



POLO R-VII SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Panther Pride

February/March Activities

January Volume 5, Issue 2

February Activities

- 2- *No School Teacher In-Service
- 3- *Court warming Week
- *Varsity Wrestling/JV @ Carrollton 6:00 p.m.
- *Varsity BB vs. South Harrison 6:00 p.m.
- *Shelton BB Team Practice 3:15-4:30 p.m. in MP RM
- 4- *Booster Club Mtg. 5:30 p.m.
- *Pee Wee Wrestling Practice 6-8:00 p.m.
- *FFA Chapter Meeting 7:00 p.m. @ the Ag Bldg
- 5- *Varsity/JV BB vs. Braymer 5:00 p.m.
- w/Court warming Coronation
- 6- *Court warming Dance 8:00-11:00 p.m.
- *Shelton BB Team Practice 3:15-4:30 p.m. in MP RM
- 7- *GRC Honor Choir Concert 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. @ Bethany
- *Pee Wee Wrestling Tournament TBA
- 9- *JV BB vs. Maysville 6:00 p.m.
- *Pee Wee Wrestling Practice 6-8:00 p.m.
- *Shelton BB Team Practice 3:15-4:30 p.m. in MP RM
- 10- *Varsity/JV @ Stanberry 5:00 p.m.
- 11- *FFA Area Proficiency Selection & Star Interviews
- *PDC Mentor/Mentee Mtg. 3:15-4:00 p.m.
- *Pee Wee Wrestling Practice 6-8:00 p.m.
- 12- *JV BB @ Gallatin 6:00 p.m.
- *Shelton BB Team Practice 3:15-4:30 p.m. in MP RM
- 13- *Varsity Wrestling MSHSAA Super District Tournament 6:00 p.m.
- *Varsity BB vs. Worth County 6:00 p.m. w/Senior Night
- *K-4th Valentine Parties 2:15 p.m.
- 14- *Band to Richmond JH Contest
- *Varsity Wrestling MSHSAA Super District Tournament 6:00 p.m.
- *CRBC BB 9:00 a.m
- 15- *FFA Week
- 16- *No School -President's Day
- 17- *Varsity/JV BB vs. King City 5:00 p.m.
- *MS Academic Team @ Hamilton
- *Shelton BB Team Practice 3:15-4:30 p.m. in MP RM
- *Aubrey BB Team Practice 3:15-4:15 p.m. in HS Gym
- 18- *BOE Meeting 7 p.m.
- *Pee Wee Wrestling Practice 6-8:00 p.m.
- 19- *Varsity BB @ Maysville 6:00 p.m.
- *Varsity Wrestling MSHSAA State Championships @ Columbia
- *MS Academic Team @ Cameron
- *Aubrey BB Team Practice 3:15-4:30 p.m. in HS Gym
- 20- *Shelton BB Team Practice 3:15-4:30 p.m. in MP RM
- *FFA Junior & Seniors to Farm Show
- 21- *CRBC BB 9:00 a.m.
- 22- *National FFA Week
- 22nd-28th
- 23- *Varsity BB District Tournament TBA
- *Pee Wee Wrestling Practice 6-8:00 p.m.
- *Shelton BB Team Practice 3:15-4:30 p.m. in MP RM
- 24- *Aubrey BB Team Practice 3:15-4:30 p.m. in MP RM
- 25- *Pee Wee Wrestling Practice 6-8:00 p.m.
- *Aubrey BB Team Practice 3:15-4:30 p.m. in MP RM
- 26- *MS Academic Team vs. Cameron
- *Shelton BB Team Practice 3:15-4:30 p.m. in MP RM
- 28- *CRBC BB 10:00 a.m

Polo brings home Championship Trophy

Submitted Article

The Polo basketball teams played in the 2015 Osborn Invitational Tournament this past week. The Polo Lady Panthers came away with the Championship title and trophy. This was a new tournament for the Panther teams as they have participated in the Lathrop Tournament for the past several years. Monday night the #1 seeded Polo Lady Panthers played the #8 seeded Union Star. Polo ran away with that game and beat the Lady Trojans 67-9. Sidney Copeland and Adriana Segar led their team both having 8 rebounds; Copeland scored 17 and Segar 13 points, while Jenni Farmer added 9, Danielle Allen and Cati Boruch 7 each, Brooke Jones 5, Jessica Farmer, Autumn Burton, Sondra Sumpter and Hailee Curp each added 2 for the win.

Thursday night at the early game Polo faced the #5 seeded DeKalb Tigers. This game was much closer. Polo came out ready to play and outscored the Tigers 16-9 in the first quarter. In the second quarter DeKalb picked up momentum and at half time the score was Polo 32 - DeKalb 21. At the end of the third quarter DeKalb continued to close the gap in the score and were down by 10 with Polo at 46 and DeKalb 36. The Lady Panthers maintained their lead and took the victory beating DeKalb 55-47 at the last buzzer of the game. Leading the Panthers was Copeland with 24 points and 11 rebounds, Segar added 13 points and 10 rebounds, Boruch 6, Allen 4, Jones and Jenni Farmer 3 added 3 each and Hailee Curp 2.

The win over DeKalb placed the Lady Panthers team in the Championship game against the Pattonsburg Lady Panthers who were seeded #3. Pattonsburg came out charged and took an early 9-8 lead in the first quarter. Polo offense was sparked late in the first quarter by sophomore Jenni Farmer who hit a lay-up to bring Polo ahead 10-9. Soon after senior Brooke Jones hit a 3 pointer from the corner and added the momentum Polo was missing earlier in the first quarter. Polo post, senior Danielle Allen got a pass inside from Farmer and made the bucket to put Polo on top 17-15 just before the buzzer.

Polo added 14 points to their score in the second quarter and held Pattonsburg to 6. At halftime Polo led 31-21. Pattonsburg came out fighting to get back in the game and outscored Polo 21 to 10 in the fourth quarter, but it was too late in the game as Polo defended their lead and won the Championship 57-51. Polo's team leader was Adriana Segar with 16 points, 9 rebounds and 7 steals. Copeland added 12 points, Allen 10 points and 14 rebounds, Jones 8 points (two-3's), Jenni Farmer 8 points, and Cati Boruch 3. Adriana Segar and Sidney Copeland were selected to the All- Tournament team.

