



# POLO R-VII SCHOOL DISTRICT

# The Panther Pride

April  
Volume 1, Issue 7

## April Activities

- 1 - FFA TSA Districts @ Maryville  
Varsity Track @ North Platte 4 pm
- 2 - FFA TSA Districts @ Maryville  
Kindergarten Screening
- 4 - Band State Large Group Festival @ Maryville  
K & 1<sup>st</sup> Field Trip
- 5 - Spaghetti Dinner for After Prom @ Prairie Ridge Church 5-8 pm
- 7 - Late Start 10:47 am  
Varsity Track vs. Lathrop @ Excelsior Springs 4 pm
- 8 - PAT Group Connection Mtg 5-6:30 pm  
Dental Varnish Application in Multi 8 am - Noon  
Cheerleading Practice 5:3-6:30 pm
- 9 - Area FFA Awards Night @ Chillicothe 6:30 pm  
Cheerleading Practice 5:30-6:30 pm
- 10-Cheerleading Tryouts 5:30 pm in HS Gym
- 11-Varsity Track @ William Jewell TBA
- 12-Scholar Bowl 2-8 pm
- 13-State FBLA
- 14-State FBLA  
MS Track @ South Harrison 3:30 pm
- 15-State FBLA  
Varsity Track @ Rock Port Blue Jays Relays 1:30 pm
- 17- Early Out 11:20 am  
MS Track @ North Andrew 4 pm
- 18-Spring Break (No School)
- 21-BOE Mtg. 7 pm  
Spring Break (No School)
- 22-Varsity Track @ Cameron Invitational 3 pm  
MS Track @ Lexington Invitational 4 pm
- 23-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Field Trip
- 25-Varsity Track @ Brookfield Relays 11:30 am  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip
- 26-Jr/Sr Prom @ Polo Community Bldg. 8-11 pm
- 28-Varsity Track @ Lawson Invitational 4 pm
- 29-MS Track @ Lawson 4 pm
- 30-Scholar Bowl 5 pm

### FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

**Dr. Beverly Deis**

As we are nearing the end of this school year, I would like to focus this article on testing. Each year our students participate in the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) and also the End of Course (EOC) testing for certain grades and courses. Staff members spend numerous hours analyzing the data collected from the testing. The data identifies areas of strengths and weaknesses in our overall curriculum but more importantly the data helps us identify each student's strengths and weaknesses in specific areas.

This year there will be a total of 24 different tests that Polo R-VII School District will administer to our students in grades three through eleven. This year's tests will be similar to last year; however, for the 2014-2015 school year, the number of tests will be fewer and they will also be computerized tests.

In addition to the MAP and EOC testing that our students take, our younger students take the Stanford Assessment and several of the secondary students take the ACT, ASVAB, and COMPASS. Polo R-VII School District administers other tests and/or assessments throughout the year as well.

For more information on our tests and testing schedule, please contact the building principal or the counselor.

### From the Elementary Principal Mrs. Monica Palmer

Welcome to Spring and warmer weather! The students and teachers are ready to be able to get the students outside for fresh air after this long Winter! Below you will find some upcoming dates and updates on events that have been happening in our elementary building.

**Box Tops for Education:** Mrs. Silvey's classroom turned in the most box top sheets during our 2 week competition. Miss Green's class came in a close 2<sup>nd</sup> place. PTO will be rewarding them with a special treat very soon! Thank you to everyone that sent box tops in.

**Tutoring:** We would like to thank everyone who has gotten their child to school for tutoring before and after school this year. I am confident that this extra work will pay off during our Spring testing. Before and after school tutoring will concluded on March 27.

**Kindergarten Screening:** We are now making appointments for Kindergarten Screening on March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you know of a child that will be 5 by August 1, 2014, please call the elementary office at (660) 354-2200 for more information.

**Save the Date:** Father/Daughter Date Night for the elementary has been scheduled for March 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

**PTO Book Fair:** The annual PTO Book Fair was held the week of March 10-14. Thanks to everyone's generous support, the PTO sold around \$3,700 worth of books, posters, etc...The profit made from this was used to purchase books for classroom teachers and their libraries. Thanks to everyone who made this event a huge success!

**Class Pictures:** Scholastic Photography will be here on Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> to take classroom group pictures.

**Preschool Enrollment:** Preschool enrollment for next year will begin soon. If you have a child that will be 3 by August 1, 2014, they are eligible to enroll in preschool. Please call the elementary office for more information.

**Spring Testing:** Just a reminder - mark your calendars now for the upcoming Spring MAP tests to begin in April. 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."

**PTO Assembly:** Students at Polo R-VII were treated to an assembly sponsored by PTO on Friday, March 21. Mr. Marty Breeze presented and very lively assembly that was loved by all. Thanks PTO!!!

**Field Trips:** PK-6 field trips have been set. They are all on the school activity calendar. If you need more information, please contact your child's teacher.

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# SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

*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.*

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.

## Allen Henry

1) My son, Ryan, is a freshman at Polo and my wife, Rosemary, currently works at the school as a paraprofessional. We have lived here in Polo for over twenty years and love it here. I received a Masters of Business Administration degree from Northwest Missouri State University and then spent the next two years working in the University Administration as the Director of Institutional Research as well as teaching computer science courses. I then worked for the Federal Reserve System in their Economic Research Division. Currently, I work for Smiths Group where I direct the team that supports the major software systems for two divisions. I am responsible for 79 sites in 17 countries. I currently manage a budget of over \$50 million and have several projects with \$3 million+ budgets. I have been on the school board for the past 8 years and am currently the School Board President. I served on the Board of Directors for the Missouri School Board Association and served on its Regional Leadership Committee. I also served on the Education Foundation Board.

