



Polo CUSD #222

www.polo222.org

PCHS: 946-3314

AMS: 946-2519

CENTENNIAL: 946-3811



High School Art Students — “Paint the Town”

For one Saturday, each September, Morrison’s downtown is transformed into an outdoor canvas for hundreds of amateur artists of all ages who gather to Paint the Town. The Children’s Art Preservation Association created this unique family art event as a way for the community to participate in the arts together, as families and individuals. The focus of the event is the painting of five-foot squares on and around Morrison’s Main Street. The number of squares painted has grown steadily since the event’s debut in 1994, when 250 squares were painted, to 1,375 squares by more than 1,500 children, families and individuals during Paint the Town 2008. More than 6,000 attend the event annually to enjoy the painting, variety of entertainment, and great food. To celebrate its 17th season, the 2011 offered 1,600 squares for painting; each a frame and canvas ready to receive the original work of these artists

The Polo High School students, along with the Morrison High School students and many area artists, painted the business windows downtown. The Polo students were separated into 8 groups of 3. Each group painted a 10’ x 10’ window in tempera paint, with their own artwork. The process takes approximately 8-10 hours to complete. This year’s theme was portraits, adding a little stress to the students. Drawing a face can be more difficult for them. There was a great variety of ideas including a portrait of Mr. Tom Welty, a monster family portrait, realistic faces, silhouettes and even a frog portrait! The high schoolers did a fantastic job! Thanks to all the parents and for all that came to watch the painting being accomplished.

Participating Students

Michaele Cavanaugh
Spencer Frano
Holly Scholl
Savannah McKinley
Kalee Hutson
John Hanlon

Nikki Bartnick
Allison Reeder
Emily Ditzler
Ashley Short
Peyton Taylor
Ethan Ditzler

Megan Beers
Stephanie Merlak
Allison Byrd
Tyler Shipman
Lynae Merdian
Austin Reeder

Travis VanDrew
Madison Merdian
Lana Scholl
Ranee Mennenga
Baylen Hammond



Ethan Ditzler, Spencer Frano and Tyler Shipman sit in front of their portrait they painted during “Paint The Town”.



Megan Beers, Michaele Cavanaugh and Stephanie Merlak sit in front of the portrait they painted of Mr. Welty.

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) for K-10

Sometime during the week of October 3rd through the 22nd, your child will take tests called Measures of Academic Progress™ (MAP). We give students MAP tests to determine your child’s instructional level and to measure academic growth throughout the school year, and from year to year in the areas of reading and math for K-1 and reading, math, and language arts for grades 2-10. Your child will take the tests on a computer.

MAP tests are unique in that they are adaptive tests. That means that the test becomes more difficult the more questions your child answers correctly. When your child incorrectly answers a question, the test becomes easier. Therefore, your child will be taking a test specifically created for his or her learning level. In addition, your child should have had the opportunity to learn the information presented on the test because the tests are aligned with the states common core standards.

Each school year, students in grades K-10 will take the tests in October, January, and again in April. Following each testing period, you will receive a report showing your child’s growth. We are truly excited to begin a new era that focuses on every child’s individual growth and achievement. **Partnering to help all kids learn**, parents and teachers can have a profound positive effect on the lives of our children.

In the coming weeks you will receive your child’s MAP assessment results. For more information on resources for parents, download the **Parent Toolkit** at www.nwea.org >> Partner Support.

Melydi Huyett, Reading Specialist/RtI Coordinator

Polo Schools: Building a foundation for the future.

From the PCHS Principal's Desk

The school year has started off successfully. The first few weeks were very busy, however everything seems to be moving along smoothly. The cooler weather is a welcome for all and has made the school days more comfortable. All of the fall sports and school clubs are up and running...something we pride ourselves in. When you get a chance, please stop in and watch an event or contest. Students enjoy playing and doing activities when supported by others.

Fall is busy with many activities and school sponsored events. October 28th will mark the end of the first quarter. We will have Parent/Teacher Conferences on November 2nd (4-8 p.m.) and 3rd (2-6 p.m.) *by appointment*. I believe this is a valuable time for both parents and teachers to come together to improve student success. School will dismiss on both days at 2 p.m.

I encourage everyone to visit the PCHS website located thru the Polo School District website. The address is www.polo222.org. There is a high school link at the top that you can click on to visit our building. The site includes the PCHS Student Handbook, PCHS Course Description Book, Counselor's Corner, sports information as well as other pertinent high school information.