Coach Keith had this to say about his team's effort during the Osborn Tournament, "The girls girls performed great this week to take home the Osborn Tournament Championship. We dealt with some adversity through the semifinals and title game with injuries, while also learning how to win close games in pressure situations. I was extremely proud of the way our girls handled such adversity to get the job done. Everyone that played in the games contributed in key ways. Those that did not brought intense energy and enthusiasm from the bench, something that we will need moving forward. I appreciate all the Polo fans that came out and supported our girls for the big game!"

PHOTO:

Front row: Sidney Copeland, Cati Boruch, Hailee Curp, Brooke Jones, Jessica Farmer, Danielle Allen and Adriana Segar.

Back row: Coach Darian Warner, Josh Lefeber, Jenni Farmer, Billie Thompson, Nicole Joy, Sondra Sumpter, Breezy Hutcheson, Hanna Curp, Autumn Burton and Greg Keith.



March Activities

- 2- *No School - Teacher In-Service
- *Scholars Bowl @ Albany 4:00 p.m.
- 4- *Varsity BB Sectionals TBA
- *Pee Wee Wrestling Practice 6-8:00 p.m.
- 6- *End of 3rd Quarter
- *FFA TSA/IRC @ Brunswick
- 7- *Varsity BB Quarterfinals TBA
- *Youth Wrestling USA District Tournament 9:00 a.m.

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Excelsior Springs Area Career Center Holds Mock Interviews

Submitted Article

On Thursday, January 15, representatives from the business and industry sectors stepped in to interview seniors and interested juniors in their respective career and technical programs during a mock interview at Excelsior Springs Area Career Center (ESACC). Liz Smith, ESACC Career Services Coordinator, and Stacy Holtzclaw, ESACC English IV instructor, set up this event to help prepare students for lifetime interviewing skills.

Although the Career Center has held student job interviews for many years, this is only the second year that representatives from students' program areas were the ones to interview the students. This practice serves students better because they have individuals that ask technical and skill questions along with the general interviewing questions. Even if high school students do not have much job experience, they need to be prepared to answer interview questions. This opportunity gave students the chance to see how they would perform in a real interview without an actual job on the line.

Students were scored on their professionalism, which included professional dress, their resume, and their responses to their interview questions. They prepared for the interview in English IV class, which is integrated technical English offered at the Career Center, where they discussed all aspects of job preparation and prepared responses for interview questions. All seniors were required to participate in the interview and received a grade for it in their English class. Students interview with individuals from industry. This event would not be a success without the participation of individuals from business and industry. A big thanks to our community members for investing in the futures of students! The following individuals interviewed students at ESACC's annual Mock Interviews:

- 3D Animation & Digital Media: Marty Williams, KC Sports Net, Teresa Berry, ESACC
- Automotive Technology: Gene White, Roberts Robinson Chevrolet Buick GMC
- Carpentry/Construction Technology: Aaron Lefebvre, Owen Lumber and Garret Syler, Syler Construction
- Electrical Trades: Delaina Morse, Morse Electric
- EMT-Basic: Chief Paul Tribble, ESFD, Scott Williams, KFSD, and Asst. Chief Larry Radley, LFSD
- Fire Fighter I & II: Chief Paul Tribble, ESFD and Scott Williams, KFSD
- Health Services: David Slover, Cameron VA and Christy Marker, Excelsior Springs Hospital
- HVAC: Matt Cattau, LBA Heating and Cooling
- Web Development: Mark Holtzclaw, Sprint

Delaina Morse, of Morse Electric, has interviewed Electrical Trades students for the past three years. Delaina stated, "I always look forward to these interviews as they are part of the future workforce. I was very impressed at how prepared some of the students were this year. Their professionalism was better than some of the adults I have interviewed for actual positions in our company. They were able to carry on conversations without using the words "um" and "like" in every sentence. It was encouraging to see that most of the students had a pretty good idea of where they were headed in the future and were making steps toward these goals."

The top student from each judge will go on to a second round of interviews to be held on Friday, January 23. This time, all interviewers will face a panel of three judges. The top three candidates will go on to compete at the District SkillsUSA contest in February. Randy Barnes, Carpentry and Construction Technology instructor, stated, "The benefit that the students receive from practicing real life interviews with actual business and industry professionals is immeasurable."

The Career Center hopes to continue this partnership with local communities by partnering with business and industry members to offer job shadowing and internship opportunities to students. If you are interested in partnering with the Excelsior Springs Area Career Center or would like to find out more information, please contact Liz Smith at (816) 630-9240 ext. 6 or esmith@estigers.k12.mo.us.

A Honor Roll

7 th Grade	8 th Grade
Kelly Baldon	Steven Knotts
Alex Pilger	
Trysten Wolf	

Polo wins over Union Star

Submitted Article

The Polo Varsity basketball boys team played in the Osborn Tournament this past week. Polo came in seeded #5 and played the #4 seeded Stewartsville team on Monday night. Polo got off to a great start and was leading 10-2 at the end of the first quarter. Polo held that lead going into half-time 19-14 over the Cardinals. Both teams played with intensity and hustle. Polo maintained their lead at the end of the third quarter 30-28. After Polo led each quarter, Stewartsville snatched the victory from the Panthers in the final minutes of the game beating them by seven at the final buzzer 45-38.

Parker Smith led his team with 20 points, 10 rebounds, 5 steals and 1 block. Jason Thompson added 6 and 3 rebounds, James Fleener added 5 points, 3 steals and 3 rebounds, Jesse Vaughn 4, Mason Misel 2 with 7 rebounds and Michael Leamer 1. Coach Pickrell said this after the game, "This was a very entertaining basketball game from the standpoint that both teams played with a lot of intensity and energy on defense. We played really well defensively, but just had a hard time handling the pressure that their defense put on our guards. We had the lead with three and a half minutes to go, but just ran out of juice at the end and they hit some tough shots. Just have to continue to put work in at practice on our weaknesses and we will continue to improve."