2) I would like to be given the opportunity to continue to serve our community and school. Our school has received several Performance with Distinction ratings by the state accreditation board. This indicates how well that our school is doing across a broad range of criteria and is a tribute to the hard work of all involved; students, staff, administration, and school board. These are some very difficult times for school districts in Missouri and I want to do all that I can to help us get through them with our school intact. I care deeply for our school and want to do all that I can for it.

3) I have a broad background in finance, school and government administration, as well as budgeting and planning. I have worked in several different fields including higher education and the government. As a member of the Board of Directors for the Missouri School Board Association, I was exposed to many policies and contacts that I have used to assist the district. I understand how the State and Federal Governments fund school districts. I also understand school regulations and laws. I have many contacts within business, education, and government that have been useful to the district in the past. Lastly, I bring a deep sense of respect for our school, our community, and most importantly our students. I respectfully ask for the voters of our district to please come out during the election, vote for me, and allow me to continue to use everything that I know to help our school.



## Mark Kipping

1) I grew up on a farm outside of Carrollton, earned a Computer Science degree from Missouri University of Science and Technology (Rolla), and have worked for Hallmark Cards for 22 years. I farm (corn/soybeans) as a second job. My wife and I decided Polo would be a great place to put down roots and raise a family. A few years ago, we bought a farm in the school district, built a house, and now have two boys. We are relatively new to the community, but we are here to stay.

2) I want to do my part to help ensure our community's beliefs and values are reflected in the budget, policies, and procedures of the school district. I believe all the children in the school district should receive the best well-rounded education we can provide them.

3) I believe the business and management skills I've learned to date would allow me to serve the school district well. At Hallmark, I manage a multi-million dollar budget and am responsible for keeping a large part of their computer infrastructure running. I have strong skills in the following areas: financial management, project management, contract negotiation and management, vendor relationship management. I am ITIL v3 certified in Incident, Problem, Change, Configuration, and Asset Management.

4) I would like the budget, policies, and procedures of the school district to reflect the beliefs and values of our community. We must spend our tax dollars in a manner that is financially responsible and ensures our children receive the best education we can provide to them.



## Greg Misel

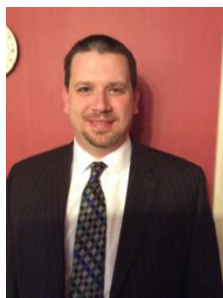
1) Greg Misel is a 1989 graduate of Polo High School and is married to Debby (Fry) Misel who is a 1984 graduate of Polo High School. Greg & Debby are the parents of four children: Madison, age 20 (currently a Junior at Avila University in Kansas City, MO), Mason, age 16 (a Junior at Polo High School), Jade, age 9 (3rd Grade Polo Elementary) and Josie, age 9 (3rd Grade Polo Elementary). Greg & Debby attend the Knoxville Community Church. Greg works full time as an Engineering, Maintenance & Production Process Coach for Ford Motor Company in Claycomo, MO and is the owner of Five Star Construction Services, LLC. Greg is deeply rooted in the community and serves on the Polo R-VII Education Foundation. He often volunteers his time and equipment to make improvements for the City Of Polo at Stagecoach Park as well as help other non-profit groups based here in Polo. He is a volunteer for the Polo Athletic Organization (PAO) and the People Who Care Organization (PWCO). Greg also volunteers as a coach for the Polo 3rd Grade Girls YMCA basketball team and for Polo Athletic Organization youth baseball/softball teams.

2) I have served on the board for the past 6 years and am seeking re-election. I'm very proud of the financial stability that has been provided for the patrons of the district during some difficult economic times. Currently Missouri schools are underfunded by as much as \$640 million. Good financial decisions have been critical during this time. Continuance of these good decisions will make more resources available for education and reduce the pressure to ask for more from the community. I am always willing to lend an ear to those in the community who have concerns. Some recent concerns have included common core. Have faith that my decisions will be made using common sense to achieve goals that are mandated. Common core is not a curriculum. We will determine how to meet the standards and I will fight against any instruction or textbook content that would compromise the ethics or morals of our students.

3) I will bring strong analytical and business skills acquired through my experience as a Six-Sigma Greenbelt. This will enable decisions that are in the best interest of the students and patrons of the district. I will recommend and fully support ideas that maximize the education of all students. Academic achievement will be my highest priority. Retaining, attracting and rewarding teachers who perform at a high level will also be a top priority. Academics will be considered first, athletics will be considered second with a push for the highest level of leadership and participation in each. I will hold myself accountable for my own decisions. My personal belief is that "we must figure out how to teach every child".

4) I have several goals. First and foremost....every child learning in every subject every year. A goal for the entire board has been that every child reads at or above grade level and that remains a top goal for me personally. Other goals include an increase in pay for our teachers. An exciting time for our community exists as we prepare to construct and launch a new Pre-K facility. The Polo R-VII School District has received \$981,875 in funding through a Community Development Block Grant and the Neighborhood Assistance Program to construct a 4,000 square foot Pre-K facility that will replace a temporary leased structure. This facility will be inviting and vibrant, allowing young children to get their education started in a safe and rewarding environment.