Lumen, our student information site, is also available online. This site includes everything that you need to check on your student's progress. Lumen offers the option to check grades, assignments, lunch money as well as other functions. High school parents received access and log-in information at registration. Contact the office if you need additional details.

Enjoy the fall weather before the snow appears.

HS Student Council

Student Council is excited about the start of another great year. Our first big endeavor this year will be the American Red Cross Blood Drive at the high school from 8 to noon on Saturday October 29th. If a community member is interested in donating and isn't contacted by a student council member please feel free to call the school starting October 17th to set up a time to donate. As always, donors are reminded to get plenty of rest the night before their donation and to eat a hearty breakfast. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the high school at (815)946-3314 and ask for Mr. Pearce.

PCHS Counselor's Corner

Freshmen - Adhering to the Illinois State Board of Education's Social/Emotional Learning Standards, Ms. Donmeyer has created discussion groups intended to enlighten and support PCHS freshmen during their crucial teen years. The groups will be held during the Homeroom beginning in October and touch on, but are not limited to, such topics as dating, bullying, self-esteem, academic prioritizing, drugs/alcohol dangers, and personality assessments.

Sophomores - The sophomores will be taking the PLAN test on November 16th at the Buffalo Township Town Hall. This pre-ACT test is a valuable assessment tool that is used to create individual and group ACT practice for students as they prepare for the ISBE mandated PSAE test given during their junior year.

Juniors - Ms. Donmeyer will be conducting presentations to all juniors in October regarding PSAE/ACT and information about future plans. Students should begin studying for the ACT as soon as possible as practice helps students achieve higher scores on both days of testing. If you have questions or wish to inquire about study materials, please call the PCHS Counseling Office.

Seniors - Senior Conferences were held during September. Ms. Donmeyer will again speak with seniors in the early spring; parents who want to set up a meeting this fall should contact the Counseling Office.

Summary of Board Action Monday, September 26, 2011

1. Approved the consent agenda, including minutes from the August 1st special meeting and August 22nd regular Board Meeting, September bills, and the treasurer's report.
2. Approved the application for School Recognition.
3. Approved hiring Susan Hopkins as the middle school cheerleading coach and Ellie Dyer as a part-time temporary substitute.
4. Brian Anderson from WIPFLI presented the FY11 Audit.
5. Reports from the Principals and Superintendent were given.
6. Discussed the Title 1 allotment for FY12 and set priorities for using the funds.
7. Changed the October Board Meeting to October 20th and the November Board Meeting to November 17th.
8. The Northwest Division Dinner Meeting will be October 13th at 6pm at the Stockton High School.
9. Approved the 2010-2011 Audit.
10. Approved the 2011-2012 Budget.
11. Approved a \$5000 gift to be used for high school girls' basketball uniforms.
12. Approved early graduation for 2 high school students.
13. Adjourned to Executive Session.
14. Discussed joining IESA for track.
15. Adjourned.

NEXT BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 20, 2011
CENTENNIAL COMMUNITY ROOM 7:00 PM

Music Department News**Fundraiser**

The Polo Music Department will be starting their fundraiser on October 17th. This fundraiser will involve all band and choir students from 5th through 12th grade. They will be selling various brochure items from All American Fundraising. Delivery of the brochure items will November 21st. High school students will be raising money for a spring trip to Chicago. Middle school students will be raising money for the upkeep of instruments and new music, and 5th graders for band room equipment to be used at Centennial. Please direct questions to Mr. James or Mrs. Davis at 946.3314.

IMEA Auditions

Selected PCHS students will be auditioning at Sterling High School on October 15th for a chance to participate in the IMEA (Illinois Music Educators Association) District 8 band and choir. Students who pass the audition will rehearse and then perform a concert with students from other schools across Northern Illinois on November 19th at Dekalb High School. This is a different location than in years past. We wish all the auditioning students good luck!

Provided by *Mr. James & Mrs. Davis*

What's Happening in Sixth Grade?

Sixth graders are having a very smooth transition from elementary school to middle school. They have mastered their locker combinations and how to arrive for class on time with only a three-minute passing period. The majority of sixth grade classes take place on the lower level, but each day students go to the third floor for study skills with Mrs. Smith. Band and chorus are in full swing, and these activities meet during homeroom.

The Pirate Store/Chill Room is open on the lower level, too. Ask your sixth grade student about this cool place for Ap-rlington students.