Polo played the #8 seeded Union Star team on Wednesday. Polo gelled as a team and the scoreboard showed their ability to play good offense. Four key players scored double digits. Polo beat Union Star 61-27. This win put them in the Consolation game on Friday night against the Pattonsburg Panthers. Smith scored 14 points, 9 rebounds, 9 steals, and 3 blocks, Misel scored 11 points and had 2 blocks, Fleener had 10 points, 5 rebounds and 4 steals, Thompson had 10 points and 4 rebounds, Brandon Hubbard 8 points, Leamer 4, Tristan rardon 2 and Gage Aubrey 2. Coach Pickrell commented, " This was our best offensive performance of the year so far! The boys played great team ball and worked the ball into score from passing to the open man. We made twenty-six shots and twenty-one of them were from assists from a teammate so that is really exciting to see the boys play together as a team. I was also very impressed with our defensive intensity after the first quarter with holding them to three points thru two full quarters of play. You don't see that too often so it was nice to see the boys play so well on both sides of the ball."

Friday night Polo played an aggressive Pattonsburg team in the Consolation game. Polo scored the first points of the game by senior Mason Misel, but soon Pattonsburg found their rhythm and outscored Polo 15-6 at the end of the first quarter. Polo scored 11 points in the second quarter to close the gap while Pattonsburg added 12 points. Polo could not get shots to fall. Going in to half-time Polo trailed by ten, 27-17. Polo continued to struggle to find their groove offensively and fell to the Pattonsburg team 58-45. Smith and Fleener both scored 14, Fleener added 11 rebounds and 2 steals, Misel 10 and 6 rebounds, Hubbard 6 and 4 rebounds, and Tristan Rardon 1. After the game, Coach Pickrell stated, "We really struggled to put the ball in the hole vs Pattonsburg. We had a lot of open looks close to the basket and just weren't able to convert. Overall, just a rough shooting performance from the floor. I was pleased with the boys effort down by twenty-one at the start of the fourth quarter and instead of throwing in the towel, the boys picked up the intensity and brought the game down to single digits before having to put them on the line at the end of the game. Really pleased with the energy we have been playing with lately, but have a really, really brutal schedule coming up the next two weeks with games vs. Gallatin, Winston, and the very talent heavy Hamilton tournament. Have to continue to bring the energy and effort every night and keep fighting on the defensive side of the floor."

Parker Smith was honored and selected to the Osborn All-Tournament team.

Guess the Panther

By: Aimee Walker

Elementary: This Panther is in the 3rd grade. Her favorite subject in school is Math, and her best friend is Addie Banks. Her role model is her older sister and her favorite T.V. show is Full House. She has two pets, a dog named Charlie and a cat named Izzy.

High School: This Panther is a junior in high school who enjoys her job at the ice cream shop and spending time with her boyfriend. She loves listening to country music and she has a twin brother. Her favorite teachers are Mr. Farmer and Mr. Lefebvre.

Teacher: This Panther is a teacher who loves to go golfing, but his favorite sport is football. His kids have two cats, Stormtrooper and Pumpkin. His favorite movies are all of the original Star Wars movies. He grew up in Kingston, Missouri and his favorite song is "Jungleland" by Bruce Springsteen.

Ask Allie

By: Aerial Eggers

1. What are the most challenging things about high school?
 - Being able to manage your time and keeping up with classes and homework, along with having a social life is the biggest challenge.
2. How can you get involved in school?
 - There are many clubs and organizations you can join such as SADD, FBLA, and FFA. Aside from clubs, sports are the best way to get involved and get your name out there and acquire many friends.
3. How do you manage your time at home and social life with school?
 - Make sure school comes first. Don't get caught up in being the "cool kid." Manage your time wisely and make good choices that will not intertwine with school. The decisions you make now can have lifelong effects so be smart with everything you do.
4. How do you sustain good grades along with GPA?
 - Put your focus on SCHOOL. Do your homework. Do not slack off because as soon as you know it you will be behind in classes. If you let your grades slip, your GPA slips and you need to be able to hold a high GPA if you're planning to attend college.

Polo faced two tough teams

Submitted Article

Last week in Panther basketball Polo hosted the talented Gallatin Bulldogs basketball squad on Tuesday night, January 20. Polo put up 11 points while Gallatin worked in 23 at the end of the first quarter. Polo added 8 more points in the second quarter while Gallatin added 20 making it 43-19 at the half. Polo scored a total of 9 points in the second half and managed to slow down the Bulldogs offense only allowing them to score 19 more points. The Bulldogs beat Polo 62-28. Turnovers seem to be the Panthers weakness right now, but continue to improve on this each game.

Leading the Panthers was Parker Smith with 9 points, 12 rebounds, 4 steals and 1 blocked shot, Jason Thompson and Jesse Vaughn added 6 points each, Brandon Hubbard 3, and James Fleener and Michael Leamer both added 2.

Polo traveled north to Winston to take on the Redbirds Friday, January 23. It was Winston's Homecoming basketball game and the boy's team wore the school's 1983 retro all red warm-ups and jerseys to compete against the Panthers. Polo came into this game knowing the Redbirds were a quick, aggressive team with several key scoring players. Winston had a 16-2 record coming to this match-up, only losing to Class 2 Gallatin and and Class 1 Osborn both close games. So, Polo knew they had their work cut out for them. Senior Mason Misel scored the first point of the game for Polo and the only basket for the Panthers in the first quart. Misel got fouled and shot two from the line and sank both free throws in the first quarter as well. Winston blew by Polo using a successful press ending the first quarter Polo 4 and Winston 19. Winston coach, Tim Harding, subbed in his second and equally talented team in the second quarter and Polo scored 8 while Winston added 6 to their score ending the first half of the game Polo 12 and Winston 25. Polo added 4 points in the third quarter, but played great defense slowing up the Winston offense for a period. Polo continued to struggle with turnovers while Winston added 14 team points as they found their offensive momentum. Winston beat the Panthers in a high paced game 52-26.

