



# POLO R-VII SCHOOL DISTRICT

# The Panther Pride

September  
Volume 2, Issue 1

## September/October Activities

### SEPTEMBER

- 1 - \*No School-Labor Day
- 2- \*Band Rental Night 6:00 p.m. in Band RM  
\*Varsity/JV SB @ Stanberry 5:30 p.m.  
\*MS Softball Practice 3:30-6:00 p.m. (non cheerleaders ride early bus to field)  
\*MS Cheer practice 3:15-4:00 p.m.
- 3- \*MS SB Practice 3:30-6:00 p.m. (non cheerleaders ride early bus to field)  
\*MS Cheer practice 3:15-4:00 p.m.  
\*Varsity SB practice 3:45-5:45 p.m.
- 4- \*Varsity/JV SB vs. King City 5:30 p.m.  
\*MS SB Practice 3:30-6:00 p.m. (non cheerleaders ride Early bus to field)  
\*MS Cheer Practice 3:15-4:00 p.m.
- 5- \*Varsity FB vs. Gallatin 7:00 p.m.  
\*Band plays @ FB Game  
\*MS Softball Practice 3:30-6:00 p.m.  
\*MS Cheer Meeting 8:00-8:15 a.m.  
\*Varsity SB Practice 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- 6- \*Varsity SB @ Cameron Tournament 8:00 a.m.
- 8- \*JV FB vs. Gallatin 6:00 p.m.  
\*MS SB Practice 3:30-6:00 p.m. (non cheerleaders ride early bus to field)  
\*MS Cheer Practice 3:15-4:00 p.m.  
\*Varsity SB Practice 3:45-5-45 p.m.  
\*8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Hamilton TBA
- 9- \*MS SB @ Norborne 5:30 p.m.  
\*Varsity/JV SB @ Grant City 5:30 p.m.  
\*MS FB @ Gallatin 6:00 p.m.  
\*Lions Club Screening
- 10- \*MS SB Practice 3:30-6:00 p.m.  
\*Varsity SB Practice 3:45-5:45 p.m.  
\*PDC Mentor/Mentee Mtg. 3:15-4:00 p.m.
- 11- \*Varsity/JV SB vs. SW Ludlow 5:30 p.m.  
\*MS SB vs. Plattsburg 5:30 p.m.  
\*Wal-Mart Vision Screening in Multi-Purpose RM
- 12- \*Varsity FB vs. South Harrison 7:00 p.m.  
\*Band Plays @ FB Game  
\*MS SB Practice 3:30-7:30 p.m.  
\*varsity SB Practice 6:00-7:00 a.m.  
\*Wal-Mart Vision Screening in Multi-Purpose RM
- 13- \*Varsity SB Polo Classic 8:00 a.m.  
\*Youth FB
- 14- All District Choir Auditions @ St. Joseph TBA
- 15- \*No school Teacher In-Service  
\*JV FB vs. South Harrison 6:00 p.m.  
\*Varsity/JV/MS SB vs. Albany 5:30 p.m.
- 16- \*MS FB vs. South Harrison 6:00 p.m.  
\*Varsity SB Practice 3:45-5:45 p.m.
- 17- \*BOE Meeting 7 p.m.  
\*FFA Area Chapter Degree Ceremony @ Gallatin 6:00 p.m.  
\*MS SB Practice 3:30-6:00 p.m.  
\*Varsity SB Practice 3:45-5:45 p.m.
- 18- \*Varsity/JV/MS SB @ Princeton 5:30 p.m.
- 19- \*Varsity FB @ Princeton 7:00 p.m.  
\*MS SB Practice 3:30-6:00 p.m.
- 20- \*MS SB @ Cameron Tournament 8:00 a.m.  
\*Youth FB
- 22- \*MS SB @ Lexington 5:30 p.m.  
\*Varsity SB Practice 3:45-5:45 p.m.
- 23- \*MS SB @ Braymer 6:00 p.m.  
\*varsity/JV SB @ Gallatin 5:30 p.m.  
\*MS SB vs. Osborn 5:30 p.m.
- 24- \*MS SB Practice 3:30-6:00 p.m.  
\*Varsity SB Practice 3:45-6:00 p.m.  
\*PDC Mentor/Mentee Mtg. 3:15-4:00 p.m.
- 25- \*Varsity/JV/MS SB vs. South Harrison 5:30 p.m.
- 26- \*Varsity FB vs. Maysville 7:00 p.m.  
\*Band Plays @ FB Game  
\*MS SB Practice 3:30-6:00 p.m.  
\*Varsity SB Practice 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- 27- \*Carrollton Band Day  
\*Varsity SB @ Norborne Tournament 8:00 a.m.
- 29- \*JV FB vs. Maysville 6:00 p.m.  
\*MS SB Practice 3:30-6:00 p.m.  
\*Varsity SB Practice 3:45-5:45 p.m.
- 30- \*MS FB @ Lawson 5:00 p.m.  
\*Varsity/JV/MS SB @ Braymer 5:30 p.m.

### FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

My name is Don Wilburn and I am the new Superintendent at Polo. We have gotten off to a great start to the year. New teachers to the district met with the principals for three days prior to the return of experienced teachers for in-service workshops. The teachers are excited about the beginning of a new school year and have great plans for our students and the community.

I am happy to report that the students, teachers, and staff did an excellent job on state testing, attendance, graduation rate, and college and career readiness last year. Just before school started, we received our Annual Performance Report from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for how we did last year. Our school received 131/140 points for a 93.6% score. This compares to 124/140 the year before for a score of 88.6%. Congratulations to the parents for working with their student last year so they could learn as much as possible during the year. Congratulations also go to the students, teachers, and staff for all their hard work and effort to make this large improvement in our scores.

