

Volume 9, Issue 5

January 15, 2009

Dates to Remember

Monday, January 19th
NO SCHOOL

Thurs. January 22nd
District Science Fair

Monday, January 26th
PTO Meeting, 6:15-8p

Wed., January 28th
4th Grade Crow Canyon Mtgs
4-5p & 6:30-7:30p

Monday, February 2nd
5th Grade to Young Ameri-
towne

Thurs., February 5th
3rd Gr Night of the Notables

February 10-11 3rd Grade
Reading CSAP

Thurs., February 12th
LATE START 11:45a

February 16-17
NO SCHOOL

Thurs., February 19th
Band Concert 7p

March 3-5
Grades 3-5 CSAP

March 10-12
Grades 3-5 CSAP

Thurs., March 19th
For the Love of the Arts
5:30-8p

From the Principal's Desk

"If we aren't willing to pay a price for our values, if we aren't willing to make some sacrifices in order to realize them, then we should ask ourselves whether we truly believe in them at all." -Barack Obama from his book, "Audacity of Hope" (Chapter 2)



Dear Polaris Families,

Our new year is off to an impressive start!

Historical Win

On the morning of Thursday, January 20th we will be viewing, in the gym and auditorium, the ceremony and celebration of the Presidential inauguration. Regardless of political affiliation, this is truly an historic event in our nation's history and we want all of our students to participate in this momentous occasion. If you would like to join us in watching President Obama's inauguration, Ms. Cori has arranged for large screen projections in both the gym and auditorium. Years from now, your child may well remember viewing it at Ebert.

Winning Combination

Michael Bennet and Tom Boasberg have worked in tandem to implement effective reforms for Denver Public Schools. In the interest of continuing Bennet's Denver Plan, and because Michael Bennet will now serve as Colorado Senator, Tom Boasberg has been named the new DPS superintendent. Mr. Boasberg has emphasized his intent to continue reform efforts. The Denver Board of Education is scheduled to formally vote on his appointment on January 22nd during a special public meeting. For more information, contact Ken Santistevan, Special Assistant to the Superintendent - Community Relations 720-423-3491.

Winning Academics:

Our analysis of the most recent benchmark tests is inspiring. Our third through fifth graders grew tremendously in reading, writing and math, and in some cases, for some children, drastic increases are recorded. This is exceptional progress. Thank your child's teacher for all of his/her intense instruction focused your student's achievement. Faculty expertise combined with student responsiveness is yielding remarkable results!

Polaris Science Fair Winners

All of our participating children were celebrated during last month's Science Fair. Children in grades 3-5 verbally demonstrated their scientific expertise and discussed their discoveries with compassionate members of our community. Three exceptional Polaris scientists will go on to represent our school in the Denver Public Schools Science Fair. Congratula-

Be Mine! ... A little early

We will have another late start day on Thursday, Feb. 12th and it has been decided that any classroom parties taking place in honor of Valentine's Day will happen that afternoon. This will allow children to enjoy a small celebration in the classroom without disrupting electives scheduled for Friday.

ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

The yearbook is in full swing and we are collecting photographs. If you have photos that you would like to share in the yearbook please drop them in the office in the envelope labeled YEARBOOK, or email them to us at polarisyearbook@dps.gaggle.net

THANKS!
2008-2009 Yearbook Committee

5th GRADE PARENTS

Please look for information in this week's Thursday folder about Parent Messages and Dedications for this year's yearbook. Space is limited and 5th graders are given priority. Please note that parent messages and dedications must be returned to the school by Tuesday February 17th in order to confirm the space. An order form should be in this week's Thursday folder. Please contact the yearbook committee at

polarisyearbook@dps.gaggle.net

with any questions.

