, but they did learn some major ones and their scientific names. Grades 3-6 even took a Study Island quiz over what they learned. The elementary also acknowledged Breast Cancer Awareness Month during October. Pink ribbons were displayed on the wall in the Multipurpose Room in memory of breast cancer fighters and to show support for breast cancer survivors. It is unbelievable, in such a small community, how breast cancer has affected our students so much.

Halloween Parties

by: Ashley Allen
Staff Writer

On Friday October 28th, the elementary students enjoyed some Halloween festivities. The Preschool classes walked through the school in their costumes and were greeted by teachers and given candy as they walked from class to class. At 1:20 in the afternoon, Kindergarten through 4th grade walked through the outdoor classroom, where the parents and teachers got to see all the great costumes. After the walk through, the students and teachers returned to their classrooms to play games and eat fabulous treats. The 5th and 6th graders also had some Halloween fun.

They got to watch movies, talked to friends, and ate some yummy food.



FFA

by: Alex Tate
Staff Writer

FFA is going good this year. Mr. Farmer took Polo FFA members to the Grassland competition on October 13, 2011 and the students that attended were Blake Bates, Alex Johnson, Tabitha Poje, Kolton Roark, Dakota McGinley, Jonathan Shelton, Houston Stone, James Ross, Loren Wagner, Brande Vick, Anna Way, Zach Freeman, Brady McCaskey, Sammie Jo Copeland, Avery Snodgrass, Rhea Rardon, Justin Hicks, Ashley Allen, and Missy Cawthon. The bus left at 5:30 P.M. and returned Thursday October 27, 2011 at 5 P.M.

Members attended National Convention in Indianapolis and those members were Madison Curp, Missy Cawthon, Alex Johnson, Jacob Hicks, Adriana Segar, Cati Boruch, Sidney Copeland, and Alisha Ross. The Polo FFA chapter took a trip to Kansas City to the Sprint Center to attend the American Royal and more importantly see Lynyrd Skynyrd in concert on October 28th. Also barnwarming was held in the multipurpose room on November 04 from 8:00-11:00 p.m.

There is only four months to get ready for the FFA contest. The teams should be well prepared for the judging. With hard work and dedication, every team this year should place high in districts. If the teams do well in districts, some will go to state. I know this year; I plan to be on entomology team and want to help my team move on to the state level, where I plan to place high in team and individually.

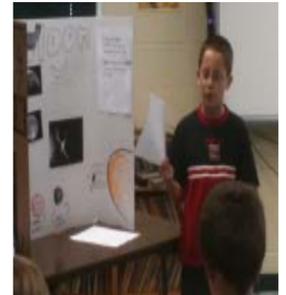
SPEECH AND LANGUAGE NEWS

The holiday season is here and there is a wide variety of vocabulary to share with your child during family gatherings, shopping, traveling, and special events. Take these opportunities to expand your child's vocabulary. Children love to learn about different holiday customs; family traditions; your childhood memories; and why the holidays are important to you. I hope all of you have a safe and happy holiday season!

THINK TANK

Once again, members of the "Think Tank" presented to different classes in middle school and elementary. The "Think Tank" was developed last year to provide students with extended learning opportunities beyond the classroom. Over the summer, "Tank" members determined they would like to study more about two topics, human blood and the moon. These topics are extensions of previous research from last year related to human anatomy and the solar system. Trysten Wolf presented on the moon and Beckett Wilson presented on human blood.

Trysten helped students learn about the mass of the moon in relation to earth; phases of the moon; lunar temperatures; and what would happen if the moon fell out of orbit. Students learned about the impact on tides, animal life and gravity.



Beckett helped students learn about red and white blood cells; the heart; bone marrow; and plasma. Students learned that the adult heart beats up to 4,000 times per day; the importance of bone marrow; the role of red and white blood cells in carrying oxygen to cells and fighting infections; and that "you cannot live, or love," without a heart.