The school received word last year that we would be getting a grant in partnership with the City to pay for a new Early Childhood Learning center. This will house our new Pre-school and Early Childhood Special Education classes. It is an exciting addition to our community and school campus. We will soon be getting an additional salad bar from a grant I applied for before school started. This will allow for more choices and help students get through the lunch line faster. We received word that we would get a 50% grant from the National Archery in the Schools Program to purchase bows, targets, and netting that goes behind the targets to add archery into the P.E. classes. This program is for 4<sup>th</sup> grade and older. I am applying for other grants to try to get the other 50% paid for before we start the program.

The last exciting thing I want to talk about is the starting of fundraising to bring an all weather track to the school that can be used by P. E. classes, the track teams, and community members as a walking track. We received a \$500 donation from the Rardon family to begin fundraising efforts. In the spring, the booster club will host a walk-a-thon for elementary and high school students as a fundraiser. The Department of Natural Resources has a grant program that is available that can help pay for 75% of a project, but it is very competitive and hard to get. I will be working hard on the grant paperwork to see if we qualify and might be fortunate enough to be selected. If anyone would like to donate to the project, please contact Rochelle Myers at the school or myself. Also if anyone has any fundraising ideas, please feel free to contact me. This is the first steps of a dream that many have had for years.

It has been a great start to the year and I want to thank the parents, community members, staff, and students for making me feel welcome in the community. GO PANTHERS!

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**OCTOBER ACTIVITIES**

- 1-\*MS SB Practice 3:30-6:00 p.m.
- \*Varsity SB Practice 3:45-5:45 p.m.
- 2-\*MS FB King City @ Braymer 5:30 p.m.
- \*Varsity/JV/MS SB @ Maysville 5:30 p.m.
- \*FFA Fall Contest @ NWMSU
- \*FFA Grassland Evaluation@ Maysville
- \*MS SB @ Maysville 5:30 p.m.
- 3-\*Early out 1:01 p.m. for Homecoming
- \*Parade 2:00 p.m.
- \*Band Plays @ FB Game
- \*Varsity FB vs. Braymer @ 7:00p.m.
- 6-\*No school- Teacher In-Service
- \*Varsity SB Practice 5:00-6:30 p.m.
- 7-\*Varsity SB Practice 3:45-5:45 p.m.
- 8-\*Varsity SB District Tournament TBA
- \*Varsity SB Practice 3:45-5:45 p.m.
- \*PDC Mentor/Mentee mtg. 3:15-4:00 p.m.
- 10-\*Picture Re-takes by Scholastic 8:00 a.m.
- \*Varsity FB @ King City 7:00 p.m.
- 11-\*Central Methodist Band Day @ Fayette
- 13-\*JV FB @ Richmond 6:00 p.m.
- 14-\*MS FB vs. Maysville 6:00 p.m.
- 15-\*Varsity SB Sectionals TBA
- \*FFA Area Greenhand Initiation@ Gallatin 6:00 p.m.
- 16-\*ASVAB Test
- 17-\*End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter
- \*Varsity FB vs. University Chapter Academy 7:00 p.m.
- \*Band Plays @ FB Game
- 18-\*Band to MO Days Marching festival @ Trenton

**INTRODUCTION OF MASS MEDIA STAFF**

Hi, my name is Aimee Walker! I am a senior here at Polo High School. I have attended school in Polo since Kindergarten when I was six years old. I am involved in several clubs, including FBLA (secretary), SADD (secretary), Art Club (secretary), Mass Media (editor) and I am the class of 2015's secretary. Some things you should know about me are that my favorite color is turquoise, my favorite food is Chinese, my favorite song is "How He Loves" by David Crowder Band, and my favorite pet is my Siberian Husky, Lobo. After high school I plan to attend college at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri and to major in Mass Media.

Hi, I'm Aerial Eggers, a current junior at Polo High School. This is my first year in mass media. I play Basketball and do FFA and aside from school I rodeo. I barrel race and I normally do that every weekend.

I am Autumn Burton, I am a sophomore at Polo High School. This is my first year in Mass Media. Most people would say I'm an outgoing person, but I can be shy at times. Shocker right? For most of you who know me, I love being involved in sports and extracurricular activities. Basketball is my favorite sport, and long jump is my favorite thing to do in track. My family is everything to me. When I graduate I plan to go to college, but I haven't decided where yet. I still have a few years to go, so who cares about that now. I'm looking forward to having a great sophomore year at Polo and many more years to come!

I am Cheyenne Parker and I am a junior at Polo High School. This is my first year in Mass Media. I always wanted to be a photographer, so this class will really help me achieve that goal. I have a big family including seven brothers and seven sisters. My favorite movie is 50 First Dates, my favorite color is blue, and my birthday is on December 29<sup>th</sup>. When I graduate, I plan to go to Evangel University. I hope my junior year will be great.

Hello, my name is Jennifer Nicole Adams, and I am a senior here at Polo High School! I started here my freshman year, transferring from Kingston. I will turn 18 years old on September 18<sup>th</sup>! I am a high school football manager, and have been for four years now. I am an active member in FBLA, SADD, Art Club, and FFA, and try to help out my community as much as possible. In my free time, I like to hang out with my best friends, which are Aimee Walker, Jasmine Murray, Danielle Allen, and Mason Misel. When I graduate from high school, I plan on going to a university, but I have no clue what I want to major in, or even what I want as a career.

Hi! My name is Danielle Allen. I'm a senior here at Polo High School. I have been going to polo since Kindergarten. I'm very active in school. I'm involved in softball, basketball, cheerleading, SADD, and FBLA. I am doing the Nursing Program at the Excelsior Springs Career Center. After High School, I'm planning on going farther with nursing. This is my second year of Mass Media. I'm very excited that we have several new faces and ideas this year in Mass Media. I hope you all are as excited as I am!