Submitted by the Sixth grade teaching team

Aplington Dress-Up Days Announced

Student council has announced the dress-up days during Homecoming Week!

- Monday- Cowboy/Cowgirl Day
- Tuesday- Clash Day
- Wednesday-Class Color Day (8th-red 7th-black 6th-green teachers-orange)
- Thursday-Nerd Day
- Friday-Blue & Gold Day

The grade with the most students dressing will win a prize, so please participate!

Also, the best dressed students each day will be recognized in an assembly at the end of the week.

GO PIRATES & MARCOS!!

Eighth Grade Computers

Computers and their functional equivalents (i.e. smart phones, tablets) are ubiquitous these days. A ten dollar calculator has more computing power than the computers NASA used to put a man on the moon. Often, newscasts include video and audio captured by a cell phone. And yet, for all that awesome power, computers are greatly under-utilized. Many of my eighth grade students think they are great at using a computer and all they usually do is get on the internet and rip CD's or just download MP3 music.

So, in computer class this year, I am trying to show what an amazing tool computers are. Of course, as with any tool, it is only as good as the operator. You could give me a \$3000 table saw and I still couldn't turn out a professional level piece of furniture, but a skilled craftsman could do so with a very basic table saw. So it is with computers.

I had some friends who managed lake properties and had nearly 5000 names in a spreadsheet; one column for first name, the next column for last name. They also needed to have the names together as first and last in a single cell. Re-typing all those names was a daunting task, and would almost certainly introduce some typographical errors. I was able to show them a quick procedure that did what they needed with almost no effort.

It turns out that they could copy the names in those two columns and paste them into a word processor. Once there, and after setting the program to show invisible characters, they saw that the names had a "tab" character in between them. Most word processors have a "find and replace" feature where the program will look for all occurrences of whatever you need (anywhere from a single character, even an invisible one, to an entire phrase) and replace it with whatever you wish. So, they replaced all of the "tab" characters with a "space" and then copied the list back into their spreadsheet (into a blank column) and they had their names.

I have used this trick myself every year with my students lists. I type the initial first and last name, and then I never type them again. By having this information in a spreadsheet, I can produce a list of whatever I need; all first block students, second block boys, all band students, students with a zip code other than 61064, the list is endless.

We have probably all seen the commercial showing three men in an office described as "people using smart phones to do dumb things." Well, computers can certainly do "dumb" things too; I'm hoping to get my students to see that computers can do immensely practical things too. By Mr. Jones

Seventh Grade Team

The seventh grade team has a new homework policy this school year. This policy holds true for Miss Fitz, Mr. Hofer, and Mr. Messer. As we are molding the students into young adults, we are helping to build their skills in becoming responsible individuals. Homework is due the following day after it is assigned unless otherwise specified by the teacher. When work is turned in a day late, the grade will be reduced by 20%. Any work that is turned in after two days will receive a zero. Our goal is to get students to do their work the first day and not to forget about it. Absences will be given one extra day beyond the days that are missed for full credit, and then the late policy applies. We encourage students to get their homework done the day it is assigned so as to avoid losing points and learn how to be more responsible and accountable.

SME Lab News

Welcome back everyone! We are off to a great start. Students started in the SuccessMaker Enterprise (SME) Lab on September 1st this year. I would like to thank all of the parents for sending your child's supplies to the lab.

Your child is in the SME Lab four days a week working on Reading and Math at their individual learning level. There is also Spelling, Science, Math Facts, Writing and other programs that are available for the teachers to use. On Fridays the teachers may bring their class in to work on specific areas that they are working on in the classroom. As you can see your child spends a great deal of their educational day in this program as it is part of Centennial's curriculum.

The children work very hard to earn a good grade and other incentives in the SME Lab. When your child receives two 100% in one day (Reading and Math) they are able to place a sticker on a chart for that grade level and get a small treat. Ten days of working above 70%, showing math mistakes, being respectful and cleaning up their area also gets them a small treat. The one that everyone works hard for is, ten 100%, this earns them a sucker! When they reach fifty 100% they are able to decorate a picture of themselves to be placed on the bulletin board.

Every month I will put in the newsletter the students that have earned fifty 100%, one hundred 100% and one hundred fifty 100%. I will also name the students that have completed a program or speed games.

We continue to challenge the fourth and fifth graders to complete speed games this year. I am very pleased to say that last year's third and fourth graders worked very hard at speed games.

Students that have completed Reading Courses!
Samuel Cassens, Reylee Katner and Brayden Sutton
Congratulations and good job to each of you!