Senior Mason Misel led his team with 9 points. 7 rebounds and 4 blocked shots. Parker Smith added 8 points and 4 rebounds, Tristan Rardon 3 (one- 3 pointer), Gage Aubrey, James Fleener and Jesse Vaughn all added 2 points each. Jason Thompson had 8 rebounds while Rardon had 3 steals and Brandon Hubbard 2. After the game Coach Pickrell had this to say, "Winston's press really caused us fits in the first half. We played pretty sloppy, but were still only down by ten in the third quarter before Winston really locked down on defense and forced us into some bad decisions. We are gaining experience game by game and I think it is going to pay off over time. We are learning from our mistakes offensively and defensively right now and trying to fix them heading into Hamilton Tournament."

Polo will compete in the Hamilton Invitational Tournament on Monday night at 6 pm against the #2 seeded Hamilton Hornets.



Polo senior Mason Misel sinks two free throws as he leads his team against Winston.

Polo falls to Gallatin and snatches the win over Winston

Submitted Article

The Polo Lady Panthers faced a Class 2 team (Polo is now Class 2 as well) last week against the Gallatin Bulldogs as they hosted them in Polo on Tuesday, January 20. Polo got off to a rough start missing key shots. Gallatin pulled away from Polo scoring 13 points to Polo's 3 in the first quarter. Gallatin added 15 points in the second quarter while Polo scored 6. At half time Gallatin led Polo 28-9. Polo came out of the locker room at half time fired up and scored 20 points in the third quarter while Gallatin scored 15. The Lady Panthers closed the gap in the Gallatin's lead to 10 at the end of the third quarter. Gallatin outscored the Panthers 12 -6 in the fourth quarter and captured a Conference win over them with a final score of 51-35.

Sidney Copelnad led her team with 18 points and 6 rebounds, Adriana Segar added 8 points and 6 rebounds, Jenni Farmer 5, Jessica Farmer 2 and Cati Boruch 2.

Polo was matched up with the Winston Lady Redbirds Friday, January 23, in Winston. What started out as a close battle between two talented teams ended with a victorious win for the Lady Panthers at the final buzzer. Winston competed closely until two of their key players got into foul trouble in the second half of the game, and Polo took advantage of the situation. At the end of the first quarter Polo led by one, 10-9. At half time they were still hanging on to the lead by 6 with a score of Polo 25 and Winston 19. Polo seems to play well in the third quarter during their games and this one was no different. Polo outscored Winston 17-2 in the third quarter bringing the score to Polo 42 - Winston 21. Polo scored 10 points as the battle to the buzzer continued and Winston scored 4 in the fourth quarter. Polo snatched away the win with a final score of 52-25.

Polo was led by two senior players Sidney Copeland with 17 points (two - 3 pointers) and Danielle Allen with 14 points and 9 rebounds. Brooke Jones added two 3 - pointer for 6 points, Jenni Farmer and Cati Boruch both added 4, Jessica farmer and Hailee Curp both added 2 points.

Coach Greg Keith stated, "The girls this week played two very quality opponents but we only able to come away with one win. Against Gallatin, poor shooting in the first half put us in a hole that was too much to dig out of and you just can't do that against a very talented team like them. On Friday night, our shooting was a bit better but our defense and rebounding were keys to the victory. We held Winston to 6 points in the second half. With our inconsistencies in our shooting right now, it is important that we buy in defensively and limit teams to one chance to score each possession. All 19 girls are competing very hard in practices and games during the most important stretch of our schedule."

Polo is seeded #7 in the Hamilton Tournament this week. Polo will play the #2 seeded Braymer Lady Bobcats on Monday, January 26, at 4:30 PM.



(Above left) Polo Senior Jessica Farmer #21 guarding senior Miranda Weigand. (Above right) Polo senior Adriana Segar #11 drives to the basket.

Sidney Copeland scored her 1,000th point

Submitted Article

On January 6, 2015, Polo senior Sidney Copeland hit her 1,000th basketball point at the Princeton vs. Polo game in Princeton. The Polo girls basketball coach, Greg Keith, honored his player at the home game last week with a painted basketball (painted by Polo Art teacher, Mrs. Fickess' Art class student, Jessica Farmer) and plaque.



Human Trafficking Awareness Day

By: Autumn Burton

Human Trafficking Awareness Day is to dedicating to raise awareness of sexual slavery and human trafficking worldwide. It started in 2007, when the U.S. Senate designated January 11th as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Although it is a U.S. initiative, the United Nations has begun to highlight this topic and are working towards global awareness. The average cost of a slave today would be around \$90. About 2 million children a year are victims of trafficking.

A few common safety tips to avoid trafficking:

1. Do not walk alone in very populated areas.
2. Never go anywhere with someone you don't know.
3. Check your kids Facebook or other social media pages.
4. Avoid employment offers that come through the internet.

Human Trafficking top events and things to do.

- Talk to children about strangers and make sure they memorize important addresses and phone numbers.
- Make a donation to an organization such as Unisex and Polaris Project that fights human trafficking.

Valentine's Day

By Jennifer Adams

Nowadays, Valentine's Day is spent with your significant other, maybe going out for a nice meal and generally resulting in getting a box of chocolates and some flowers. Or if you're single, it usually ends up with lying around and moaning and groaning about how you're single, or how you don't need a partner in your life. Either way, have you ever wondered how it all started? Did a guy randomly give a girl a nice gift and all other guys thought it was a good idea? Is Valentine's Day just a day to suck up to your one and only? Not quite!

While there are quite a few legends suggesting what Valentine's Day might really be about, one of the most popular ones is that there was a priest named Saint Valentine, and he was from the third century. Emperor Claudius II outlawed marriage for young men because he thought it distracted them when they were supposed to be under his command. Valentine supposedly married young couples in secret and was later ordered to be put to death. People thought that was romantic and soon wanted to show their significant others some affection.

Another legend suggests that while in prison, Valentine fell in love with a girl that was the jailor's daughter. He wrote her a love letter and signed it "From your Valentine" and that salutation has been used ever since as a term of endearment.