My name is Jessica Farmer! I am 18 years old and a senior here at Polo High School. I have been a student at Polo since the 7<sup>th</sup> grade when I transferred from Cowgill. I am involved in softball, basketball, track manager, SADD, Art Club, and FFA. I am the Vice President of Student Council and the Secretary of NHS. This is my second year in Mass Media and I enjoy being on the staff 110%. I absolutely love running around and taking pictures at school events and creating spreads in the yearbook that everyone gets to see at the end of the year!!When I was in Elementary School I thought that I was going to be an artist when I grew up. I loved to draw and paint and wasn't half bad at it! I always have been pretty creative so being in yearbook really lets me put it all out there into a book. My teacher, Ms Arth, is really easy to get along with and is a lot of fun to work with. We have a great time in her class and I highly recommend underclassmen to get involved in yearbook!

Hello, my name is Brooke Jones. I'm 17 years old, and I'm a part of the Polo High School Yearbook Staff. I have been enrolled now at Polo for 6 years transferring from Mirabile C-1. Since I have been here I have been involved in softball, basketball, cheerleading, a track manager, SADD, and Art Club. I am a new member to the Mass Media class, but I am really excited to be putting new ideas and thoughts into the next year's yearbook. I believe that I will be good at contributing to this class because I really enjoy taking pictures. Ever since I was a little girl growing up my favorite class of the day was art. I loved being able to imagine ideas and put all my thoughts into an art piece. Once I got older I realized that there aren't many art classes you can take in High School. This is why Mass Media is a great class to still be able to be artistic and use your creative ideas. I recommend this class to the underclassman. It is so much fun to create a yearbook that will be full of great memories.

Hi everyone, my name is Lisa Tackett and I am a junior at Polo High School. I have gone to Polo for four years and this is my second year on the Mass Media staff. I am currently enrolled in Health Services at the Excelsior Springs Area Career Center. I am working to get my CNA by the end of the school year. My favorite sport is volleyball and I love riding and spending time with my horses.

Hi, my name is Montanna Heil. I am 16 years old and a junior at Polo High School. I am a member of the Polo yearbook staff for the first time this year. I wanted to join yearbook because I love taking pictures and I wanted to help with the yearbook this year. I transferred to Polo my freshman year from Mirabile C-1. During my freshman year, I played softball, was a basketball cheerleader, and was in FFA. Sophomore year, I played softball and was in FFA. This year I'm not doing sports because I'm trying to focus on my school and get a job. I am still in FFA but I joined yearbook and am going to join more clubs. I'm really excited to be able to take pictures and I'm really excited for these last two years of high school.

**There's a New Beverage in Town!**

You'll notice a different beverage selection this year from our Panther Concession Stand. Our school now has a contract with Coca-Cola to provide beverages on campus.

This contract includes many monetary advantages for our school district, including the MyCokeRewards School Program. Each bottle cap from a Coke product has a reward code under the lid. These reward codes tally points we can redeem for supplies for the school. There is a receptacle in the office for students to save lids from beverage purchases, and there will be a receptacle at the football stadium and in the gym. Student Council will enter the codes as a service project for the school, and when there are enough points to redeem, we can get NEW COOL STUFF!

All Panther Fans can participate in this project. Please save all Coke product lids and help us out. Coca-cola, Fanta, Fresca, Mello Yellow, Minute Maid, Powerade, Fuze, Pibb, Sprite, Barq's, Seagram's Ginger Ale, Tab, and Dasani are all Coke brands that have reward codes in the lid. You can enter codes for our school at [www.mycokerewards.com](http://www.mycokerewards.com). Go to the "Schools" tab on the black menu bar and choose "Donate to a School." Enter our zip code and choose POLO HIGH SCHOOL so we can accumulate all the points under one account. This will help the district build points quicker.

So drink Coke, save the lids, enter the codes, and give yourself a pat on the back for helping the Panthers!

**Mass Media Staff Introduction  
(Continued)**

Hi, my name is Stormy Farmer. I work for the Polo yearbook staff. I'm currently a junior in high school and I'm 16 years old. I am writing the article "Ask Alli." I joined yearbook because I love taking pictures and I also like going out into the community to sell ads. I transferred to Polo from Winnetonka High school my sophomore year. I'm excited to be taking pictures of my friends playing the sports they love.

My name is Averie Heil and I am 15. I am a sophomore here at Polo High School. I play varsity softball and my position is shortstop. This is my first year in Mass Media. I am also involved in FFA. I'm very athletic and I am obsessed with ensuring that my grades are at their best. I have four siblings, two brothers and two sisters.

I am Mason Misel, a senior here at Polo High School! Throughout my high school career I have been a member of the varsity football and basketball teams, FBLA, SADD, FCCLA, art club, NHS, academic team, and am currently your Student Council Secretary. This is my first year in mass media, and I am super excited! My favorite holiday is Christmas, my favorite song is "Stay High" by Tove Lo, and my favorite color is blue. In my spare time, I like to hang out with my friends and family, watch Big Brother, read a book, and/or listen to music. When I graduate from high school, I plan to pursue a degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences!

# Welcome to a new school year of activities!



The Polo Athletic Boosters would like to thank you for your past support and invite you to continue as members or become new members this year.

Our organization coordinates all concessions at home events with the senior class to provide funds for senior trip, scholarships to seniors, and other financial support as funds allow. Past support includes dinner for state qualifiers for activities, Panther Cheer banner, Panther tent, gym scoreboard/table and banners, Panther water coolers, headsets for football coaches, wrestling bags, basketball funds from shootout proceeds, and camcorder/DVD burners for all sports.

Individual/family/business dues are again \$10 and may be paid to Jill Rardon, Treasurer.

Booster members and their families are eligible for a drawing for free admission, concession items, and Panther Den seating at home varsity football games.