It's been an honor to serve on the board and represent you and I would greatly appreciate your vote for re-election. Thank you for your consideration.



### David Vaughan

1. I am a twelve year resident of the district with four children currently enrolled as students at Polo R-7. I am a Certified Public Accountant with eighteen years experience in the tax, audit and consulting services. I have been involved in many community and school activities though the years.
2. I have a strong desire to serve the children and patrons of our district. I believe the skills I could bring to the board would be benefit the district and I would like to help make a difference for our students.
3. My business, management and critical thinking skills will help me to guide district decisions while keeping fiscal conservatism in mind. I have a keen interest in the success of all our children for the good of our community and entire society.
4. I would like to see our students continue to be offered the most opportunities possible to prepare them for the challenges they're growing to meet academically, athletically, in the arts and socially.

### Ralph Zeikle

- 1) I'm a lifelong resident and a graduate of Polo. I graduated from CMSU with a degree in Safety Engineering & Business Management. I have farmed since graduating and raised my four children in Polo where they also graduated. I am on the Township Board and Cemetery Board.
- 2) I am running because of the children. A safe learning environment, student achievement and being financially responsible are my priorities.
- 3) I like to receive the information, digest it, and then make a decision that will be best for the students and/or the district.
- 4) I would like to see the test scores continue to rise and students being able to achieve academic excellence. This can be accomplished by hiring quality educators. I would also like to see the completion of the Early Childhood Center, which was received from a grant. We will move PAT and preschool under one roof and get rid of the modular which is presently being used. This will make a better learning environment. With a safe room in the building, we won't have to worry about moving our little ones to another building if the need would arise.

## What is the STAR Reading Test?

By Mrs. Esry

STAR, is an acronym, meaning "Standardized Test for the Assessment of Reading. STAR Reading is an online reading test for students. The program uses a combination of multiple choice style questions and traditional [reading comprehension](#) passages to assess a student's overall reading achievement. The program is designed to provide teacher's with individual student data quickly and accurately. It typically takes a student 10-15 minutes on the computer to complete an assessment and reports are available immediately. Students keep track of their own results on individual graphs and set goals for the next testing time. The Polo district tests all students K-6<sup>th</sup> grade quarterly using the STAR test. The results are sent home with the grade cards.

All STAR assessments are computer-adaptive tests (CATs). Computer-adaptive tests continually adjust the difficulty of each child's test by choosing each test question based on the child's previous response. If the child answers a question correctly, the difficulty level of the next item is increased. If the child misses a question, the difficulty level is decreased. CATs save testing time and spare your child the frustration of items that are too difficult and the boredom of items that are too easy. This is a similar component that will be on the new MAP tests next year.

**How can I help my child improve on the STAR test?** Make reading a priority in your house. Kids imitate parents, if a child sees a parent reading at night, then they are more likely to pick up a book and read too. Increased time at home reading is the best way to raise a reading test score. Read with your child taking turns. Ask questions about the story to make sure they comprehend what they are reading. Many parents of older students actually read the book their child is reading themselves so they can have book talks together.

STAR test results are sent home with each quarterly grade card. You may request to view your child's results online by contacting Mrs. Esry at the school number or at her e-mail address on the school web-site.

### ASK ALLI

1. A question I was asked was why dogs bark. To answer your question, dogs bark for the same reason that we talk. It is just their form of talking to the other dogs. We may not be able to understand what they are saying but other dogs can understand what they are saying.
2. I was asked what does 5,000,002 divided by 3 equal. The answer to your question is that it equals 1666666.3.
3. A student wanted to know how many days are in summer vacation. Unless we are out for any additional snow days we have 59 days. We have from May 22-August 20.
4. I was asked if I knew how to make a flashlight and if I knew how to make melted beads. To answer your question I have no idea how to make a flashlight. During the summer, I made a redneck flashlight which is catching a bunch of lightning bugs and putting them in a jar for a couple of hours then turning them loose afterwards. And yes, I do know how to make melted beads.
5. A first grader asked how people celebrate St. Patrick's Day. People celebrate it differently in different areas of the United States. A majority of people wear green because some people say that if you don't wear green then you will get pinched, so a majority of people just wear green. So, it is just completely up to you on what you want to do.
6. I got asked what you do in high school. Well, when it comes to what you do in high school, it depends on what you want to do. As far as sports we have football, softball, wrestling, basketball, track, and scholar bowl. We have groups called SADD, FBLA, and FFA. We have different classes that we can take. You have to take Language, Math, Science, and History, plus gym for two years for two quarters a year for two years. So we do a lot of things in **high school**.
7. A student asked me how sea turtles survive. With sea turtles, the mother comes up onto the beach and lays her eggs in the sand covering them up to keep them safe. When they hatch they dig their way out of the sand and crawl down to the ocean and go on their own.
8. A student asked why the grass is green. I wasn't sure quite how to answer that, so I turned to an expert, on all things green, Mr. Green. Mr. Green is the middle school science teacher, and teaches a physical science and astronomy class for high schoolers. He said that chlorophyll causes the grass to be green.

### GUESS THE PANTHER!!

#### Elementary



This person is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. His favorite color is green and his favorite band/singer is Lemonade Mouth. His favorite movie is Wreck-It Ralph and his favorite subject in school is science. When he grows up he wants to travel the world. He idolizes his grandpa because his grandpa is a hardworking man and he wants to be just like him.