3rd grade: Tyler Neuschatz: The Physics of Baseball

4th grade: Bridget Galaty – From Hand to Brain: a Tactile Experience

5th grade: Jade Benson – The Effect of Food Sensitivities on Blood Types

Winning Friends

Books, like good friends, feed our minds and nourish our thinking by enabling connections and interpretations of our world. Our beloved librarian, Mrs. Axt, continues to stock our library with the newest children's literature. She also assists our children in making those choice selections. Part of our school improvement plan targets writing achievement at every grade level. What better way for our students to develop their own writing techniques than to read many authors and genres? Next time you stop in our school library seek out Mrs. Axt. She is always excited to share her latest, favorite book! Some winning titles include:

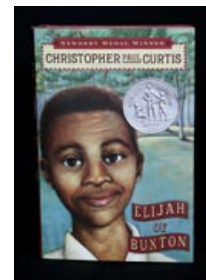
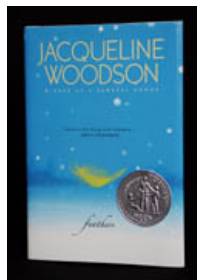
2008 Newberry Winner: *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village* by Laura Amy Schlitz, illustrated by Robert Byrd, and published by Candlewick. This is an historical fiction compiled of 21 dramatic narratives which transports the reader back in time to the thirteenth-century revealing character.

Other 2008 Newberry Honors Books include:

Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis (Scholastic)

The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt (Clarion)

Feathers by Jacqueline Woodson (Putnam)



Winning Friends and Influencing People

On February fifth, I will present at The Colorado Council International Reading Association conference. My presentation will demonstrate techniques for teaching gifted children rigorous writing within the context of arts integration. Sound familiar? I hope they allot me enough time to boast about our school, where our faculty collaborates with each other, their students and parents to ensure the richest educational and literacy experiences possible.

Enjoy your long weekend and remember to curl up with your child and read a winning book.

Karin Johnson
Principal

The Polaris Grocery Card Program: The Easiest (and no-cost!) Way to Raise Money for our School.

Participating in the Grocery Program is FREE and convenient. Here's how it works: the school buys grocery cards at 95% of value and then sells them to you at face value. So Polaris earns 5% of all the cards we sell. It's as simple as that. Last year we raised over \$10,000 and we're well on our way to doing the same this year. Please consider joining the over 85 families that are already part of the program.

We sell cards to King Soopers, Safeway, Vitamin Cottage, and Sunflower Markets. You can order a monthly amount and they're available in the school office on the 1st of every month. And you can pick them up at your convenience.

For more information, please contact Robin Angstadt at 303-322-0486 or RobinAngstadt@aol.com

For the Love of the Arts

Each year the Polaris community celebrates the arts together. Parents and teachers share their passion for the arts with the students in an interactive gallery and performance. Many talented instrumentalists, vocalists, thespians, poets, storytellers, dancers and even a world record holder have performed for this event. Please begin thinking about sharing your talent with our school.

For the Love of the Arts will be held on **Thursday, March 19th** this year so mark the date on your calendar now! If you have any questions about getting involved please contact Danny Mey here at the school, danny_mey@dpsk12.org or 303-292-4629.

PARKING AND PICK UP NOTES—VIP INFORMATION

While we understand that emergencies arise and a late pickup might become necessary we are finding an increased problem with repeated late pick-ups. Chronically picking your children up late is disrespectful to both your child and the staff that must stay with your child until you arrive. If you anticipate arriving past 3:35 (**note the bell rings for dismissal at 3:30**) to pick your child up please come to the office to get your child. Your child MUST wait in the office—it is the only way we can ensure your child's safety. Please do not call the office (or your child's cell phone) to have your child come and meet you outside. It is our policy that children waiting in the office must have a parent come in to get them, again this is the only way we can ensure your child's safety.

In addition, we are experiencing increased issues with parents parking in the staff parking lot and using that area as a drop-off zone. The staff parking lot is for **staff only** and we ask that parents not park in that area. There are free two-hour parking spots along all of the side streets. Unfortunately, parents choosing to park in the staff lot is creating a problem for the staff, as they are then forced to use the two hour parking and must interrupt instruction to go and move their vehicles. If this behavior continues we will ask DPS security to patrol the lot and they will issue tickets to cars not belonging to faculty and staff members.

