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Volume 9 Issue 7

March 12, 2009

Dates to Remember

Wednesday, Mar. 18th
All School Performance
"Poetees and Other Verses"

Mar. 18 & 19th
5th Grade gone on Snowshoeing
Adventure

Thursday, Mar. 19th
For the Love of the Arts,
5:30–8pm

Thursday, Mar. 19th
Report Cards come home

Mar. 23rd–27th
SPRING BREAK, NO SCHOOL

April 6th–10th
4th Grade gone to Crow Canyon

April 17th
NO SCHOOL, Professional Day

April 21st
LATE START, 11:45 am

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Polaris Families,

I am so grateful that our children have maintained such positive attitudes during this strenuous testing period. Allowing them lots of running around and extra afternoon recess after the many hours of testing has been a reward fit for such work. Fortunately, we are a school that does not belabor "teaching to the test." With CSAP testing behind us, we are looking forward to another post-CSAP treat that will be enjoyed by the entire school. On March 18th, our students will enjoy a performance by the Imagination Makers Theater Company. "Poetees and Other Verses from Nature" is an imaginative musical play expressed in a tapestry of poetry styles. It celebrates children's experiences of the one thing we all share—the earth. Imagination Makers (www.imaginationmakers.org) is a professional theater company that has been performing for children throughout the Denver metro area for the past 29 years.

I personally want to extend an invitation to each of you to bring your family to attend our annual evening celebration, **For the Love of Arts, on Thursday, March 19th from 5:30-8:00pm!** This annual event is a wonderful opportunity for parents, teachers, and students to celebrate the arts in our community and for local artisans, craftsmen, and performers to share their passions. This is also an opportunity to engage with other parents and a way to demonstrate support for our school's artistic mission. Your continued support is needed now more than ever. Please note that participating artists have agreed to donate 20% of all sales to our school. Please join us for an evening of joyful celebration of the arts!

Thanks so much to Coach Danny Mey, music teacher, Corrilee Kielmeyer, and all of our consistently fabulous parents who have spent hours in preparation for this outstanding event. I hope to see you all there...



Our 5th graders enjoyed a special visit from Ben Franklin last week!

Karin Johnson
Principal

Polaris Annual Garage Sale

(If you're doing spring cleaning, save your items for the Polaris Garage Sale...coming soon.)

The annual Polaris fundraising garage sale will be held on Saturday, April 25th. The Hipley-Robertsons will be hosting the sale at their home: 990 Krameria Street. They will be accepting donations starting April 4th. Please call or e-mail to arrange a time to drop off stuff: 303-320-1171 or jrobertson651@comcast.net

Yearbook News!

The Polaris Yearbook is just shy of finished, and Yearbook Committee will ship it off tomorrow!

Please note: that if you would like to purchase the yearbook you can! The cost is \$14 and we assure you the book is awesome!

If you are the parent of a 5th grader and you have not submitted a baby photo of your 5th grader, tomorrow is the ABSOLUTE FINAL deadline.

STUDENTS TAKE OVER TEACHER JOBS:

A crack investigative team has uncovered a shocking development in the 4th grade: students are actually teaching lessons on Colorado history! While some experts thought the move to be an educational device aimed at increasing learning, others smelled a cost-cutting measure from the district. "I'm talking to the union," an obviously disgruntled Mr. Isaac snapped at one of our reporters. "I work hard to feed my family. Now some snot-nosed kid thinks he can just step in and do my job?" The angry teacher sneered out angry quotes as he pushed past the media before being whisked away to an unknown location.

The other fourth grade teachers didn't take the news so terribly. "I actually think that kids teaching about the various people groups of Colorado could be an insightful and constructive way to build knowledge about our state," said one teacher, who wished not to be named for fear that Mr. Isaac might seek legal action. Students have been observed handing out quizzes on pioneers and westward movement, giving a slide show on the Cheyenne people, and presenting information on the Colorado gold rush of 1859. "I like our new teacher," said one 10 year old. "They place nice at recess."

A Farewell From One of Our Own

Dear Friends:

Some of you might have heard that I am leaving Polaris at the end of this school year to join Dr. Howard at Kunsmiller Creative Arts Academy as the Assistant Principal for the 2009-10 school year. I can't believe I just typed those words, as I had never planned to leave Polaris unless a popular uprising forced me to abandon ship! And to answer the next question, no, there was no uprising. How could I leave such a fine place as Polaris? Alas, it is bittersweet. Polaris is truly the finest school from which I've stolen paper clips. This school has the best paper clips around. In all seriousness, I wanted to extend thanks to everyone: parents, students, teachers and staff, who make this school so special. I hope that at KCAA we can transplant some of the flame that burns so brightly here. Know that my heart will cherish the time we've spent together. And again, thanks for all of the paper clips.