It was exciting to see students asking questions as Trysten and Beckett presented and to see how well-received the Power Point presentation was during the student presentations. Both students worked very hard on their research, presentation boards and Power Point. A big thank you goes out to Mrs. Lukens, Mrs. Rardon, Mrs. Gilbert, and Mr. Collins for supporting the students during this process and allowing them to present in their classrooms.

As a result of their research both students became interested in different forms of Cancer and determined they would like to research this further for their next project

FREE SPEECH AND LANGUAGE SCREENINGS

Again, I would like to invite all children in the Polo R-VII School District to receive a free speech and language screening upon their third birthday. If your child turns three years of age ANY TIME during this school year I would like an opportunity to meet with you and your child for screening. I am in district Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Please call me to schedule an appointment time for screening at 660-354-2200.

Children begin reading very early in school. It is important to identify and treat speech and language difficulties early so that children can begin to read. If we find that your child qualifies for services we can offer free therapy on an appointment basis with the district speech and language pathologist.

Kathy J. Hutchinson, M.S., CCC-SLP
Polo R-VII Speech-Language Pathologist

Elementary Counseling News

by: Becky Arway
Counselor

The Character Word of the Month for November was Citizenship. Students learned that citizenship means to do your share to make the world around you better by volunteering, cooperating, being a good neighbor, obeying laws and rules, and protecting the environment. Students learned about all of the different ways they can show they are a good citizen at home, school, and in their community.

Students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade learned about citizenship through listening to the book *Enemy Pie* by Derek Munson. Before listening to the book, students created a concept map of all the different ways that a person could show they were being a good citizen. During the story, the students paid careful attention to the characters in the story to decide if they were being good citizens or not. After the story, students had an opportunity to reflect on ways that they can demonstrate citizenship character traits at home, school and in their community.

Third through 6th graders had a chance to learn about citizenship by playing a card game in small groups. Students were divided into groups and given a deck of citizenship cards. Each person in the group played a role in the game. At the conclusion of the game, students had formulated their own definition of citizenship, identified people who they felt were good citizens, and role played solutions to different scenarios where someone was either demonstrating being a good citizen or not. The whole class got back together and played the fan-n-pick game as a group to review the answers that the small groups came up with. Students shared ways that they already show citizenship and brainstormed other ways that they can continue to show characteristics of a good citizen.

For the second classroom guidance lesson of the month, students had an opportunity to talk about their feelings, more specifically they learned about positively reacting to when they feel angry. Students in grades K-2 listened to the book *Alexander and the Horrible, Terrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* by Judith Viorst. Each time Alexander, the main character of the story, experienced something that contributed to his very, bad day air would be blown into a balloon. As his day went on, Alexander experienced more and more things that contributed to his bad day leading the balloon to get larger and larger. At the end of the story, all of Alexander's anger was "bottled" up in the balloon that the balloon popped. Students learned that it is okay to feel angry, but that we have to learn to react in positive ways instead of yelling, hitting, or fighting to handle being mad. Students brainstormed ways that they could react in a positive manner to being angry. Students made suggestions such as walking away, ignoring the person, going to their room to calm down, drawing, or writing in a journal to just name a few. These are all positive ways to handle anger. Students were encouraged to use some of these techniques the next time they are feeling angry and possibly having a no good, very, bad day.

Students in grades 3-6 also had the opportunity to think about ways that they currently handle their anger and brainstorm ways to react in a more positive manner to times when they are feeling mad/angry. Students participated in a "snowball" fight. Each student had the opportunity to write down things that make the mad/angry. Students had an opportunity to "throw" their snowballs around. After the snowball fight, students shared what was written on the snowballs and helped to brainstorm ways to react positively to the situation. Students also learned to think about a stop light when faced with situations that make them angry. Students were taught to "stop" (red light), "think" (yellow light), and "react" (green light). Students were encouraged to stop and think about what was making them angry and what they would like to see would happen before reacting to the situation. Students had an opportunity to practice these techniques and were challenged to use them the next time they were feeling angry.