#### Middle School



This person is in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. His favorite color is blue and his favorite band is Imagine Dragons. His favorite movie is Pitch Perfect and his favorite subjects in school are science and history. When he grows up he wants to be in the NFL or be a football coach.

#### High School



This person is a sophomore. His favorite color is Suzuki yellow and his favorite singer is Earl Dibbles Jr. His favorite movie is Nitro Circus and his favorite subject in school is agriculture science. When he grows up he wants to be a professional motocross rider. "I idolize Kevin Windham because, even though he is old and sore, he kept on racing, which is what I'm going to do."

## Brooke Boydston received 7th place at Regional Spelling Bee

Submitted Article



Brooke a 5th grader from Polo Elementary traveled to St. Joseph Saturday, March 8 and competed against 30 other 5th – 8th graders after winning 1st place at the Caldwell County Spelling Bee. She received 7th place at the Northwest Missouri Regional Spelling Bee sponsored by the St. Joseph News Press.

## Academic Honors for Softball Players

Congratulations to the Polo Panthers Softball Team for making it as a team for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row, with a Team GPA of 3.41.

Individual Honors go to the following players: Sidney Copeland, Adriana Segar, and Jessica Farmer. The requirements to make individual Academic All State are as follows- Must start in 70% of the games, must be a Sophomore or higher, Cumulative GPA after the fall of 2013 (unweighted) of a 3.5 or higher. An individual student athlete must either be ranked in top 25% of her class or attained a 24 on the ACT.

## Easter

By: Kaitlyn Adams

In April we celebrate Easter because it's the day Christ was resurrected. Eggs in general were a traditional symbol of rebirth. They symbolize the empty tomb of Jesus. The Easter Bunny comes from people celebrating spring coming again after the long harsh winter when plants and animals came back out. (Including the bunny!) I asked a couple people from our Polo high school what they do on Easter and the big ones were dying eggs, hiding them, spending time with their family, and eating candy.



### Cool way to color your eggs!

Things you need

- Shaving cream, food coloring, eggs and toothpicks

Here is what you do

1. Take some cheap white shaving cream and spread it out on a cookie sheet.
2. Dribble food coloring across the surface.
3. Use toothpicks to swirl it around in the shaving cream.
4. Take the egg and roll it around in the shaving cream. (You can use plastic sandwich baggies so you don't get dye on yourself.)
5. Sit the colored egg aside on a plate and let it sit for 5 minutes.
6. Then wipe the shaving cream off and rinse with water.

## Polo 7th & 8th grade 2nd place at CRBC Championship game

Submitted Article

The Polo 7th & 8th grade CRBC boys basketball team played in the Championship game last Saturday afternoon in Lawson at 4 pm against Plattsburg. The Polo team was trailing by 12 in the first quarter and battled back to compete in the remainder of the game. Polo fell short 42-49 at the final buzzer. The Polo team took home the 2nd place trophy and a winning season record of 8-2.



Front row: Jared Robison, Jaxon Umbaugh & Garrett Jones  
Back row: Coach Merle Fleener, James Fleener, Luke Cory, Dalton Frazier & Coach Randy Robison

## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR SKILLSUSA NORTHWEST DISTRICT CONTEST RESULTS FOR EXCELSIOR SPRINGS AREA CAREER CENTER

For Immediate Release  
March 11, 2014

Teresa Berry  
Excelsior Springs Area Career Center  
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Excelsior Springs, MO 64024  
816.630.9240  
tberry@estigers.k12.mo.us

Fifty-two SkillsUSA members at Excelsior Springs Area Career Center prepare their skills to compete against students from all over the state of Missouri from April 3-5 this year at Linn State College in Linn, MO. They earned this opportunity by excelling at our district level contests held in February. These students will be working hard in the next couple of weeks to earn money for their registration and travel expenses. It is estimated students need to earn up to \$7000.

Students are hosting a variety of fundraising activities this month. On March 22, they will host a school garage sale in the halls of the Excelsior Springs Area Career Center from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Chances to win bird houses and planters made by students will take place during the garage sale. On March 29, students have two events planned. From 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. they working a Flapjack Fundraiser at Applebee's in Excelsior Springs. Tickets for all-you-can-eat pancakes will be offered for \$6 each. You may purchase a ticket from a student or pay at the door. Additionally, on March 29, students have planned a car wash at AutoZone in Excelsior Springs from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The cost of the carwash is a donation with a \$5 minimum.

In addition, SkillsUSA members will be selling name brand household batteries including rechargeable. Other product sales including pizza cards are also in the planning stages. Donations toward the travel and registration fees are also welcome. To make a contribution, call 816.630.9240.

Students attend ESACC from surrounding schools including: Excelsior Springs, Kearney, Lathrop, Lawson, Liberty, Liberty North, Orrick, and Polo, MO. ESACC offers daytime programs in automotive technology, building trades, health services, electrical trades, computer support, heating/ventilation/air conditioning, firefighting, career exploration, and emergency medical technician-basic.

SkillsUSA is a national organization serving high school and college students and professional members enrolled in training programs in technical, skilled, and service occupations.

For more information on the SkillsUSA organization, go to [www.skillsusa.org](http://www.skillsusa.org).

\*\*\*Our local students that will be participating in this event are Logan Stump, Tyler Feil, Hailey Mattivi.\*\*\*

## Kindergarten Screening

By: Jessica Farmer

It is about that time of year again when school is wrapping up and summer is about to begin! But before all that, the incoming kindergarteners have to go through a screening. This isn't really what it sounds like. The screenings will involve going over the students' motor skills, language development, concepts, and then the usual hearing/vision tests.