**We appreciate your support of Polo activities! GO PANTHERS!**

**BUY YOUR YEARBOOK NOW!!**

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**Mass Media Staff:**

Aerial Eggers, Autumn Burton, Mason Misel,  
Averie Heil, Danielle Allen, Amiee Walker,  
Jennifer Adams, Lisa Tackett, Cheyenne  
Parker, Montanna Heil, Stormy Farmer,  
Brooke Jones, Jessica Farmer, Ms. Arth and  
Ms. Westover

## **Polo Middle School Softball Team Opens 2014 Season**

By: Aerial Eggers

The Middle School softball team and coaches are ready to kick off their 2014 season, "They have a lot of experience and I am ready to start the season off."- says Coach Martin. According to Courtney, the team are great supporters and leaders to each other.

The team only has eight players, but experience and skill is something they're not lacking. Softball player Taylor Wagner says her biggest goal for the season is "Hitting a home run." Come out and support the up-and-coming Lady Panthers!



The Athletic Boosters would like to thank those who participated in our annual Crooked River Golf Tournament. The profits are used for scholarships and to support our athletic and school activities. Hope to see you again next summer!

## **FROM THE DESK OF THE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

By: Mr. Kyle Ross

Welcome back to school PANTHERS!! The 2014-15 school year is already off and running which is AWESOME, because every new year will bring with it new goals, memories, and mountains to climb. I truly believe that your Panther staff will have the vision and the determination to make this year a very memorable one. I truly hope that everyone; staff, student, patron, and new panthers, had an enjoyable, rewarding, and energizing summer.

Everyday our state and federal government ask more out of our public education system. This truly has a trickle-down effect from our local board and administration to the student. Along these routes of education you will find the many educators that greatly affect our students here in Polo, America. Although parents are not part of the "teaching staff" you are of utmost importance to your child's education. You children receive the best education when you and our dedicated teachers work as a team. It's a parent's enthusiasm, support and involvement that inspire their child to do their best in whatever endeavor that they chose. It is then up to the teacher to help them navigate through the roads of education. Together the community of Polo can achieve great things for the present as well as for our future. We see quantitative results everyday within all of the data that drives today's educational system. I am very proud to say that the Polo School District's preliminary APR for the 2014-15 school year was a 94.6%, which is outstanding. Students, Parents, Teachers, Administrator's, and anyone else involved in Polo should give themselves a pat on the back for such a tremendous accomplishment. There's a lot of excitement with the start of a new school year; new teacher's, new information, new friends, and new skills to master... and I personally look forward to sharing in those exciting times. As a parent myself I know how fast time goes by and just how precious a commodity it is with your child. With that in mind, I encourage you to fully embrace the moment and urge you to take the time from your busy schedule to become stakeholders in our future.

The State of Missouri has the goal of consistently being a top 10 State and the vehicles that we will continue to drive on that educational road will be the MAP and EOC tests. We will continue our efforts to help our students compete versus the rest of our state. In order to compete academically as well as we can, attendance will be of the utmost importance. High attendance has been shown to directly correlate to a higher rate of achievement in all aspects of life. If we will all work together to make our students achievements our top priority, we will continue to be AWESOME.

Once again I am looking forward to a great year in POLO AMERICA!! GO PANTHERS!!

## **Labor Day**

By: Autumn Burton

What is Labor Day mean to you? Well for Maddy Baughman told us she spent time with her family this Labor Day. Most people it's a day off work and a holiday that kids get out of school for. What really is Labor Day all about? Most of you won't know, but it's a day that honors hard working people. Labor Day started in 1884 on the first Monday of September.

According to our high school social studies teacher Mr. Lefeber, "It's a day in which people in the work place recognize the prior generations, struggles over pay, workplace inequalities, safety standards, sick days, holidays, and vacation time."

## Summer School

By Cheyenne Parker

What is summer? Summer is the warmest season of the year. There is no school for kids, unless they decide to go to summer school.

A couple of Polo School District students shared what they did over the summer. Shelby Bates, a junior, replied, "I got to help with summer school and it was so much fun. The kids got to throw water balloons at me." There are a lot of students that enjoy going to summer school. Maranda Teegarden, a fourth grader, said, "I like going to summer school because it's fun and I get to see my friends." Summer school helps the students get prepared for the next school year.

Polo School District is excited for the 2014-2015 school year and we are ready to put summer behind us.

## Jobs & Occupations

By: Montana Heil

So what is a job? What's the difference between a job and an occupation? How do you decide what you want to be? When do you for sure know what you want to be? I interviewed three people of different ages on what they wanted to be and why.

The first person I interviewed was Mrs. Sales as the Adult.

- What do you do for a living? "I am a school secretary."
- Did you have to go to college for that? "No, but I did go to college."
- What did you want to be? "A teacher or a writer."
- Is that the job you wanted or have always wanted?

No, I wanted to be a teacher but this job worked well with Family"

Then I interviewed Zach Feil as the teen, who is about to graduate.

- What do you want to do after you graduate? "Be a diesel mechanic."
- Do you have to go to college for that? "Yes, I'm going to Linn State Tech College."
- What did you used to want to be? "I have no clue."

For the pre-teen I interviewed my cousin Aleyah.

- What do you want to be when you grow up? "A veterinarian."
- Why do you want to be that? "Because I love animals."
- How long have you wanted to be that? "Probably since I was like six or seven."
- Do you think you have to go to college for that? "Yeah."

In conclusion, your idea of what you want to be typically changes over time. Your idea of a job might even change over time from when you're a child to a teen or adult.

## Ask Alli...

This month's questions posed by the inquiring minds of the student body of Polo R-VII!

**What do you think is the biggest part of homecoming and why?**

- "Homecoming brings everyone closer because Polo is like a big family." --Alex Jensen
- "The overall spirit of the school." - Danielle Allen
- "Spirit week because you get to see all the crazy outfits." - Hannah Curp

**What are some things underclassmen can do to become friends with upperclassmen?**

- "Play Sports." - Ryan Cooper
- "Get Involved." -Skylar Howe
- "Do more activities." -Emily Fickess

**Who is Polo's biggest rival in football?**

- "Hamilton or Maysville." -Ryan Cooper
- "Maysville or our 3 conference games." - Coach Ross

## Join a Club!

By: Jennifer Adams

There are many great clubs you can join this new school year. Whether it is an older club, or a newer club, there is always something exciting going on!