Barnwarming

by: Austin Bowley
Staff Writer

The Polo FFA chapter hosted the annual Barnwarming dance again this year. The festivities were held in the Multi Purpose room. There was a dance, games, crowning of Barnwarming royalty, and Green hand initiation. The dance was DJ by Polo High School students Avery Snodgrass and Zach Freeman. This year's Barnwarming Royalty was Kayla Carr, Jacob Hicks, Anna Way, Jonathan Shelton, Brady McCaskey, Ashley Allen, Harley Martin, and Carlie Powers. There was a large turnout this year and students seemed to have a lot of fun while they were dancing and playing games. Thank you to the FFA for sponsoring a great night.



The two teams consisting of Skylar Howe and Alishia Ross versus Jenny Adams and Mathew Hamm competed in a freshman initiation game.

Another game enjoyed by the participants of Barnwarming.



BARNWARMING ROYALTY

Meet the Panthers Night

by: Justin Hazelman
Staff Writer

On Friday, November 18th, the high school basketball teams showcased their skills for the town to see. Each year, the boys and girls teams are divided equally and split into two teams for a scrimmage.

Between the girls scrimmage and boys scrimmage, there was a 3-point shooting competition. Also there was a silent auction that took place all week to raffle off various items to the winners.

The teams are equally excited to start the season and look forward to this event every year. The teams also showcased their new uniforms, newly ordered for this year, and to be worn for many years to come. As part of this event, admission was free, FBLA sold fresh baked Otis Spunkmeyer cookies and the yearbook staff sold yearbooks at a special price of \$25 for next year's book.

Panther Basketball

by: Justin Hazelman
Staff Writer

It's that time of year again, where the gym at Polo High School comes alive. The boys and girls high school basketball teams have been practicing for two full weeks now. Most players will tell you this is the most exciting part of the school year. The teams for both boys and girls respectively look the same, with only a few players departed.

The boys basketball team is lead by five seniors: Justin Hazelman, Ashton Shelton, Toby Poje, Dillon James, and Austin Bowley. This is going to be one of the most successful seasons for the boys team, but also one with a lot of pressure. The team has been practicing hard, in preparation for their first game at the Albany Tournament against the Princeton Tigers.

The girls basketball team has two seniors, Jonna Stottlemire and Kadee Phillips. The girls practice has been full of new changes, such as their new intense workout called Boot camp Conditioning. The girls are challenged with different forms of conditioning based on their upcoming basketball schedule. If any of them cannot complete the task, the game goes down as a "loss" and if they complete it, it goes down as a "win". So far the girls are undefeated and working harder than ever.

The first home game of the 2011-12 season is December 5th, against the Ridgeway Owls. Also as a reminder the Pink-Out game to support breast cancer, is on December 18th, against the DeKalb Tigers. We expect a full house every night to rock the gym, and wear lots of Pink for the Pink-Out game! Come out and support our boys and girls basketball teams!

Randy Nadler Vietnam

by: Daniel Boruch
Staff Writer

On November 4th, Randy Nadler who travels to foreign countries spoke to the students about Vietnam. Randy Nadler annually makes an appearance at many schools to speak to them about a country he has visited, sponsored by PTO. When he talked about Vietnam, he spoke of its economy, government and lifestyle. He talked about the Vietnam War, specifically the Cu Chi Minh tunnels, from which the Vietcong fought Americans and from which the Vietminh fought the French. He showed slides of Vietnamese food and village life. Also he talked about Vietnam's main export and the communist government. The assembly was very educational and gave good insight into a very different culture.

Excelsior Springs Area Career Center Automotive Technology Program

by: Alex Tate
Staff Writer

I'm currently a student at the Excelsior Springs Area Career Center in the Automotive Technology class. But I'm not the only student from Polo involved, there are two other Polo students in the class and they Ben Branstietter and Cody Carr. Ben and I were also enrolled in the program last year and we enjoyed it enough to attend again. I, personally, have learned a lot about the automotive field while enrolled in this class. I have learned to repair and diagnose vehicles, to use equipment I'd never thought I'd use, and I have learned to do so and can use them well. It's not just about the cars, we also get to compose a cover letter and resume and learn techniques for interviewing for a job.