I got to sit down and talk with last year's kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Silvey, as she explained all of the details for the screenings. She says that a kindergartner needs to have basic skills coming into school. These basic skills include: self help, color concepts, counting, letters, and reciting the alphabet. This is something very new for these students and will be a big change for them. Being able to sit down and follow directions will be a challenge for some. It will also be tough being away from Mom and Dad during the school day.

I asked Mrs. Silvey what the parents can do to prepare their child for the screening and coming into Kindergarten in general. She replied, "Help your child in being worry free. With supervision, allow your child to use pencils and scissors. Talking with them and just having a conversation at the dinner table with them can help a lot!" These are some great ways to prepare your child for this new chapter of their lives. Mrs. Silvey really emphasized sitting down and reading with your child. That is one of the best ways to help your child through school! Do the best you can and they will be the best they can be!

### Parents As Teachers Program

By: Hannah Beshears

I know some of you may be wondering what the program Parents as Teachers is all about. I had the chance to talk to Jamy Aubrey, the coordinator of this program and she gave me some information about it. This is a free program that is available to any parent, foster parent, or guardian in the Polo School district who is expecting a baby or has a child not yet in kindergarten.

This program is important because it helps children get prepared to enter school. This program starts once conception occurs in the mother and continues on until the child reaches kindergarten. This program teaches parents that they are the child’s first and best teachers. “When young children are given the right support and stimulation, they thrive emotionally, socially, and intellectually and will have a good foundation for success in their school work and in life. Parents as Teachers are here to support parents in helping their children learn and grow to their full potential,” said Jamy Aubrey.

This program offers different activities and services for their families. Family personal services are provided whenever parents have concerns about parenting and their child. There are group connections as well. Group connections are the opportunity for parents to support each other and observe their child playing with other children and to practice parenting skills. There are also health screenings to determine your child’s overall health, hearing and vision.

Some of the upcoming group connections activities are:

April-“Things that Go!”

May- “Popsicles in the Park.”

If you would like to enroll in Parents as Teachers contact Parent Educator, Jamy Aubrey at 660-354-2200 ext. 114.

### Elementary Perfect Attendance for 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter

Isaac Brashear, Thomas Menke, Ryan Robison, Jaeger Hicks, Merenda Segar, Levi Bolling, Tyler Carter, Collin Cope, Emily Gilmer, Madisyn Sales, Hanna Vaught, Jaryn Brashear, Ty Claypole, Cheyenne Cooper, Josie Misel, Donna Nelson, Gavin Norton, Ariel Pilger, Bobby Snapp, Cierra Stigger, Haley Aubrey, Jace Bolling, Chaz Morrison, Kaydence Norton, Jenee Qualman, Kolbie Richey, Da’Sean Tatum, Katelin Vaught, Dylan Bates, Cody Blackwell, Marisa Fickess, Gavin Fitzwater, Makayla Hilburn, Malcolm McNab, Will Vaughan, Amanda Whitt, Selena Gomez, Jacob Hurd, Andria Richardson, Ayrika Ross.

### Honor Roll for 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

“A”

Corryn Baird, Dylan Bates, Brooke Boydston, Mallory Clevenger, Marisa Fickess, Ashley Foster, Logan Garton, Maggie Martin, Will Vaughan

“B”

Cody Blackwell, Logan Chapman, Y’see Chorot, Kara Claypole, Lilly Cooper, Gavin Fitzwater, Halley Fleener, Connor Garton, Dillon Gilmer, Brady Hall, Makayla Hilburn, Jennica Jay, Thomas Kepler, Dillan McKee, Janissa Pickering, Killian Roark, Arianna Wolf, Kyle Zinna

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

“A”

Kelly Baldon, Alex Pilger, Trysten Wolf

“B”

Dominick Hoplin, Aaron Latimer, Katherine Nichols, Ayrika Ross, Wyatt Segar, Tayler Worley, Joseph Lopez

### Polo FFA receives Gold at Leadership Development Event

Last Thursday, March 13, the Polo FFA students competed at the Area Leadership Development Events held at the Gallatin High School. The following students received honors: Beginning Ownership: Austen Van Oster – Gold 2nd place, Beginning Placement: Jennifer Farmer – Gold 2nd place, Complete Ownership: Danielle Gurwell – Gold 2nd place, and Completed Placement: Parker Smith – Gold 2nd place. Jennifer Farmer received Gold for Creed Speaking. Alex Johnson a senior at Polo and Skylar Howe a junior represented the chapter in State FFA Officer Interviews. Darren Farmer is the Polo FFA Sponsor.



Austen Van Oster, Jennifer Farmer, Danielle Gurwell, Parker Smith, Skylar Howe and Alex Johnson.