If you're feeling creative, **Art Club** is the right club for you. Your art skills will be tested in multiple activities throughout the school year. In previous years, the art club sponsor, Mrs. Fickess, has held a fall activity consisting of either pumpkin carving or making a gingerbread house. Also, the art club is invited to the Annual Halloween Carnival at the Community Building located here in Polo. Members of the club are able to be in charge of face painting during the carnival. During the spring, there is an art show, and students are able to submit art work and have a chance of getting an award, if chosen.

The club of all clubs is FBLA. In case you didn't know, FBLA stands for Future Business Leaders of America, and that is exactly what you will become if you join this club. Last year, for a fall activity, the club was invited to FBLA Day at Worlds of Fun, where only FBLA members were invited. We spent the day riding rides, and that night, we got to enjoy Halloween Haunt and all the spooky creatures and haunted houses. A little bit later on in the year, we sponsored a blood drive. We helped out by offering donors a drink and a snack after donating blood, and make sure they were okay immediately after donating. A couple weeks after that, usually in December, FBLA goes to Crown Center! Throughout the evening, members are free to wander around Crown Center with friends, see tons of Christmas lights, fountains, shops, and ice skate! Then, in February, students were encouraged to take an online test and go to a District Leadership Conference in Trenton, Missouri. Qualifying members went to district and go to move on to the State Leadership Conference, in April and is now held in Springfield, Missouri. Later on in April, FBLA hosts a Senior Citizen's Prom, where senior citizens come and enjoy a nice dinner and night of dancing.

Don't be mad, join SADD! **SADD** is Students Against Destructive Decisions, and they do their best to encourage students to buckle up and drive safe. A couple times a year, SADD members do seatbelt checks, where students track other students coming to school and mark whether or not they are wearing their seatbelt. Also, last year, SADD joined FBLA in going to Crown Center.

In case you haven't heard, there have been rumors going around about there being a new **History Club**. Upon hearing this, I decided to ask Polo's history teacher, Mr. Lefeber, about if he was planning to have this club. He answered with the following, "Possibly in the future." Another question I had was, "If you do, what do you want to take place in this club?" and he answered, "Hopefully to have gatherings and social events that foster learning about history through movies, discussions, and research studies." He hopes to attract, "Students who have a genuine interest in history."

So, if you want to participate in fun, educational activities, don't hesitate to join a club! If you are afraid to join, ask a friend to join with you! You'll always make new friends and memories, and you'll never have a dull moment in a Polo High School club!

## GUESS THE PANTHER!!

By: Danielle Allen

Middle School



This Panther has been going to Polo her whole life. She is 13 years old and in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Her favorite subjects are art and music, but her favorite teachers are Mrs. Rardon and Mr. Green. This Panther wants to become a singer in the future. In her free time she likes to read, sing, and draw. Her favorite part about coming to school is hanging out with her friends.

High School



This Panther is new to Polo High School. His favorite subjects are Math and Biology. Influenced by his favorite teacher, he wants to pursue a profession in business. He likes coming to the school because he likes learning about the United States. While at home in his free time he likes to relax, talk to his friends and family, especially his HOST family, and loves playing his favorite sport, soccer.

## Our Panthers at Votech!!

By: Jessica Farmer

Polo High School has connections with Excelsior Springs Tech Center and this is where a lot of our students go for a couple hours of the day to get some hands on learning for a certain area in which they are studying. I was able to talk with a few students that currently go to Votech and was pleased to hear some very positive comments about it. Votech students are lucky enough to get to be on a bus at 7:00AM and head to Excelsior. They return right after our 3<sup>rd</sup> hour on a normal day schedule.

I sat down and visited with 3 students. One of which was Brandon Hubbard. Brandon is studying carpentry and mechanics and I asked him what he like most about the field that he is studying and he said he really likes the hands on training and problem solving of the project. The only thing he would like different out of this program is for class time to be extended.

Both Kayla Carr and Skylar Howe are in the medical health field they said they both love the teacher and the hands on experience. They thought that this place is fantastic for getting into the nursing career. A quote that came from Skylar really caught my attention. She mentioned that the tech center really gives students the “foot in the door” especially because in her case, many higher schools require a CNA license.

In conclusion, from what I have heard from my fellow classmates, the Votech center seems to be the place to go if you are reaching out for further experience. If you want hands on learning, sign up for this opportunity which is open for anyone who thinks they may need it.

## The Southern Caldwell County Cats

By: Averie Heil

The Middle School Football season has begun again and with a whole new team. The Polo Panthers and the Braymer Bobcats decided that it would benefit the boys to combine both teams to create one team called the Southern Caldwell County Cats. With the combination of the two schools for football the cheerleaders have also combined so they will all be cheering together to support the football players. The head coach is still the one and only Coach Green, with assistant coaches Coach Williams and Coach Edmonston.

An interview with Coach Green gave some useful information for those who are curious about how the boys are doing. Coach Green said, “Practice is going good. It is a good problem to have with 24 students out for football this year. We were so used to working with a small number of players the last couple of years.” The schools seem to be combining well with one another and are becoming friends. Coach Green told us, “Some of them it seems like they grew up together with how well they get along.” Combined, the two schools give one another a chance to have better practice! Green said, “It is giving the boys competition in order to earn their spot on the field.”

Two of our very own football players were interviewed to explain how they are working into this year’s football season. Wyatt Curp said, “I think that having a lot of good players is a good thing to look forward to this season.” Harley Sammons told us, “I am looking forward to all the games that we are going to win this year. “Both of the boys agreed that the two schools were getting along, Okay.” The players are working on offense, defense, and choosing the starters for the upcoming game.