The teacher in the Automotive Class is H.R. Thomas, who has been working in the automotive field for most of his life. He expects his second year students to help the new first year students with the stuff on the tasks we experienced last year and if we don't know then he will inform us. He is one of the best teachers I have ever had. He makes the class fun, but most of the time we spend in the shop, where we work on our cars. Also other



people can bring their cars to the shop to be worked on. The only thing you pay for is parts so if you need a repair done you might keep the ESACC Automotive program students in mind.



YEARBOOKS!!!!

Yearbooks are on sale now for \$35 or \$40 with namestamping. After December 21, 2011 the price will increase to \$45 and \$50 with namestamping. You can purchase a yearbook by order online through the school website, email artha@polo.k12.mo.us or see a yearbook staff member. They include Jonna Stottlemire, Justin Hazelman, Harley Martin, Alex Tate, Malorie Rood, Megan Knutter, Ashley Allen, Daniel Boruch, Kara Frisch and Austin Bowley.

Music Booster Game Night

When: Friday, December 9th 5-9 pm

Where: High School

Admission: \$4 in Advance/\$5 at the door

Why: Fundraiser for the band to go to Branson

Come for a great time with friends and support the Polo Panther Pride Band!

Video Games!

Wii

Xbox 360

Guitar Hero

Rock Band

Just Dance

Madden Football

More!

Fun Board games!

Yatzee

Twister

Jenga

Don't Break the Ice

Tournaments!

Just Dance

Guitar Hero

Madden Football Tournament

Thanksgiving

by: Megan Knutter
Staff Writer

Thanksgiving has come and gone so I surveyed students and faculty members to see what their opinion and thoughts are about Thanksgiving. There were various answers from 5th graders to high schoolers. One question I asked was, "Do you have any family traditions for Thanksgiving?" Freshmen Mason Misel says, "We all meet at my house and eat. Then later, my mom and I go Black Friday shopping!" Senior Megan LaMarr's response to the same question was "I usually go to Wisconsin for Thanksgiving to have dinner with my family back home." A family tradition for high school history teacher, Mr. Kasner, is playing two hand touch football.

Another question I asked was, "What is your favorite dish?" Ms. Lee said "My favorite Thanksgiving dish would be brown rolls. They are yummy!" Sophomore Kiley Hendricks said she likes turkey. Dalton Frazier, a 6th grader said, his favorite dish is "turkey with potatoes and gravy, and for desert, pie."

"What is your favorite memory of Thanksgiving?" Danielle Beaufaux, 8th grader says, "when my sister got pie shoved in her face." "Favorite memory of Thanksgiving would be growing up with my three sisters and brother and going to our grandmother's house," says Mrs. Dixon, who teaches the third grade.

My last question was "What's your favorite part of the School's Thanksgiving?" Senior Jonna Stottlemire added "The sticker that the lunch ladies put on the bottom of the trays! If you have a sticker, you get a bag of candy!" Mrs. Dixon also added "The cooks prepare the most incredible meal. I look so forward to the Thanksgiving Feast."

Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving!

November 11 Celebration



Friday, November 11, 2011, marked a special day for Polo R-VII School District. Veterans were present to talk with students K-6 and they stayed for an all school (K-12) celebration assembly. The assembly was to congratulate students and staff members for making 14 out of 14 on the most recent Annual Progress Report (APR). The

assembly began with performances by the band members and drill team. The drum line followed with their performance. Cheerleaders added to the celebration with their cheers to get all of the students involved. Next, Dr. Deis and Mr. Ross discussed why we were celebrating the day and encouraged students for future success. Finally, Mr. Ross read a Veteran's Day speech in honor of all Veterans and the assembly ended with a moment of silence by all students and staff.