I asked a random person what the best gift a person could get their partner on Valentine's Day was, and they replied with, "Not something cliché like roses. It would be cute if they actually got creative with it and maybe planned a cool new date to go on." Chocolates and roses might get boring after a few Valentine's Day, so why not start early and plan something new and unforgettable for this upcoming Valentine's Day!

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

By: Lisa Tackett



Martin Luther King Jr. Day was celebrated on January 19th this year. He was born on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. He was born with the name Michael King Jr. but later changed it to Martin Luther because it had a 'ring' to it. He went to Booker T. Washington School for high school. After high school he attended Boston University, Morehouse College, and Crozer Theological Seminary. When he was done with his schooling he went on to become a minister and a civil rights activist. He is most famous for his "I Have a Dream" speech on August 23, 1963, at the Lincoln Memorial. MLK (Martin Luther King Jr.) was standing on the balcony of his hotel in Memphis, Tennessee on April 4, 1968, when he was shot by James Earl Ray.

To commemorate his life we have the Monday after his birthday off. This year his birthday is on a Friday, therefore, Monday, January 19th we were out of school. All federal locations will be closed including schools, banks, post office, etc. I asked Matthew Ham what he did on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, he said he slept in, went to work, went home and went to bed. Mainly people will sleep in but otherwise people mainly will spend the day with their families and outdoors if it is warm enough.

Social Media

By: Cheyenne Parker

Social networking has taken the online world by storm, but there are several reasons why social networking is not good. Whether you use Facebook and Twitter for personal or business reasons it's best to use caution.

Why are Yik Yak and Facebook two of the worst social media sites? Aerial Eggers said "Yik Yak can go both ways. It's just a problem starter, but if you don't want it said, don't do it." Kids can find out opinions, secrets, rumors, and more. Plus, they'll get the bonus thrill of knowing all these have come from a 1.5-mile radius according to Brooks Buffington and Tyler Droll. Yik Yak is a location-based app that creates an anonymous social chat room where up to 500 nearby users connect through GPS tracking on their phones. "Yik Yak is a drama starter." said Autumn Burton. Out of the approximately 1,000 status updates, links or photos that you have accessed on Facebook in the last month, name one that, allowed you to make a better decision about a serious matter affecting your life, your career or your business. Deleting your Yik Yak and Facebook profiles aren't easy, but it's worth it.

There are tons of social media websites that are bad for us to be using. For example, there is Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, Kik, Tumblr, and tons more. Snapchat's creators intended the app's fleeting images to be a way for teens to share fun, light moments without the risk of having them go public. Most teens use it for sending goofy or embarrassing photos to one another. Photos and videos shared on Instagram are public unless privacy settings are adjusted. Instagram unites the most popular features of social media sites: sharing, seeing, and commenting on photos. Hashtags and location info can make photos even more visible to communities beyond a teen's followers if his or her account is public.

Do we really want this to be happening to our generation and maybe even future generations? Do we want our children or grandchildren be grown up with technology at their fingertips? It's your generation, you choose.

VFW Teacher of the Year Recognized

Submitted Article

On Saturday, January 10th, 2015, District 1 held it's Awards Banquet for the Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Teacher of the Year. The banquet was held in the American Legion Building in Chillicothe, Missouri, where VFW Post 858 calls home. State Commander Chris Bell and VFWLA Chaplain, Nelda Clifton attended the event. The awards ceremony began at 11:00 am with District VOD/PP Chairman John Krumpelmann introducing each of the winner's. Each of them got up and read their essay and were then presented with a Certificate of Merit and a check. Kaylee Thieme, 3rd place winner in the VOD contest was unable to read her entry due a sore throat, so her CD was played while she stood in front of the audience. Morgan Baxter, 2nd place in VOD was unable to attend.

The Teacher's were presented with certificate's. Kimberly Johnson from the Gallatin School District sponsored by Gallatin VFW Post 2712 and Leanne Meadows, Polo School District sponsored by Richmond VFW Post 4398. Leanne Meadows was surprised when she was informed by State Commander Chris Bell that she was the 1st Place winner for Grades K - 5 at the State level. After the awards presentation's the award winner's had lunch that was provided by Chillicothe VFW Post 858.

District 1 VOD/PP Co-Chairman John Krumpelmann reported that for Patriot's Pen, 10 Post's and 4 Ladies Auxiliaries had sent entries and that a total of 583 entries had been judged at the Post level. For Voice of Democracy, 8 Post's and 4 Auxiliaries had entries and that a total of 134 entries had been judged at the Post level. Sherri Carder and John Krumpelmann, Co-Chairmen, were acknowledge by District Cdr. Bob O'Dell and thanked for their service in conducting this year's competition.



Varsity Basketball Osborn Tournament

Submitted Article

On Monday, January 12, 2015, the Polo Varsity girls basketball team played Union Star. After the first quarter, the score was 23 to 0, at half time the score was 43 to 4, after the third quarter the score was 55 to 7, the Lady Panthers took home a win on the first night with an ending score of 67 to 9. The lead scorer was Sidney Copeland with 17 points.

On Thursday, January 15, 2015, the ladies had another win against Dekalb. After the first quarter, the score was 16 to 9, at half time the score was 32 to 21, after third quarter the score was 46 to 36. The girls held it together the rest of the game and got another win that week with an ending score of 55 to 47. The lead scorer was Sidney Copeland with 24 points.

That following Saturday, the girls were headed to the championship! They played against Pattonsburg. Defense was 'key' with this team. After a tough battle in the first quarter, the score was 17 to 15, after half time they started the third quarter, with a score of 31 to 21. After a tough third quarter, the score was 47 to 30. The girls had to keep up the intensity, which they did, with an ending score of 57 to 51 and that got them a first place trophy. Nice job ladies! Adriana Segar was the lead scorer with 16 points.

I had the privilege to talk to Coach Keith before this tournament. I asked "what did the girls do to get prepared for this tournament?" he gladly responded, "we usually game plan against an opponent the day before. Also, players have full access to HUDL, which provides game film of opponents and our own team". Since the girls are physically prepared, I asked how he mentally prepared the girls considering they are going up against very good teams. "I want the girls to always have the mindset, going into tournaments, that you are playing to win. You have to put together 3 quality games in order to achieve that". He also added "we are entering by far our toughest stretch of our schedule, so we need to make sure we are competing at a high level."