The Middle School’s first football game was September 9<sup>th</sup> in Gallatin at 6 p.m. We encourage as many people to go and support the boys when you can. This year, to divide the home games evenly, it was decided that there will be two games in Braymer and two games in Polo. There seems to be many good things to look forward to this season.

## Panther Football Begins Again!

By: Aimee Walker

Football season has begun, Panther fans, so get ready! School is in session and soon enough the air will be cooling down and the Polo Panthers will be heating up! The team has been doing all they can to be prepared for the 2014 season.

The season started early in the first week of June at a two day Higginsville camp. Several teams were in attendance, including Oak Grove, Excelsior Springs, William Chrisman, Lee’s Summit Christian, California, Gallatin, Cameron, Wellington-Napoleon, Cabool, and Higginsville’s own team. Polo competed against the teams who were present, each team giving it their all. Overall, each team played very hard and knew what to expect for the upcoming season. Early on in August the Panthers traveled to Atchison, Kansas to play at Benedictine College for a contact camp. The teams who participated were Plattsburg, North Platte, King City, and Mid Buchanan. Polo did very well at this contact camp, playing several different rounds of defensive and offensive plays against each team. The teams had a great experience and were served a nice lunch after they were done.

On August 15, the team ventured onto the Wellington Jamboree over in Oak Grove to play against Crest Ridge and Orrick. Polo faced off against Crest Ridge first, and after some offensive and defensive plays they went on to compete against Orrick. Each team played very well against one another and had a chance to better prepare them for the official season. The first official game of the season took place on August 23<sup>rd</sup> in Lee’s Summit where the Panthers played against Lee’s Summit Christian Academy. It was a typical hot summer day, which ended in a Panther victory with a score of 32-29!

The team also won their most recent game against the Lathrop Mules in Lathrop, Missouri. The game started at seven o’clock Friday the 29<sup>th</sup>, and ended shortly after midnight. Several scattered thunderstorms caused two separate one hour lightning delays, where the boys had to wait patiently inside the gymnasium. The Panthers ended up winning the game with a score of 30-7 in a long, muddy battle against the Mules.

Recently I had the privilege of speaking with assistant coach, Mr. Green about the 2014 season and his opinion about this year. I asked him how the team planned on making it to the State Playoffs in St. Louis, Missouri and his answer was, “There are no short cuts. Practice hard every day, stay healthy, and learn from our mistakes.” I also asked how he felt about the senior players who will graduate in the spring, with him replying, “It will be hard to see them go, they were my first middle school group, and they are all very hard working and dedicated student athletes.”

I also spoke with one of the senior football captains, Mason Misel, about his last season. He said this about his goals for the season, “To lead my team in the best direction and to help all players to be the best they can be in order to ensure our teams success.” I questioned him about the new team members and how well he felt they would perform this season, “Most definitely! I believe this team is family oriented, which will take us far.” His feelings about being a senior captain are, “I like that it gives me the ability to affect the team in a positive way.”

In my honest opinion I have high hopes for this season, and am very proud of the team so far. Each and every player and coach has worked very hard this year and I know they will be very successful. So Panther fans make sure you clear your schedules on Friday nights and come support the boys of fall!



## School Safety at our School

By: Brooke Jones

This year there have been many school safety changes made for the 2014- 2015 school year at Polo. Mr. Ross informed the students of these changes on the first day of school during the pep rally. One of the new procedures that we are starting to follow is all the doors will be locked during school hours except the high school and central office doors, the classroom doors stay locked during lectures. Any visitors who enter the school building need to sign in at the office and get a visitor's pass.

The first person that I interviewed was the secretary of a school, close to us called Mirabile C-1. This is a school that after 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will transfer to Polo. Katy Habrock said that, "Mirabile is starting a similar procedure. I do like the doors being locked during the school hours. We do the checking into the office also. Although we are rural, safety should always be a concern." I asked her if she had noticed a difference with these new procedures. She said, "Yes, you are more aware of who enters the building."

The second person that I interviewed was my mom. I wanted to find out the changes she has noticed over the years with safety. Nicci Jones responded, "There is more security and less trust for the people they are not sure about entering the building." As a parent I asked her if she enjoyed these new safety procedures and she replied, "I understand the reasoning for these safety procedures, but it is still disheartening and upsetting that we have to worry about people messing with kids that are at school trying to get an education."

These are the new safety procedures that we are starting to use and they are going to be a great help in protecting not only the students, but the school and community as a whole.

## Creating A Sense of Family: Student Council

By Mason Misel

The new school year is in full swing. The time is now to work hard, be leader, and give it your all. Your newly elected high school Student Council members know all about that. Do you know who your Student Council members are? Well, if not you are in luck! The officers of the 2014-2015 Student Council are: President Jacob Hicks, Vice President Jessica Farmer, Secretary Mason Misel, and Treasurer Skylar Howe. The class representatives are Brandon Latimer, Sidney Copeland, and Wiley Martin for the Seniors; Erik Johnson, Adrianna Staus, and Parker Smith for the Juniors; Jake Leonard, Jenni Farmer, and Taylor Rash for the Sophomores; and James Fleener, Teagan Logan, and John Bost for the Freshmen. The advisors for this huge group are Becky Ross and Rebecca Arway.

Advisor Becky Ross seems to be thrilled about this upcoming year with Student Council. Ross stated, "This is a great officer team, with 3 returning that know and understand the duties they must uphold, and a leader that will step up into his position without any problems." President Jacob Hicks was previously a member of the Junior High Student Council holding the position of President! The focus of STUCO, according to Ross, will be a sense of family. In order to have this sense of family, "We will have more one on one connection with students, and will even make birthday cards for all high school students including those with birthdays in the summer!" said Ross. In accordance with bettering the school, the student council must also better themselves. In order to do that, they will be going to the Northwest District Meeting on October 24<sup>th</sup> at Liberty High School to learn ways to better STUCO practices.