### Polo FBLA hosts annual Senior Citizen Prom

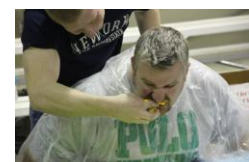
The Polo FBLA hosted their annual Senior Citizen Prom Saturday, March 15, at the Polo High School from 6-9 PM. The event is completely free to the public. All senior citizens are invited to attend the annual event. The theme this year was the “Roaring Twenties”. The FBLA served a buffet style meal that consisted of breaded baked chicken, brisket, scalloped potatoes, Samara Wormsley’s famous dinner rolls, lettuce salad, 5 cup salad and a variety of desserts. The meal was prepared by Samara Wormsley and Lynette Zinna. Rebecca Bolling from Timeless Photography provided photo opportunities. They provided a DJ and many participated in dancing throughout the evening. A silent auction was made possible from many area businesses and their generous donations. The Polo FBLA members vote each year on a prom King and Queen. This year the Prom King and Queen were Richard Hays and Millie McClain of Hamilton. The students who volunteered and worked the event were: FBLA President Mason Misel, Vice President Tristan Rardon, Secretary Aimee Walker, Treasurer Jenny Adams, Kylee Eaglen, Parker Smith, Kaitlyn Adams, Joely Hicks, Caleb Bolling, Skylar Howe, and Jacob Hicks. Ashley Arth is the Polo FBLA sponsor.



### Polo PTO holds Family Night at Book Fair

Submitted Article

The Polo Parents and Teachers Organization held their annual Book Fair in the Multipurpose gym at the Polo Elementary. Throughout the week students and adults were invited to come to the Book Fair and purchase their favorite books. The funds raised went towards purchasing books for each teacher’s classroom. Thursday evening from 6:30-8 PM the PTO sponsored Family Night. The theme of the Book Fair was Mexican Fiesta. There were fun games to play, a Maraca making station, book shopping and a Nacho Eating contest between some of the Polo teachers and coaches. The winner of the Nacho eating contest was Kyle Ross, head football coach and High School principal.



## Polo Varsity Scholar Bowl team beats Worth County & Braymer

Submitted Article

The Polo Scholar Bowl team traveled to Gallatin Monday, March 10, to participate in three conference matchups against Gallatin, Albany and Braymer. Polo beat Braymer 130-70, came up short against Albany 150-100 and fell short to Gallatin 130-80.

Monday, March 17, Polo traveled to Braymer for two more conference meets against Princeton and Worth County. Polo beat Worth County in a close game 140-130. After trailing by as much as 60 points Polo battled back and tried to snatch the win away from Princeton tying the score, but fell short by one answer to Princeton who won 190-180. Polo will host conference meets next week. Meets begin at 4 PM, on Monday, March 24.



## Track Season has Started Again!

By: Danielle Allen

Track season has finally started! Female team members are: Seniors- Amber Adams, Maria Rains, Loren Wagner, Juniors- Cati Boruch, Sidney Copeland, Adriana Segar, Sophomores- Jorgia Cory, Danielle Gurwell, Adriana Staus, Lisa Tackett, Freshman-Autumn Burton, Jennifer Farmer, Joely Hicks, Taylor Rash, KaLee Tarwater and Billie Thompson. For the boys, Seniors- Jonathan Shelton, Houston Stone, Juniors- Ryan Cooper, Jimmy Endsley, Jacob Hicks, Brandon Latimer, Wiley Martin, Tristan Rardon. Sophomores- Israel Alsbruy, Gage Aubrey, Wes Crawford, Brandon Hubbard, Josh Kesler, Dakota Smith, Parker Smith, Freshmen- Jake Leonard, Gunnar Martin, Alex Myers. Mangers: Jessica Farmer, Skylar Howe, Brooke Jones.

To get a closer inside view I talked to a few of the track stars. I asked 4-year track star, Amber Adams, about her experience from past years and her goals for this year. Amber has been in track for all of high school and I asked her what she wanted to run this year. She answered, "Well in the past I've run the 100 meter hurdles, 300 meter hurdles, 4x1 and 4x2. I've been to state in all of them before and would really like to go back! It's a great experience!" She added her favorite part of track was that it is a noncontact sport. Also, it is a mixture of individual competition, team work, and effort!

I also interviewed Cati Boruch, a three year track star. She said her favorite part of track was the people, coaches and winning! In the past Cati went to state in the 4x4 and the 4x2. She wants to fill up her letterman's jacket with more metals but she cannot do that without the support of her teammates and coaches!

First year star, Kalee Tarwater has never ran track in high school. She's excited to stay in shape and get as many medals as she can. Kalee wants to run the 4x4 and the 400 meter run. Practices aren't her favorite but she says "Practice makes perfect". That will help her meet her goal of getting as many medals as she can.

### Guess the Panther Answers:

Elementary: Bobby Snapp  
Middle School: Drake Burton  
High School: Dylan DeOrnellis

## Senior Spotlight

By: Kayla Eisman

### Amber Adams

1. If you had a plane ticket anywhere, where would you go?  
Maui, Hawaii
2. Who will you miss the most after graduation?  
Mason, Jonny, Aimee, Jacob, Brianna, Kylee, Cati, Tristan, Justin, Marianna, Emily.
3. Do you have a hidden talent nobody knows about?  
I'm a great cook.
4. If you were to pass an item/talent to someone after graduation what would you give them? Who would you give it to?  
I would give my singing talent to Mason Misel, because he begged me.
5. What is your favorite memory from Polo?  
Going to state. (track and solos)

### Erica Taylor

1. If you had a plane ticket anywhere, where would you go?  
Florida or California
2. Who will you miss the most after graduation?  
Amber and Ashley Adams, and Loren Wagner
3. Do you have a hidden talent nobody knows about?  
No
4. If you were to pass an item/talent to someone after graduation what would you give them? Who would you give it to?  
I don't really have any talents.
5. What is your favorite memory from Polo?  
Going to school every day and seeing my friends, also going to Ideal Industries every day.