The Polo Varsity boy's first game of the Osborn tournament was played against Stewartsville. The boys kept a lead, for the most part. First quarter ended with a score of 10 to 2. Still keeping the lead, the boys held them to 19 to 14. STILL in the lead, the boys held them to 30 to 28. After a long fourth quarter, the boys ended with only losing by a few. The ending score was 45 to 38. The lead scorer was Parker Smith with 20 points.

During the second game, the boys took on Union Star. After half time, the score was 32 to 17. The boys played very good defense and Union Star didn't score at all in the third quarter. Polo boys kept playing very good defense and ended the game with a score of 61 to 27. Way to go Polo! Parker Smith was the lead scorer with 14 points.

The boys were going for 5th place against Pattonsburg. At half time, the boys ended with 17 to 27. After a very long fight, the boys ended up getting 6th, with an ending score of 45 to 58.

I got to talk to Coach Pickrell about the tournament. I asked him how do you and your assistant coaches mentally and physically prepare yourselves and your players for the tournament? Coach responded, "physically we have to put in a lot of focus and intensity at practice. We do spend a lot of time working on ball security and execution offensively. Mentally, I'm finding ways for our team to limit the opponent offensively based on what they like to do, continuing to teach fundamentals at practice and putting in drills to enhance our weaknesses in games." Coach also added, "We really could use a great turn out at every game. The boy's have played well at home games with a big crowd and I think it helps to have a very supportive fan base, especially from the fellow students."

A Honor Roll

Freshmen	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors
Matt Vaughan	Jennifer Farmer	Gage Aubrey	Jennifer Adams
	Averie Heil	Tyler Erickson	Sidney Copeland
	Billie Thompson	Emily Fickess	Mattie Curp
		Erik Johnson	Katelyn Eichmeier
		Jenna Johnson	Jessica Farmer
		Parker Smith	Jacob Hicks
		Adrianna Staus	Skylar Howe
		Jesse Vaughan	Brandon Latimer
			Wiley Martin
			Mason Misel
			Tristan Rardon
			Adriana Segar
			Aimee Walker

Varsity Wrestling

By: Averie Heil

The Polo Panther wrestling team has won ten duals out of thirteen duals so far this year. They also placed as a team second at the Rock Port tournament and eighth at the Plattsburg tournament. They have participated in many tournaments and duals this year to work on technique and skills to help them during districts and state. The team as a whole has been working together to bring in as many wins home as possible.

I got the pleasure of speaking with Head Coach Johnson to ask him a few questions. I asked him, "How many wrestlers do you have on the team?" He responded with, "At the moment we have sixteen, but we have two more wrestlers that are trying to get eligible to start their season." I also asked, "How are practices going?" Johnson said, "We are fighting some team consistency with injuries and getting settled in on specific weight classes. It is starting to come together here at the end which is a good time." My last question for Johnson was, "What are some team goals for this year?" Johnson's insight was, "Our goals are to try our best to win every dual night, to have finished in the Grand River Conference three to five, and have two wrestlers' medal at state."

I also spoke with two of our very own varsity wrestlers, Gunnar Martin and Brandon Latimer. With this opportunity I asked them both, "How hard is it to cut weight?" Martin said, "I don't believe it is hard to cut weight, it is just disciplining yourself to control your diet. I also had to practice with a hoodie on and just work hard and fast to make the weight. Sipping on water after practice was another big help." Latimer told me, "Cutting weight sucks! I've never had to cut weight before this year and dropping a weight class was the worst decision I've ever made, but I would make it again if it came down to it because as hard as it is to cut weight, it's worth it. I would sacrifice as much food as it took to give me the best chance to be successful." I also asked, "What pushes you to the end of the third round?" Martin responded with, "The thing that pushes me to the end of the third round is my family, friends, and coaches screaming at me to keep going and don't let up and to stay after the person that is right in front of me." Latimer quoted Vince Lombardi, "There is only one way to succeed in anything and that is to give it everything... Any mans finest hour is when he has worked his heart out in a good cause and lies exhausted on the field of battle... Victorious." He also said, "If you are not willing to give everything then get off the mat because you are not going to do anything worth doing. It is something I think most people realize too late. I know I did. Now as a senior I am more and more aware that every second I spend on the mat is one more second closer to never being on the mat again. That is what pushes me to the end of the third round. Pretty soon there won't be any more rounds to push through and all I will have are the memories. So, why not make them worth remembering?"

Senior night was held on January 15, 2015 at the Polo Panthers home wrestling dual. The seniors that were honored were Caleb Bolling, Mattie Curp, Jacob Hicks, Brandon Latimer, Wiley Martin, and Brandon Richardson. The night was a night to remember because it was the last home dual they will be participating in here at Polo High School. Mrs. Fickess and some art students painted a board for the seniors in honor of their last home dual. It is a memory they will cherish forever.

2nd Qtr Recognition Perfect Attendance:

7 th Grade:	8 th Grade
Earl Cory	Mariah Clevenger
Dylan Frazier	Robbin Crawford
Jacob Hurd	Wyatt Curp
Brittney Loy	Dylan Faulkner
Alex Pilger	Mercedes McNab
Ayrika Ross	Nick Myers
Trysten Wolf	Harley Sammons
Taylor Worley	

Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
Ashtyn Burch	Jennifer Farmer	Gage Aubrey	Cati Boruch
Luke Cory	Mason Hernandez	Shelby Bates	Hailee Curp
James Fleener	Nicole Joy	Jorgia Cory	James Endsley
Dalton Frazier	Jake Leonard	Tyler Erickson	Jessica Farmer
Garrett Jones	Alex Myers	Stormy Farmer	Brooke Jones
Tyler Joy	Zack Phillips	Emily Fickess	Brandon Latimer
Megan Latimer	Tiffany Pimentel	Erik Johnson	Tristan Rardon
Katelynn Minnis	Austin VanOster	Hector Sanchez	

Youth Wrestling

By: Stormy Farmer

Youth wrestling's head coach is Max Hicks. He's assisted by Justin Hicks and James Taylor. Last year was very successful. All the wrestlers work hard day by day. Their records depend on how hard they wanted to work. Max has coached youth wrestling for 17 years. He's very experienced in what he is doing.