All of the officers also had a little something to say about this year! President Jacob Hicks said, "I plan to get more students involved in school activities and clubs." Vice President Jessica Farmer has many goals for this year, she said, "I want to have the best pep rallies we've ever had, make as many activities for students as we can, and create a happy environment for all students." Secretary Skylar Howe plans on making her presence known by, "Attending all meetings, and giving my input on all topics that are discussed." Finally, as Secretary, I, Mason Misel, plan to make this year the best year that Polo has seen in many, many years!

There surely are many things that the members of Student Council have coming up very soon! Whether it is pep rallies, Homecoming, or the Northwest MASC District meeting, the Polo High School Student Council will be giving it their all, and they encourage you to do the same! The officers of Polo High School Student Council want this to be the best year it can possibly be, and to do that we will emphasize our Panther Family!

## Join Parents As Teachers...School Readiness Begins Early

### What is Parents as Teachers?

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is a parent education and family support program serving families throughout pregnancy until their child enters kindergarten.

### Who can join Parents as Teachers?

Parents as Teachers is a free program offered to all families with children, prenatal to kindergarten, who live in the Polo R-VII school district.

### Why Join?

**Education begins early, long before your child enters kindergarten.** As a parent, you are your child's first teacher and your home is your child's first classroom. Your baby begins learning at birth. **Brain growth and development happens more rapidly during the first five years of life than at any other time.** Parents as Teachers can support parents as they prepare their children to enter school ready to learn and ready to succeed.

### What services are offered through PAT?

Personal Visits – Parents are supported by a certified parent educator trained to provide information on what to expect as their child grows and develops. As well as offer practical tips to parents on ways to encourage learning, manage behaviors in their children, and promote strong parent-child relationships.

Group Connections – Parents will have the opportunity to participate in activities with their children. They can share experiences with other parents, discuss common concerns, and gain insights into parenting.

Screenings – The screening's purpose is to identify health, developmental, or other factors that may interfere with a child's learning, growth and development. Screenings can assist in preparing your child for school.

Resource Network – Families are connected with a network of community resources when needed.

### Who to call?

If you would like to enroll in Parents as Teachers or for more information, call parent educator, Jamy Aubrey at Polo school (660)354-2200 ext. 127.

## Starting Off the Season

By: Lisa Tackett

The girls have done terrific so far this season! They played Lexington in a home game on August 26<sup>th</sup>, coming out with a 7-2 win! The team roster was rather large this year. The seniors are Jessica Farmer, Danielle Allen, Adriana Segar, Mattie Curp, Sidney Copeland, Brooke Jones, and Cati Boruch. The juniors are Jenna Johnson, Brittany Sheppard, and Adrianna Staus. Sophomores are Jenni Farmer, Joely Hicks, Averie Heil, Nicole Joy, and Billie Thompson. Last but not least, the freshman; Sierra Dye, Amanda Hilburn, Julianna Hurd, Megan Latimer, Tegan Logan, and Taylor Wallace. The coaches are head coach, Becky Ross and assistant coach, Greg Keith. The managers are junior Cheyanne Dye and freshman Alayna Sweetland.

Danielle Allen is a senior at Polo High School that loves to play softball. She is #13 and she plays in the right field. I had a chance to talk with her and ask her a couple of questions. I asked her what advice she would give to underclassmen next year. She replied, "If you want a varsity spot, try and take mine." I also asked her how she hopes this season turns out. She responded, "I want to go to state this year."

Brooke Jones is a senior at Polo High School that has played softball since her freshman year. She is #11 and is one of the catchers. I took time to interview her and ask her a couple questions. First I asked her which was her favorite season to play. She responded, "My favorite year was probably my junior year." Secondly I asked her who her favorite team was and what year. She replied, "When we played Norborne last year in the Norborne Tournament."

The girls have done amazing so far this year and softball districts start on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Come watch and support the Lady Panthers not only at districts, but also at home games.

## September 2014 Activities Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 *No School – Labor Day *V SB Practice 6-8 pm	2 *Band Rental Night 6 pm in Band Room *V/JV SB @ Stanberry 5:30 pm *MS SB Practice 3:30-6 pm (non-cheerleaders ride early bus to field) *MS Cheer Practice 3:15-4 pm	3 *MS SB Practice 3:30-6 pm (non cheerleaders ride early bus to field) *MS Cheer Practice 3:15-4 pm *V SB Practice 3:45-5:45 pm	4 *V/JV SB vs. King City 5:30 pm *MS SB Practice 3:30-6 pm (non cheerleaders ride early bus to field) *MS Cheer practice 3:15-4 pm	5 *V FB vs. Gallatin 7 pm *Band plays @ FB game *MS SB practice 3:30-6 pm *MS Cheer Mtg 8-8:15 am *V SB practice 6-7:30 am	6 *V SB @ Cameron Tourney 8 am
7	8 *JV FB vs. Gallatin 6 pm *MS SB practice 3:30-6 pm (non cheerleaders ride early bus to field) *MS Cheer practice 3:15-4 pm *V SB practice 3:45-5:45 pm *8 <sup>th</sup> Grade trip to Hamilton TBA	9 *MS SB @ Norborne 5:30 pm *V/JV SB @ Grant City 5:30 pm *MS FB @ Gallatin 6 pm *Lion's Club Screening	10 *MS SB practice 3:30-6 pm *V SB practice 3:45-5:45 pm *PDC Mentor/Mentee Mtg 3:15-4 pm	11 *V/JV SB vs. SW Ludlow 5:30 pm *MS SB vs. Plattsburg 5:30 pm *Wal-Mart Vision Screening in Multi	12 *V FB vs. S.Harrison 7 pm *Band plays @ FB game *MS SB practice 3:30-6 pm *V SB practice 6-7:30 am *Wal-Mart Vision Screening in Multi	13 *V SB Polo Classic 8 am *Youth FB @ Polo
14 *All District Choir Auditions @ St. Joseph TBA	15 *No School Teacher In-Service *JV FB vs. S. Harrison 6 pm *V/JV/MS SB vs. Albany 5:30 pm	16 *MS FB vs. S. Harrison 6 pm *V SB practice 3:45-5:45 pm	17 *BOE Mtg 7 pm *FFA Area Chapter Degree Ceremony @ Gallatin 6 pm *MS SB practice 3:30-6 pm *V SB practice 3:45-5:45 pm	18 *V/JV/MSSB @ Princeton 5:30 pm	19 *V FB @ Princeton 7 pm *MS SB practice 3:30-6 pm	20 *MS SB @ Cameron Tourney 8am *Youth FB @ Polo
21	22 *MS SB @ Lexington 5:30 pm *V SB practice 3:45-5:45 pm	23 *MS FB @ Braymer 6 pm *V/JV SB @ Gallatin 5:30 pm *MS SB vs. Osborn 5:30 pm	24 *MS SB practice 3:30-6 pm *V SB practice 3:45-5:45 pm *PDC Mentor/Mentee Mtg 3:15-4 pm	25 *V/JV/MS SB vs. S. Harrison 5:30 pm	26 *V FB vs. Maysville 7 pm *Band plays at FB game *MS SB practice 3:30-6 pm *V SB practice 6-7:30 am	27 *Carrollton Band Day *V SB @ Norborne Tourney 8 am
28	29 *JV FB vs. Maysville 6 pm *MS SB practice 3:30-6 pm *V SB practice 3:45-5:45 pm	30 *MS FB @ Lawson 5 pm *V/JV/MS SB @ Braymer 5:30 pm				