### Justin Thompson

1. If you had a plane ticket anywhere, where would you go?  
Portsmouth, Iowa
2. Who will you miss the most after graduation?  
My Big T and Mr. Lefeber
3. Do you have a hidden talent nobody knows about?  
Underwater Basket weaving
4. If you were to pass an item/talent to someone after graduation what would you give them? Who would you give it to?  
I would give Tristan Rardon my height and my voice
5. What is your favorite memory from Polo?  
Being taught history by a 12 year old.

### Tyler Feil

1. If you had a plane ticket anywhere, where would you go?  
Texas
2. Who will you miss the most after graduation?  
I would miss my football brothers from this year.
3. Do you have a hidden talent nobody knows about?  
No
4. If you were to pass an item/talent to someone after graduation what would you give them? Who would you give it to?  
I would give my artistic ability to my brother.
5. What is your favorite memory from Polo?  
Standing out on the field with my brothers on senior night for football this year.

### Jack Pile

1. If you had a plane ticket anywhere, where would you go?  
Florida to visit my father and play some golf.
2. Who will you miss the most after graduation?  
Probably Tyler James and Ms.Arth
3. Do you have a hidden talent nobody knows about?  
Negative Ghost Rider
4. If you were to pass an item/talent to someone after graduation what would you give them? Who would you give it to?  
I would pass all I know about basketball to Parker.
5. What is your favorite memory from Polo?  
Drew and Hubbard fighting.

### Megan Standley

1. If you had a plane ticket anywhere, where would you go?  
Japan
2. Who will you miss the most after graduation?  
My friends and favorite teachers
3. Do you have a hidden talent nobody knows about?  
I write stories that I can publish on the internet.
4. If you were to pass an item/talent to someone after graduation what would you give them? Who would you give it to?  
I would give my talent of playing the clarinet to the newcomers in band.
5. What is your favorite memory from Polo?  
During band camp: I had my band friends come over for the week and during band camp we watched movies and indulged in junk food.

## Middle School Scholar Bowl

By: Billie Thompson

This year, the Middle School Scholar Bowl Team had twelve members. The members this year are eight graders Drake Burton, Sierra Dye, Garrett Jones, Micheal Knotts, Megan Latimer, Teagan Logan, Dylan Sales, Matthew Vaughan, and Abigail Walker and their seventh graders are Garion Hall, Steven Knotts, and Taylor Wagner. They sadly only won one match out of the five but they still played hard. They only played Cameron and Hamilton, which are both bigger schools than us. The coach this year was Senor Davis, he said "Overall the season went pretty well and in each game we played competitively".

I also talked to eighth grader Sierra Dye and she agreed with Coach Davis about how the season went. Sierra really enjoyed playing in the teacher's vs. student game even though they lost. The teachers that participated in that were Mr. Collins, Mr. Williams, Mr. Farmer, Mr. Pickrell, Mr. Green, and Mrs. Thompson. Overall Sierra felt like she did pretty well.

## Middle School Track Team

By: Hailey Mattivi

Mrs. Fickess is the middle school track team coach, and is very pleased with how the team has been doing. They performed very well especially in the four by four. They are ready to win. The team has done amazingly well. The team has had a lot of good wins in past years.

This is Mr. Davis's first year as the middle school track assistant coach. He believes that this is going to be a good year for the team. The team practices are going very well so far. They haven't had any problems.

There is a big team this year. There are 12 seventh graders and 10 eighth graders on the team because the middle school track is not just for running there is throwing as well. There are some very good players, they really work hard. The team works together to be the best. Everyone performs in their events. The first track meet is on April 14<sup>th</sup> at South Harrison. Then after that, they are at North Andrew on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

### No Child Left Behind information

Polo R-VII School District is required to inform parents of certain information they have the right to know, according to The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-11).

Upon request, our district is required to provide to parents in a timely manner, the following information:

- Whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.
- What baccalaureate degree major the teacher has and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification.

In addition to this information, school districts must also provide to each individual parent:

- Information on the achievement level of the parent's child in each of the state academic assessments as required under NCLB; and
- Timely notice that the parent's child has been assigned or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.

If you would like more information about the requirements of NCLB, please contact Monica Palmer at Polo Elementary School.

## Get Your Questions Ready: High School Scholar Bowl

By: Mattie Curp

This year, there are 12 people, including four senior boys on the scholar bowl team. These boys are Justin Thompson, Tyler James, Dylan Fry, and Logan Stump. Justin Thompson has been on scholar bowl for 2 years and is a solid multi-topic player. Tyler James has been on scholar bowl all 4 years of high school and his strength is science. This is Dylan Fry's 1<sup>st</sup> year on the team and his strength is math. Logan Stump has also been on the team all 4 years and his strength is social studies.

Mrs. Snodgrass is the high school math teacher and is passionate about scholar bowl. The team goal this year is to return to the state playoffs for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year. Mrs. Snodgrass said, "Our team is 100% capable of returning to state. Each year we have a different 'mix' of students, with different backgrounds and interests, but somehow we find four individuals whose strengths complement one another and form a team. There are always the uncertainties of questions and topics in each game, but with hard work and a little luck, we plan to be in Columbia, Missouri May 9<sup>th</sup>."

## 2014 After Prom

By: Aimee Walker

Prom is one of many huge events taking place during the school year, with After Prom immediately following. After Prom serves as a safe alternative to letting the students go out and make reckless choices. The students who show up are not allowed to leave unless they have a parents' permission, and if they stay, they stay all night and are served an early morning breakfast by the cooks! Students can attend After Prom at the school and enjoy a fun and safe night with their friends, while being entertained.

