

Volume 9, Issue 6

February 12, 2009

Dates to Remember

Feb 13 RIF

**Feb 16-17
NO SCHOOL**

**Feb 18-19
CSAP Makeups—3rd Gr**

**March 26
Dance Performance for
Grades 2,3,4
4:30 M-Z
5:30 A-L**

**March 2-6, 9-13, 16-20
CSAP testing for 3, 4, 5**

**March 19th
For the Love of the Arts
5:30-8**

**March 23-27
NO SCHOOL, Spring Break**

From the Principal's Desk

Until every gifted child can attend a school where the brightest are appropriately challenged in an environment with their intellectual peers, America can't claim that it is leaving no child behind.

from Genius Denied, Jan and Bob Davidson

Dear Polaris Families,

We're so proud of our wonderful students. Visitors to our school continually remark on how engaged and friendly our students are. Elementary school is a time to delight in learning and at Polaris that joyful theme is evident at each grade level. Our school certainly has the culture and curriculum to reach the needs of these highly gifted learners and today's newsletter reflects the amazing accomplishments of the last few weeks. We have so much to be proud of and thankful for. I am so grateful to have your family and student(s) here at Polaris.

A Huge Thank You

Our families never cease to amaze us! The library has benefited from over \$850 worth of new birthday books since the start of this year. These gifts keep our library collection current and allow our students to read the newest titles available. Polaris parents are the most wonderful ... thank you from the whole staff!

Denver Public Schools Science Fair Winners

I am pleased to announce that Polaris was well represented at the Denver Public Schools Science Fair. Jade Benson won 1st place for 5th grade and "Best of Show" for elementary level at the district Science Fair. Bridget Galaty won 1st place for 4th grade. Congratulations to our young Polaris scientists!!!

Mile High Scholars

Since 1996, the City and County of Denver has honored the tremendous talents and scholarship of Denver Public School students. Each year, teachers are asked to select one student from each grade in every Denver Public School. Students are selected for their qualities of scholarship, leadership, character, or for having made some special contribution to the school community.

Scholars are honored in a city-wide event with the Mayor, City Council, Superintendent, and School Board. Mile High Scholars receive a certificate of acknowledgement, a bumper sticker to display their achievement, and tickets to several cultural venues and sporting events. I am proud to announce our 2009 Polaris @ Ebert Mile High Scholars:

1st grade: Tanner Brummond
2nd grade: Mirai Hills
3rd grade: Josephine Rita
4th grade: Eric Dellavalle
5th grade: Katherine Pottinger

Congratulations to all of our Polaris stars. Your parents, teachers and principal are proud of all of your individual achievements! Enjoy the long weekend with your family,

Karin Johnson

From the PTO President

Dear Ebert Community,

Over the past few months, we have been approached by parents and others with more than a few fundraising ideas. However, because we had promised last year that the fundraising survey results would provide guidelines for future fundraising for the school, we felt that we were unable to implement anything new without having the survey results first. Now that the survey results are in, we have set up a method to enable members of the community to submit their ideas for consideration.

A Fundraising Proposal Form has been created. It is currently in almost, but not quite, final form. However, it will be final within the next week or so. This form was designed to help those of you with fundraising ideas to formulate a fundraising plan within the framework of the survey results. The form will be posted on line and hard copies will be available in the office if you do not have Internet access. Please look over the form carefully. If you feel that your Proposal fits within the fundraising guidelines that will be presented either in or with the form, please fill out the form with as much of the details as possible. The PTO officers and fundraising chair will evaluate each application in accordance with a rubric and if your fundraising project fits within the rubric, you must be prepared to present the details of and answer questions about your project at a PTO meeting. You will be notified as to which meeting it will be. Further, either you, or someone you know must be ready, willing and able, to implement the project you before it can be accepted by the PTO. So, please think this through and make sure that you will have someone ready to take on the project once it is approved.

We do want to encourage the free exchange of ideas and we hope that this will be a good method to help our community to come up with fundraising ideas that fit with our community goals and re-energize the community in this arena. Thanks in advance for your thoughtful and imaginative ideas. Please keep your eyes open for messages about this form in your Thursday folders and/or via e-Blast.