I interviewed Max Hicks about this year. I asked him how he thinks the year will go. He said, "I believe this will be a good year we have a lot of new kids this year that have started off really strong. I have asked some of them are you sure you have never wrestled before? It's exciting to see new talent catch on so quickly." Then I asked him, "What do you think the boys/girl need to improve on this year?" His response was, "Well, for me, this age group is always about the basics stance, motion, and stay in good body positions at all times. Then teach them a hand full of moves and try to perfect them." The last question I asked him was, "Will there be a lot of competition this year?" He said, "YES. The sport of wrestling in Missouri is continuing to grow. Coaching education has increased with better coaching and increased numbers, this creates greater competition."

Youth wrestling this year is going to be as good as last year or even better. They have gained a lot of new kids, learning a lot of skills. You should be excited to see what will happen this year. Having a great coach who will teach them many things to make them better as a wrestler and an individual.

CRBC Basketball 2015

By: Jessica Farmer

Central Rivers Basketball Club is a great way for younger level athletes to get started in learning the basics of basketball and getting in some minutes of playing time. Each child on a team gets equal opportunity to learn the game and 12 minutes each half, 7 being consecutive. This insures no favoritism and equality between each student.

I was able to talk the head and assistant coach of the 7th and 8th grade girls basketball team. The head coach is Senior, Brooke Jones and the assistant coach is sophomore, Jennifer Farmer. Brooke was a coach last year and says, "Compared to last year, I will have more girls to sub in and out. Plus, I have more post and guard combinations to work with." She says that being a coach while still in high school gives her a chance to teach drills that high school practices. This will benefit the future of the Polo High School basketball program. This will put these girls ahead of other freshman coming up to high school.

Jennifer Farmer is coaching for her first time this year with Brookes help. She really wants to help get the younger athletes ready for high school. I asked her if she would consider being a coach in the future, possibly next year. She replied, "Yes, next year coaching is a possibility for me. I really enjoy this!"

The CRBC Basketball program is a great opportunity for the younger generations of Polo to get involved. Anyone can come to these games. Check the schedule for game times and locations and come out to support the Panthers!!

Honor Roll

5th Grade

"A"

Haley Aubrey, Abigail Cline, Colby Cope, Adriana Hoplin
Tate Kapitza, Chloe Rothove

"B"

Jordan Carter, Alayna Chapman, Mason Chapman, Mary Copeland, Shea Hall, Addison Lewis, Kendall McCracken
Kaydence Norton, Jenee Qualman, Madison Rechtermann
Andrew Stone, Da'Sean Tatum, Katelin Vaught

6th Grade

"A"

Brooke Boydston, Y'see Chorot, Mallory Clevenger, Ashley Foster, Connor Garton, Logan Garton, Maggie Martin, Will Vaughan, Kyle Zinna

"B"

Corryn Baird, Cody Blackwell, Kara Claypole, Lilly Cooper, Gavin Fitzwater, Dillon Gilmer, Jennica Jay, Thomas Kepler, Janissa Pickering, Killian Roark, Arianna Wolf

Varsity Basketball Osborn Tournament

By: Danielle Allen

On Monday, January 12, 2015, the Polo Varsity girl's basketball team played Union Star. After the first quarter, the score was 23 to 0, at half time the score was 43 to 4, after the first quarter was 55 to 7, and the Lady s took home a win on the first night with an ending score of 67 to 9. The lead scorer was Sidney Copeland with 17 points.

On Thursday, January 15' 2015, the Panthers brought home another win, this time against Dekalb. After the first quarter, the score was 16 to 9, at half time the score was 32 to 21, after third quarter the score was 46 to 36, the girls held it together the rest of the game and got another win that week with an ending score of 55 to 47. The lead scorer was Sidney Copeland with 24 points.

That Saturday, the girls were headed to the championship! They played against Pattonsburg. Defense was "key" against this team. After a tough battle in the first quarter, the score was 17 to 15. After half time, they started the third quarter with a score of 31 to 21. After a tough third quarter the score was 47 to 30. The girls had to keep up the intensity, which they did, with an ending score of 57 to 51 and that got them a first place trophy. Nice job ladies! Adriana Segar was the lead scorer with 16 points.

I had the privilege to talk to Coach Keith before this tournament. I asked "What did the girls do to get prepared for this tournament?" he gladly responded, "We usually game plan against an opponent the day before. Also, players have full access to HUDL, which provides game film of opponents and our own team." Since the girls are physically prepared, I asked how he mentally prepared the girls considering they are going up against very good teams. "I want the girls to always have the mindset going into tournaments that you are playing to win. You have to put together 3 quality games in order to achieve that." He also added, "We are entering by far our toughest stretch of our schedule, so we need to make sure we are competing at a high level."

The Polo Varsity boy's first game of the Osborn tournament was played against Stewartsville. First quarter, ended with a score of 10 to 2. Still keeping the lead, the boys held them to 19 to 14. STILL in the lead, the boys held them to 30 to 28. After a long fourth quarter, the boys ended only losing by a few. The ending score was 45 to 38. The lead scorer was Parker Smith with 20 points.