SADD Update

by: Austin Bowley
Staff Writer

Polo High School SADD is under new sponsorship this year. Miss. Lee is taking over as sponsor and has done a good job in her first year. She has a good set of returning officers in President, Sarah Thomas; Vice President, Carlie Powers; Treasurer, Landyn Street and Secretary, Austin Bowley. There are currently 25 members in SADD this year. So far, this year SADD has participated in the Battle of the Belts and plan on another surprise seatbelt check in the near future. SADD also sponsored Red Ribbon Week for the elementary students and plan to hopefully get a speaker to talk to the school about the dangers of drugs. They are currently brainstorming different ideas to get the students actively involved with the program to raise awareness about bullying, drugs, and alcohol.

Polo's PWCO has a record year with 8th Annual Halloween Carnival

At one time a volunteer went outdoors and began counting cars parked down as far as the shelter house outside of the Polo Community Building and got up to 350 cars. There were over 300 names counted for door prizes which included two - \$10 door prizes and three - \$10 gift certificates from Red Rooster Inn. This was a record year for the carnival hosted by the People Who Care Organization. All games are 25 cents each and when guests collected up all of their winning tickets they redeemed them for prizes. Other activities at the carnival included full face painting by Polo's Art teacher, Lorie Fickess and a few of her Art Club students, Corinne Atterbery, Jennifer Rash, Monica Fickess and Samantha Smith. There was a new slide with a wall to climb this year and volunteer Dawn Cline ran it. The Bounce House was operated by volunteer John Allen along with high school student volunteers. One of the favorite attractions at the carnival is the haunted house. Volunteer, Jeff Ritter along with niece Maddy Misel, organized a group of high school students to come up with a plan of action to scare the guests. Volunteer, Greg Misel set up a 30 foot by 12 foot screen and projected scary movies on it for the guests waiting to enter the haunted house this year. Two tickets allowed guests in the Haunted House, Bounce House and down the new slide. The concession was organized and ran by volunteers Barb Allen, Darren Hicks, Patsy and Pat Whitley. The ticket booth has been run by Virginia Fry and Pat Misel for the past eight years and this year volunteer, Julie Phillips assisted them as the lines were long all throughout the evening. The Prize booth was run by volunteers Patty Walker and Jill Rardon, along with high school student volunteers. There were three items raffled off this year and



tickets were sold by volunteers, Judy Baker, Lucille Stone and Brenda Carr. The Apple iPod Touch was won by Josh Kesler, the 20 inch bike by Peyton Tate and the Toddler bike Josie Misel. The cake walk is very popular at the carnival each year and was run by student volunteer, Emma Tormey. There were many games to play for 25 cents each and they were ran by the following community volunteers and high school students: Tricia Curp, David & Penny Byers, Brian Misel, Bill Misel, Kim Thompson, Kara

Segal, Tabitha Logan, Danny Allen, Marilyn Clevenger, Jennifer Richardson, Autumn and Keith Latimer. The high school students are organized and guided by Polo's NHS advisor, Sarah Davies who attends the carnival each year to offer encouragement and assistance to the high school students throughout the evening. The high school students who volunteered were: Kadee Phillips, Mason Misel, Zach Freeman, Danielle Allen, Mattie Curp, Brooke Jones, Dillon James, Brandon Latimer, Brady McCaskey, Rhea Rardon, Savannah Cline, Haley Harrison, Jennifer Lindaman, Doug Lindaman, Ashley Allen, Samantha Smith, Jennifer Rash, Corine Atterbery, Monica Fickess, Kylee Eaglen, Lauren McDonald, Emma Tormey, Malorie Rood, Katie Garrett, Sarah Thomas, Jonna Stottlemire, Alex Gaines, Kolton Roark, Avery Snodgrass, Austin Bowley, Carlie Powers, Dalton Mills, Ashton Shelton, Emily Templeton, and Justin Thompson, Jason Thompson, Tessa Jensen, Emma Jensen, Justin Hicks, and Sammie Copeland. Without donations from sponsors this event would not be possible. The PWCO would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous contributions: VIPCars, Bank Northwest, Hy Klas, Casey's, Green Hills Telephone, Red Rooster Inn, Cameron Regional Medical Center, Polo Athletic Organization, Steve & Holly Mortimer, Bill Misel Construction, Greg & Debby Misel, Polo Sales & Service, Peach Software, Inc., Yiar & Kara Segal, Bailey & Cox Family Funeral Services, John Allen Trucking, David & Ariel Misel, Judy Baker, Lucille Stone, Summerville Insurance Company, Linda Hesebeck, Sally's, Mom's Place, Hilltop Grain Company, Timeless Photography by Beki Bolling, Chelsi's, and David & Lorie Fickess.