Very truly yours,

Susan H. Borgos, PTO President

Feb 25th - 'Parenting Gifted Kids' workshop

Tips for Raising Happy and Successful Children' by Dr. Jim Delisle. This seminar is sponsored by the Jefferson County Association for Gifted Children (JAGC). Join us on Wednesday, February 25th, 6:00 - 9:00 pm at the Jeffco Education Center, Building 27, School Board Room, 5th Floor, 1829 Denver West Drive, Golden, CO 80401.

Nationally-acclaimed speaker, Dr. Jim Delisle, Ph. D., will offer practical advice to parents on raising gifted children. His honest and thought-provoking presentation helps parents re-examine the way they perceive and relate to their children with such topics as:

- * Questions about how to best meet their intellectual and emotional needs
- * What giftedness is (and what it isn't)
- * How to set expectations that are balanced and attainable
- * How to help children find true friends who share similar interests and abilities

Dr. Jim Delisle brings over 30 years of experience as a teacher, counselor, professor and parent. His work has been featured in The New York Times, The Washington Post, Education Week, People Magazine, Nat'l Public Radio, and on Oprah. He has authored 200+ articles & 14 books, including The Gifted Kids Survival Guide: A Teen Handbook and Parenting Gifted Kids: Tips for Raising Happy and Successful Children. Dr. Delisle will stay for a BOOK SIGNING after the presentation.

PARENTING CONFERENCE

Nationally acclaimed speaker, Dr. Jim Delisle, Ph. D., will offer practical advice to parents on raising gifted children. His honest and thought-provoking presentation helps parents re-examine the way they perceive and relate to their children

A flyer for this conference is publicly viewable at: http://docs.google.com/Doc?id=ddk662r8_99dxvprfkf.aspx.

CAP Prevention Program

On February 10, I was fortunate to be able to attend the Child Assault Prevention (CAP) prevention program hosted by our school. The program was directed at parents, and provided education about how we can help to keep our kids safe from sexual predation, abduction and other dangers. This is heavy stuff to think about and certainly is not a fun topic, but I am incredibly proud of our school community for providing this program. Having attended this workshop and others like it, I am convinced that the best way for us to keep our children safe is to educate ourselves, our children, and all the caregivers in our children's lives.

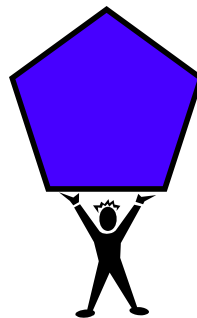
Although there were some startling and disturbing statistics presented in the workshop, the message that resonated most is that with their parents' help, kids have the resources to be safe, strong and free. Actively listening to our children, teaching them not to keep secrets, and helping them to realize that they have the power to assert their own boundaries are examples of things that we can do to help keep them safe.

Our teachers all participated in a 2-hour training on this topic on one of our late start days, and over the course of the next few weeks our children will also be trained in their classrooms. If you were not able to attend the parent workshop, I encourage you to stop by the office and look through the Adult Resource Packet that was provided in the training (Yolanda has a copy). This will provide you insight into what your children are learning and help you to build on this incredible opportunity to strengthen the communication in your family about this topic.

We do fire drills in our schools to help kids know what to do in case of an emergency. Hopefully, our children will never be exposed to a fire - or to dangers such as sexual predation or abduction. Educating them and ourselves about this is the best thing we can do to prevent such things from happening, and to help keep them safe should they find themselves in a difficult situation.

Thank you to Polaris for providing this training. I am so proud of our school for making it a priority.

Susan Bridges Robertson, MPH
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Second Grade Happenings

We are in the midst of concluding our Geometry Unit. We have had some fun investigations with a visiting workshop with the Mizel Center that had the students create "Polygon Patterns." Check them out hanging in the hallway. We also did a joint project with the 1st grade to create polyhedrons using gum drops and toothpicks. The students were then able to place their creations in bubble solution and watch the polygons and other polyhedron that developed inside the figure.

As we continue our cultural studies of the Americas we are deep into the history of the first civilizations of the area: Inca, Maya and Aztec. The students are working to understand the differences and similarities among these groups and the time periods that their civilizations existed.