Greg Isaac, 4th Grade Teacher

Hear Ye, Hear Ye - Calling All Submissions!

We are always looking for articles about the Polaris community. So, if you know about something of interest that is going on around the school or in the community, please e-mail the information to PLPERNELL@MSN.COM. A list of published newsletter dates is on the Polaris website. We normally publish a newsletter twice a month. All submissions should be sent to Paula Pernel by 5 p.m. on the Monday before publication dates.

Did You Know That You Can Find the Newsletter On-line????

The Polaris school webpage is <http://polarisprogram.dpsk12.org/>
Current and past newsletters can be downloaded all year long under the communications tab on our website.

TOO MANY INTERRUPTIONS AT SCHOOL RAISES ALARM:

Students at Polaris report that many are losing heart and are dismayed over the constant interruptions to their daily conversations. Some students say the interruptions are getting to a point where they can't speak to their friends for up to 30 minutes. Teachers are reportedly interrupting student conversations with lessons, instructions, and other trivial input that has caused an outcry, particularly amongst the 6 dozen 4th graders at Polaris. Said one frustrated student, who wished to remain anonymous, "They won't even let us text our friends from the bathroom-it has gotten THAT bad." Another student shared an old-fashioned method to get around the stumbling block. "A couple of us are thinking of learning Morse code so we can tap out messages during class, but don't tell our teachers. They might actually want us to do work during school. Can you believe it? I'm telling my dad." Sources close to the situation indicate that the teachers remain unbowed by the criticism. Students may have to get used to frequent interruptions for the foreseeable future.

Performers Wanted

The 5th annual For the Love of the Arts event will be next Thursday night, March 19, from 5:30 - 8:30. There will be wonderful visual art displays as well as a terrific culinary art and performances. There is a great opportunity to share the arts with the Polaris students. It is not too late to enter a performance for this special night. Your performance could be as simple as reading a favorite story or poem. Please inform Corrilee Kielmeyer ASAP if you would like to add your name to the list of fantastic performers!



Special Moments!

POET'S CORNER

Seth Grinstead's Cinquain:

Oh dog,
Are you angry
At that cat in the street
Because you cannot get
through that
Darn gate?

Molly Brogden's Snow Night

Snow falls as a night becomes
a snow night
Snow falls on this snow night
Tiny white pieces of crystal,
so small they melts.
The crystals float down
carved into different and
unique shapes.

On a night like this
we call it a snow night

Luke Freehling's Burning

Burning
Flames are dancing.
Solid heat stings the eyes.
Crashing items burnt by the
flame.

Black smoke.

Twilight by Isabella Ray

Twilight is a time
for only darkness
where the truth
can unravel.

Music Messages

4th Graders Impress Audience

Thursday February 26th proved a special day for audiences at Polaris. They were treated to a performance by the students in Mrs. Quinby's, Mr. Isaac's and Mr. Semler's 4th grade classes. They blended harmoniously for the first two songs. The first was a musically challenging arrangement of the Canoe song and Land of the Silver Birch. Next, they told of the mysterious "Cock Robin." The nefarious bird tried to get away with a crime while the students sang, "Who Killed Cock Robin." These two pieces were followed by three dances. All students sang the songs to accompany the dancers. Mr. Isaac's class danced, "Great Big House in New Orleans." Then, Mrs. Quinby's class performed "Bingo," followed by Mr. Semler's class with, "Goin' Down to Cairo." All students performed well and made their music teacher very proud. Congratulations to these fine musicians!

Shakespeare Festival Auditions

All Polaris 5th graders will be attending the 25th annual Shakespeare festival this year. To perform on a stage, they must audition for judges. The audition will include 1-2 minutes of each scene. The students will be scored on memorization, acting and costuming. The costume can simply be a drawing of the student's character in costume. As the 5th graders prepare for the audition, please help them with the memorization and preparing a drawing of an appropriate costume. The judges will be here Tuesday to watch each scene. Wish us luck!

Quarter Change

After spring break the students will change specials for the final time this year. The 2nd and 3rd grade students will return to music and library while the 4th and 5th graders rotate to art and dance. As this quarter comes to a close, I realize that the 5th grade students will come to music for the last time. They have truly become wonderful musicians and it's been a pleasure having them for the last 5 years. The students will still rehearse for the Shakespeare festival and the upcoming opera project, however. I will still be communicating to 5th grade families about this and other events. So, please keep reading the music messenger!

Upcoming Events

April 20th - 2nd and 3rd graders attend a Colorado Symphony Orchestra Concert

May 8th - DPS Shakespeare Festival

May 14th - Polaris GALA!