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B Honor Roll

7th Grade – Dylan Frazier, Selena Gomez, Dominick Hoplin, Jacob Hurd, Jordan Rash, Kaitlyn Rechtermann, Ayrika Ross, Trevor Standley, Tayler Worley

8th Grade – Madison Baughman, Mariah Clevenger, Shelby Copeland, Dylan Faulkner, Garion Hall, Alina Hays, Mercedes McNab, Jared Robison, Brittany Sperry, Payton Tate, Taylor Wagner

Freshmen – John Bost, Luke Cory, Sierra Dye, Brianna Hutcheson, Micheal Knotts, Megan Latimer, Teagan Logan, Seth Pate, Dylan Sales, Andrew Sifford, Sondra Sumpter, Alayna Sweetland

Sophomores – Autumn Burton, Moira Hays, Ryan Henry, Mason Hernandez, Joely Hicks, Jake Leonard, Gunnar Martin, Tiffany Pimentel, Taylor Rash, Kalee Tarwater, Austin VanOster

Juniors – Shelby Bates, Michael Carver, Jorgia Cory, Aerial Eggers, Stormy Farmer, Danielle Gurwell, Montanna Heil, Austin McKinzie, Ty Parker, Hector Sanchez, Brittany Sheppard, Lisa Tackett, Jason Thompson

Seniors – Danielle Allen, Cati Boruch, Kayla Carr, Hailee Curp, Brooke Jones, Jasmine Murray, Jennifer Rash, Brandon Richardson, Bailey Rosenburg, Alisha Ross

February 2015 Menu

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

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
No School – In-Service ²	French Toast Sticks, Ham, Fruit Chicken Quesadilla, Corn, Fruit ³	Breakfast Pizza, Fruit Chicken Fajita, Spanish Rice, Fruit ⁴	Breakfast Bar, Yogurt, Fruit Creamy Chicken over Biscuit, Mixed Vegetables, Fruit ⁵	Scrambled Eggs, Toast, Fruit Taco Stack, Refried Beans, Fruit ⁶
Cereal, Oatmeal, Fruit Corndog or Burrito, Pinto Beans, Fruit ⁹	French Toast Sticks, Ham, Fruit Pizza, Corn, Fruit ¹⁰	Breakfast Pizza, Fruit Chicken Nuggets, Green Beans, Fruit ¹¹	Breakfast Bar, Yogurt, Fruit Wrapped Weiner, Baked Beans, Fruit ¹²	Biscuit, Sausage Gravy, Fruit Hamburger on Bun, Tator Tots, Fruit ¹³
No School President's Day ¹⁶	French Toast Sticks, Ham, Fruit Pasta with Meat Sauce, Green Beans, Fruit ¹⁷	Breakfast Pizza, Fruit Grilled Cheese, Soup, Fruit ¹⁸	Breakfast Bar, Yogurt, Fruit Sweet and Sour Chicken, Oriental Vegetables, Fruit ¹⁹	Scrambled Eggs, Toast, Fruit Tuna or Bologna Sandwich, Glazed Carrots, Fruit ²⁰
Cereal, Oatmeal, Fruit Corndog Nuggets, Baked Beans, Fruit ²³	French Toast Sticks, Ham, Fruit Chili, Vegetable Sticks, Fruit ²⁴	Breakfast Pizza, Fruit Meatball Sub, Green Beans, Fruit ²⁵	Breakfast Bar, Yogurt, Fruit Chicken Pattie on Bun, Corn, Fruit ²⁶	Biscuit, Sausage Gravy, Fruit Fish Sandwich, Peas, Fruit ²⁷

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February 2015 Activities Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	*No School-Teacher In-Service ²	*Courtwarming Week *V/JV Wrestling @ Carrollton 6 pm *V BB vs. S. Harrison 6 pm *Shelton BB Team Practice 3:15-4:30 pm in Multi *Aubrey BB Team Practice 3:15-4:30 pm in HS Gym ³	*Booster Club Mtg. 6:30 pm *PeeWee Wrestling Practice 6-8 pm *FFA Mtg 7 pm in Ag Bldg *Aubrey BB Team Practice 3:15-4:30 pm in Multi ⁴	*V/JV BB vs. Braymer 5 pm w/Courtwarming Coronation *Coronation Practice in HS Gym @ 3:30 pm ⁵	*Courtwarming Dance 8-11 pm *Shelton BB Team Practice 3:15-4:30 pm in Multi ⁶	*GRC Honor Choir Concert 9 am-6 pm in Bethany *PeeWee Wrestling Tourney TBA ⁷
8	*JV BB vs. Maysville 6 pm *PeeWee Wrestling Practice 6-5 pm *Shelton BB Team Practice 3:15-4:30 pm in Multi ⁹	*V/JV @ Stanberry 5 pm ¹⁰	*FFA Area Proficiency Selection & Star Interviews *PDC Mentor/Mentee Mtg. 3:15-4:30 pm *PeeWee Wrestling Practice 6-8 pm ¹¹	*JV BB @ Gallatin 6 pm *Shelton BB Team Practice 3:15-4:30 pm ¹²	*V Wrestling MSHSAA Super District Tourney 6 pm *V BB vs. Worth County 6 pm w/ Senior Night *K-5 th Valentine Parties @2:15 pm ¹³	*Band to Richmond JH Contest *V Wrestling MSHSAA Super District Tourney *CRBC BB 9 am ¹⁴
*FFA Week ¹⁵	*No School – President's Day ¹⁶	*V/JV BB vs. King City 5 pm *FBLA Districts @ NCMC *MS Academic Team @ Hamilton *Shelton BB Team Practice 3:15-4:30pm in Multi *Aubrey BB Team Practice 3:15-4:15 pm in HS Gym ¹⁷	*BOE Mtg 7 pm *PeeWee Wrestling Practice 6-8 pm ¹⁸	*V BB @ Maysville 6 pm *V Wrestling MSHSAA State Championships @ Columbia *MS Academic Team @ Cameron *Aubrey BB Team Practice 3:15-4:30 pm in HS Gym ¹⁹	*Shelton BB Team Practice 3:15-4:30 pm in Multi *FFA Juniors and Seniors to Farm Show ²⁰	*CRBC BB 9 am ²¹
*National FFA Week ²²	*V BB District Tourney TBA *PeeWee Wrestling Practice 6-8 pm *Shelton BB Team Practice 3:15-4:30 pm in Multi ²³	*Aubrey BB Team Practice 3:15-4:30 pm in Multi ²⁴	*PeeWee Wrestling Practice 6-8 pm *Aubrey BB Team Practice 3:15-4:30 pm in Multi ²⁵	*MS Academic Team vs. Cameron *Shelton BB Team Practice 3:15-4:30 pm in Multi ²⁶	27	*CRBC BB 9 am ²⁸