I N F O R M A T I O N

December 2011 Activities Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 *V/JV WR vs. N. Platte/S. Harrison 6 pm	2 *VGBB @ Albany Tourney TBA	3 *All State Band Auditions *VBBB @ Albany Tourney TBA
4	5 *Late Start *VBB vs. Ridgeway 6 pm *Electrical Safety Mtg 12:30-3 pm in the Multi *Youth WR practice 5:30-8:30 pm	6 *MS BB vs. Cameron 5:30 pm	7 *Fall Activities Banquet for VFB, SB, Cheer, and Managers 6 pm *Youth WR practice 5:30-8:30 pm	8 *MS BB vs. E. Buchanan 2-B & 2-A 4:30 pm	9 *Music Booster Game Night 5-9 pm *JVBBB vs. Carrollton @ Norborne 5 pm *JVGBB vs. Norborne to follow boys	10 *V WR Dual Team Tourney 9:30 am *All District Band Concert
11	12 *V BB vs. Breckenridge 6 pm *School Health Advisory Council Mtg. 3:30 pm in the Libray *Youth WR practice 5:30-8:30 pm	13 *Winter Concert PK-12 Band/Choir 6:30 pm (snow date 12-20-11)	14 *JV BB Lathrop Tourney thru 12-17-11 4:30 pm *Youth WR practice 5:30-8:30 pm	15 *Financial Aid & Scholarship Mtg for Srs. 3 rd hr. in Rm 115 & V-T Srs. 5 th hour in Rm 115	16 *V WR @ St. Mary's Christmas Tourney *V/JV BB vs. Dekalb 5 pm (Pink Out Game)	17 *V WR @ St. Mary's Christmas Tourney *JV BB @ Lathrop Tourney TBA
18	19 *BOE Mtg 7 pm *Youth WR practice 5:30-8:30 pm	20	21 *Early Out 11:20 am *End of 1 st Semester	22 *Winter Vacation school resumes on 1-3-12 w/late start @ 10:20 am	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

December 2011 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 French Toast, Sausage, Fruit Meatball Sub, Green Beans, Fruit	2 Donut, Sausage, Fruit Hamburger on Bun, French Fries, Fruit
5 Late Start – No Breakfast Corndog or Burrito, Pinto Beans, Fruit	6 Cereal, Oatmeal, Toast, Fruit Pizza, Corn, Fruit	7 Pop Tart, Ham, Fruit BBQ Riblet, Scalloped Potatoes, Fruit	8 French Toast, Sausage, Fruit Chicken Nuggets, Green Beans, Fruit	9 Biscuit w/Sausage Gravy, Fruit Wrapped Weiner, Baked Beans, Fruit
12 Cereal, Oatmeal, Toast, Fruit Taco Stack, Refried Beans, Fruit	13 Pop Tart, Ham, Fruit Grilled Cheese, Soup, Fruit	14 Muffin, Ham, Fruit Chicken Pattie on Bun, Corn, Fruit	15 French Toast, Sausage, Fruit Hamburger on Bun, Tator Tots, Fruit	16 Donut, Sausage, Fruit Shrimp, Parsley Potatoes, Fruit
19 Cereal, Oatmeal, Toast, Fruit Corndog Nuggets, Baked Beans, Fruit	20 Pop Tart, Ham, Fruit Christmas Dinner	21 Breakfast Pizza, Fruit Early Out – No Lunch	22 No School	23 No School

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