## September 2014 Menu

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

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1 No School – Labor Day	2 French Toast Sticks, Ham, Fruit Chicken Fajita, Spanish Rice, Fruit	3 Breakfast Pizza, Fruit Sloppy Joe on Bun, Corn, Fruit	4 Breakfast Bar, Yogurt, Fruit Meatball Sub, Green Beans, Fruit	5 Scrambled Eggs, Toast, Fruit Bologna or Tuna Sandwich, Vegetable Sticks, Fruit
8 Cereal, Oatmeal, Fruit Corn dog or Burrito, Pinto Beans, Fruit	9 Pancakes, Ham, Fruit Pizza, Corn, Fruit	10 Breakfast Pizza, Fruit Chicken Nuggets, Broccoli with Cheese, Fruit	11 Breakfast Bar, Yogurt, Fruit Deli Turkey on Bun, Glazed Carrots, Fruit	12 Biscuit, Sausage Gravy, Fruit Hamburger on Bun, Tator Tots, Fruit
15 No School – In Service	16 French Toast Sticks, Ham, Fruit Oriental Vegetables, Fruit	17 Breakfast Pizza, Fruit Hot Weiner, Baked Fruit	18 Breakfast Bar, Yogurt, Fruit Sub Sandwich, Glazed Carrots, Fruit	19 Scrambled Eggs, Toast, Fruit Chicken Pattie on Bun, Green Beans, Fruit
22 Cereal, Oatmeal, Fruit Taco Stack, Spanish Rice, Fruit	23 French Toast Sticks, Ham, Fruit Chicken Nuggets, Broccoli with Cheese, Fruit	24 Breakfast Pizza, Fruit Hot dog on Bun, Green Beans, Fruit	25 Breakfast Bar, Yogurt, Fruit BBQ Riblet, Scalloped Potatoes, Fruit	26 Biscuit, Sausage Gravy, Fruit Shrimp, Slaw, Fruit
29 Beans, Fruit	30 French Toast Sticks, Ham, Fruit Creamy Chicken over Biscuit, Mixed Vegetables, Fruit			

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Answers to Guess the Panther:

MS: Mercedes McNab

HS: Paulo Kugelmas

## October 2014 Activities Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 *MS SB Practice 3:30-6 pm *VSB Practice 3:45-5:45 pm	2 *MS FB King City @ Braymer 5:30 pm *V/JV/MS SB @ Maysville 5:30 pm *FFA Fall Contest @ NWMSU *FFA Grassland Evaluation @ Maysville *MS SB @ Maysville 5:30 pm	3 *Early Out 1:01 pm for Homecoming *Parade 2 pm *Band plays @ FB Game *V FB vs. Braymer 7 pm	4
5	6 *No School – Teacher In-Service *V SB Practice 5-6:30 pm	7 *V SB Practice 3:45-5:45 pm	8 *V SB District Tourney TBA *V SB Practice 3:45-5:45 pm *PDC Mentor/Mentee Mtg. 3:15-4 pm	9	10 *Picture Retake by Scholastic 8 am *V FB @ King City 7 pm	11 *Central Methodist Band Day @ Fayette
12	13 *JV FB @ Richmond 6 pm	14 *MS FB vs. Maysville 6 pm	15 *V SB Sectionals TBA *FFA Area Greenhand Initiation @ Gallatin 6 pm	16 *ASVAB Test	17 *End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter *V FB vs. University Charter Academy 7 pm *Band plays @ FB Game	18 *Band to MO Days Marching Festival @ Trenton *V SB Quarterfinals TBA
19	20 *BOE Mtg. 7 pm	21	22 *PDC Mentor/Mentee Mtg. 3:15-4 pm	23 *Early Out 1:01 pm Parent/Teacher Conferences 1:30-8 pm	24 *No School *V FB Districts TBA *V SB MSHSAA Championship TBA	25 *Band to MWSU HC @ St. Joseph
26 *All State Choir Auditions/ All District Choir Concert@ Platte Co. HS	27	28 *MS BB vs. Braymer 5 pm	29	30	31 *V FB Districts TBA	