Drop-off and Pick-up is to happen **ONLY** on the West side of the building (Glenarm). Because it is becoming an issue of safety we will again ask DPS Security to come and patrol for this, as well. Safety is our first concern regarding your children and we ask that you respect the policies and guidelines we have in place to ensure that your children are not at risk.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated!

CAP Project

Parents are invited to attend the CAP (Child Assault Prevention) Workshop that will be hosted here at Polaris. This program is aimed at helping adults identify children who might be in abusive situations and what to do to assist those who need help. If you are interested in learning more about this program please join us on Tuesday, February 10th in the Library from 6-8pm. For more information about this program please contact the school directly.

Lockdown shows that Ebert responds quickly

On December 17, Denver police chased a suspect onto Ebert's playground. Fortunately, students were not out playing at that time. Ms. Johnson heard the disturbance, saw the police, and immediately implemented a lockdown.. The good news is that the suspect was apprehended without incident. The better news is that the lockdown went without a hitch, thanks to training drills we have had in recent months. It's great to see that our teachers and students know what to do.

Some parents and visitors may not be aware that during a lockdown nobody is allowed to leave or enter the building. If you should ever find yourself in the building during a lockdown, even during a drill, please understand that you should go to the nearest room and lay low until the lockdown is officially over as indicated by the principal over the school intercom.

To assist in fast communication, the safety committee purchased a set of 2-way radios for playground supervisors, building personnel and the front office to stay in contact.

In the coming weeks, the safety committee will be examining access to the school grounds and considering ways to tighten things up a bit so as to further dissuade those who should not be on school property. We welcome ideas.

The Polaris Safety Committee

Parent representatives: Mark Herlinger, Susan Robertson, Brad Nelson

Staff representatives: Marion Parker, Yolanda Dulaney, Danny Mey, Karin Johnson

Poetry Selections from Mr. Isaac's Class

Night

By Anna Rozell

I dream well
suspended by night
peaceful
quiet.
The silent air comforts.
I am Human
By Creede Elliott
Dedicated to my dog Lucy

She thinks
She's a person.
She does human things.
But she knows the truth
About who she is,
She knows
What everybody
Thinks
But, she replies,
You think I'm an animal,
But I think differently.
My image is animal,
Yes,
That may be true,
But in my mind
I am no animal
I'm just like you.

The Lonely Pole at the Museum

By Kieran Gallagher

I am a pole
A very lonely pole
If only someone would stop by
And give this pole a hug
Children, elders, someone please,
Stop and give a hug to me
Oh how I wish to be alive,
To frolic to and fro.

Grass

By Bridget Galaty

I sway
I bend
Please look at me
I wave
I'm free
Please look at me
As I move
I hope you'll say
"Look at that piece of grass"

Music Messenger

Thank You!!

Mrs. Kielmeyer would like to thank the Polaris community for their generous holiday gifts this year. "I am truly blessed to be part of such a fine school," Mrs. Kielmeyer said. "The students are a pleasure to teach," she continued, "and the goodies and gifts really make me feel special."

Polaris Honor Choir

Back by popular demand is the Polaris Honor Choir program. This fantastic singing group is open to students in 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. It is open to any student in those grade levels, but an audition is required. If there are more than 65 students interested, Mrs. Kielmeyer will select the top scoring 65 voices from the auditions. The audition is short (3-5 minutes) and preparation is not necessary. Most likely, everyone will be invited to join choir. Traditionally, choir practiced during the second elective on Fridays. This year, however, Mrs. Kielmeyer does not teach on Fridays. The honor choir will meet on Wednesday mornings from 7:45-8:30 instead. Students will audition during the next two weeks during a lunch recess and invitation letters will go home Thursday, January 29th. Rehearsals will begin the following Wednesday morning (February 4th.) Come and sing with us!