This year at After Prom there is said to be a giant "party box" that students can go inside of and it plays loud music, with neon lights and it blows out silly string at the students. If you get to use the party box, you should bring some extra clothes! Parents have gotten several businesses to sponsor After Prom, such as Sonic in Richmond. Sonic is donating free food to the students attending and gift cards!

Businesses in all neighboring towns often donate money for prizes, material prizes and gift certificates. Some of the prizes range from small items such as an iPod or DVD player or even as big as a flat screen television or an Xbox 360! Everyone loves After Prom because of the awesome prizes they have a chance of winning.

Also at After Prom there are several entertaining activities being run to keep the students entertained and happy. At previous After Prom's there have been miniature bicycle races, bounce houses, 'sumo' wrestling and other fun challenges. Many teachers, other staff members, and parents attend After Prom, serving as chaperones to ensure the students have a fun and safe night. The adults stick around to make sure nothing inappropriate or dangerous happens and to make sure everyone is enjoying themselves.

After Prom is said to be the best part of prom altogether, and personally, I can't wait! Most students who have been to prom will tell you the same, that they had a blast with all their friends and other students at After Prom. As long as everyone follows the rules and enjoys themselves, it should be a great night. Prom will surely be a great experience for everyone, and hopefully the After Prom will make everyone's night even more memorable.

## **ATTENTION!**

**Yearbooks are on sale now for \$45.**

**Get yours before the April 25 deadline.**

## April 2014 Activities Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 *FFA TSA Districts @ Maryville *V Track @ North Platte 4 pm	2 *FFA TSA Districts @ Maryville *Kindergarten Screening	3	4 *Band-State Large Group Festival @ Maryville *K-1 <sup>st</sup> Field Trip	5 *Spaghetti Dinner for After Prom @ Prairie Ridge Church 5-8 pm
6	7 *Late Start 10:47 am *V Track vs. Lathrop @ Excelsior Springs 4 pm	8 *PAT Group Connection Mtg 5-6:30 pm *Dental Varnish Application in MP 8-Noon *Cheerleading Practice 5:30-6:30 pm in HS Gym	9 *Area FFA Awards Night @ Chillicothe 6:30 pm *Cheerleading Practice 5:30-6:30 pm in HS Gym	10 *Cheerleading Tryouts 5:30 pm in HS Gym	11 *V Track @ William Jewell TBA	12 *Scholar Bowl 2-8 pm
13 *State FBLA	14 *State FBLA *MS Track @ S. Harrison 3:30 pm	15 *State FBLA *V Track @ Rock Port Blue Jay Relays 1:30 pm	16	17 *Early Out 11:20 am *MS Track @ N. Andrew 4 pm	18 *Spring Break	19
20	21 *BOE Mtg 7 pm *Spring Break	22 *V Track @ Cameron Invitational 3 pm *MS Track @ Lexington Invitational 4 pm	23 *3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Field Trip	24	25 *V Track @ Brookfield Relays 11:30 am *4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip	26 *Jr/Sr Prom @ Polo Community Bldg 8-11 pm
27	28 *V Track @ Lawson Invitational 4 pm	29 *MS Track @ Lawson 4 pm	30 *Scholar Bowl 5 pm			

## April 2014 Menu

Menu is subject to change.  
Each meal includes one milk.  
Extra drinks are available for 30¢.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1 Pop Tart, Ham, Fruit Chicken Fajita, Spanish Rice, Fruit	2 Breakfast Pizza, Fruit Sloppy Joe, Corn, Fruit	3 French Toast Sticks, Sausage, Fruit Ravioli, Green Beans, Fruit	4 Biscuit, Sausage Gravy, Fruit Grilled Cheese, Soup, Fruit
7 Late Start – No Breakfast Creamy Chicken over Biscuit, Mixed Vegetables, Fruit	8 Pop Tart, Ham, Fruit Corndog or Burrito, Pinto Beans, Fruit	9 Breakfast Pizza, Fruit Meatball Sub, Green Beans, Fruit	10 French Toast Sticks, Sausage, Fruit Chicken Pattie on Bun, Corn, Fruit	11 Donut, Ham, Fruit Shrimp, Peas, Fruit
14 Cereal, Oatmeal, Fruit Chicken Quesadilla, Corn, Fruit	15 Pop Tart, Ham, Fruit Chicken Nuggets, Green Beans, Fruit	16 Breakfast Pizza, Fruit Hotdog on Bun, Baked Beans, Fruit	17 Donut, Ham, Fruit Early Out – No Lunch – Spring Break	18 No School – Spring Break
21 No School – Spring Break	22 Cereal, Oatmeal, Fruit Breakfast Pizza for Lunch, Corn, Fruit	23 Pop Tart, Ham, Fruit Beef Sticks, Mashed Potatoes, Fruit	24 French Toast Sticks, Sausage, Fruit Biscuit with Sausage Gravy, Hashbrown, Fruit	25 Donut, Ham, Fruit Turkey on Bun, Carrots, Fruit
28 Cereal, Oatmeal, Fruit Pasta with Meat Sauce, Green Beans, Fruit	29 Pop Tart, Ham, Fruit Sweet and Sour Chicken, Oriental Vegetables, Fruit	30 Breakfast Pizza, Fruit Thanksgiving/Christmas, Easter/Holiday/Big/Senior Dinner		

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