Music and Dance Performance

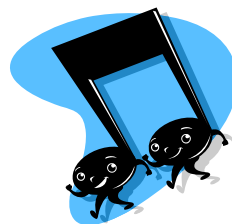
Polaris 4th graders will perform a concert on Thursday, February 26th at 4:30 and 5:30 in the gym. Come hear them sing traditional Native American and Pioneer songs. They will be joined by the 2nd and 3rd graders in dances from around the world. Parents should plan on attending only one performance. Students will stay after school until approximately 6:15 and snacks will be provided. They need to perform the concert twice. There will be a reception in the foyer for parents during the second performance for those waiting for students to finish. In order to spit our audience evenly, please come to the concert corresponding to your child's last name. Last names beginning with M-Z please attend the 4:30 concert (this is a change from last year!) Those with names beginning with A-L join us at 5:30. Parent volunteers are needed to help with this event. If you would be willing to help, please contact Mrs. Kielmeyer at Corrilee_kielmeyer@dpsk12.org or 720.424.7884.

DSA Band Still Accepting Applications

Denver School of the Arts Band director, Dave Hammond, informed Mrs. Kielmeyer last night that there are still openings for next year. Any 5th grader who is interested in the band department is encouraged to apply. For more details please contact Mrs. K.

For the Love of the Arts

"Come One, Come All to the 5th annual For the Love of the Arts Event!" This is a wonderful community celebration of all art forms (visual, performing and otherwise). Parents will display their passion for the arts for our students to enjoy from 5:30-8:00 on February 20th. If you would like to display or perform, please come to the organizational meeting February 20th from 4:30-5:00 in the art room. For even more information and description please see "Coach's Corner."



COACHES CORNER:

Artist workshop:

The workshop will continue meeting on Tuesdays after school from 3:30 – 4:30. We have been making and trading “Artist Trading Cards”. Every second Saturday of the month there is a meeting at the Core Art Space, where artist’s trade cards with each other. We have had a light turnout from Ebert, but those who have been attending are have great fun and meeting some pretty fabulous artist from around the metro area. Each month the ATC picks a new theme, the month of January is “Dr. Seuss”! Feb. 3, we will shift gears and do a video editing workshop with Ms. Herbst-Loehr that will last through March 10.



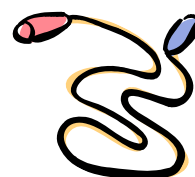
Basketball:

Fourth and fifth grade Basketball will continue meeting on Thursdays after school from 3:30 – 5:00. We were unable to find a volunteer to coach a competitive team against other schools. (I am only able to commit to Thursday after school.) But it’s all good, a hard core group of us baller’s are playing pickup games, staying in shape, and learning skills here and there.



Jump rope:

Jump rope will continue meeting on Fridays after school from 3:30 – 4:30. We have begun practicing in earnest for the DPS Jump Rope Competition. The competition will be April 25 at Manual High School.



For the Love of the Arts:

Any one interested in helping with the production of this year’s “Love of the Arts” will meet on Friday, February 20, from 4:30 – 5:00. The event will take place March 19th, from 5:30 – 8:00.

This event is a great community builder for our school. Artisans, craftsmen, and hobbyist, who want to share their passion for any form of art, are encouraged to show their stuff. If you’re a parent or staff member and are passionate about; poetry reading, photography, dancing, music, painting, sculpture, book making, story telling, black smithing, motorcycle or car building, architecture, interior and landscape design, illustration, wood stump drum building, juggling and balancing, theater, opera, hair design, culinary art, cartooning, and you get the idea, Model your passion for our students! This event will also become a fund raiser. Artists may donate 20% of the profit from their sales to help offset budget needs. Also, food sale contributions of 20% will go toward providing scholarships to the Crow Canyon experience. (I think it a travesty that a public school must provide funding to supplement staff salary in order to provide a healthy learning environment for our students. But that’s another subject.)

The End of the Year Gala:

This exciting social event is the show case for our students to model samples of the importance of the arts infusion in our curriculum and the benefit’s of our experiential electives program.

Field Day:

Field Day is a show case for our young athletes too model their P.E. skills, in a variety of challenges. The Kindergarten through 4th grades will be run by 5th grade students in the A.M. The 5th grade will then have their Field day events in the P.M...