Mrs. Hillison

PCHS Drama Club Proudly Announces the Fall Play: *Crumpled Classics*

This fall the PCHS Drama Club will present the play *Crumpled Classics*. Auditions were open to the drama club membership (50 students) for this production. The cast of 24 along with a large back stage crew features a cross-section of the PCHS student body.

This year the students are exploring the concept of a play within a play. First year teacher Ms. Collins has been out sick during which a quirky group of her students take it upon themselves to pull together the school's annual "Classics on Parade." The assignment was designed to have students create scripts and act out famous stories they had been studying during their literature class. However, the students take it upon themselves to update the stories and make them more relevant. The results are hilarious! It's a comedy treat sprinkled with outrageous takes on some very familiar characters: "Romeo and Juliet" with Kyle Deets and Tara O'Connor, "Frankenstein" with Cara DuBois and Matt Merlak, "Phantom of the Opera" featuring Sabrina Huisheere, Brandon Imel, and Sarah Rademacher, "Sherlock Holmes" with Samantha Rhodes and Ashley Beggs, and "King Arthur" featuring Miranda Blankenbehler and Ryan Dewey. How do the students crumple the classics? You'll have to come and see for yourself. Whether you know the classics or not you will certainly enjoy a brisk look at some old favorites. There's something for everyone!

Performances will be held November 11th and 12th at 7 P.M. in the high school gym. Ticket prices are as follows: Adults \$5 and Students (K-12) and Senior Citizens \$3; children must be escorted by an adult. This play is suitable for all ages. To make reservations for either performance, you may call the high school office at 946.3314, or stop by the high school to pick-up tickets.

Polo Schools: Building a foundation for the future.

VIPS News

VIPS (Volunteers in Polo Schools) is an organization designed to provide extra funding and services to Polo Community High School's students and staff. We would like to remind the Polo community that VIPS rents out a stork for announcing "new additions" to the family for \$25 dollars per week, and VIPS also sells Polo Marcos shirts during the fall. The money that is raised from these sales is used to buy extra items for students and teachers at PCHS.

VIPS meets monthly. The next VIPS meeting will be held on Monday, October 17th at 7 P.M. in the teachers' lounge at PCHS. We invite anyone who has new ideas or is able to help us support PCHS to contact the high school and attend the meeting. We would appreciate adding new members to our organization.

Sincerely, *Kathy J. Scholl*

Solar Panels Installed at PCHS

Last year our Earth Science worked very hard to make our school more environmentally friendly. A lot of the smaller projects from previous years are still around the school such as the recycling project and the tree replanting project. Our class decided to go a step bigger than the rest. Both sections of Mr. Deets' Earth Science class agreed to try to acquire a grant and install a photo voltaic solar unit.

We had to overcome many obstacles and jump through many hoops in order to meet our goal of acquiring the PV system. We had to get our plan approved by the school board and then write for a grant through the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation and Illinois Solar Schools. Fortunately, we were able to obtain the grant and Sun Air Systems of Byron installed our 1 kW solar PV system on September 20. In the long run, our school will be saving money and more importantly decrease our school's environmental footprint. We are very proud to have accomplished something so helpful to our school.

Look What's Cookin'



October 2011

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3 Turkey & cheese on bun Sweet potato tots Fruit mix Milk	4 Hot dog Baby carrots w/dip Strawberries Jello cake Milk	5 Football nuggets Curley fries Pear/peach combo Bread/margarine Milk	6 French bread pizza Corn Chilled pineapple Milk	7 Early Dismissal
10 Columbus Day No School	11 Marco muffin Apple juice Oranges halves Milk	12 Cheeseburger Tater tots Applesauce Pudding Milk	13 Chicken rings Greenbean casserole Peaches w/cottage cheese Bread/margarine Milk	14 Mac & cheese Cornbread Chunk fruit 100% fruit punch Milk
17 Meatball sub @HS Fish shapes @Cent Cheesy hash brown bake Chilled fruit Milk	18 Spaghetti w/meat sauce Garlic bread Green beans Grapes Milk	19 Cheesy Flatbread Broccoli w/cheese Fresh fruit bowl Donut holes Milk	20 Chicken sticks Tri-taters Mandarin oranges Bread/margarine Milk	21 Sausage pizza Corn Chilled pears Milk
24 Corn dog Whipped potatoes Peaches Milk	25 Hot ham & cheese melt Pretzels Tossed salad Fruit cocktail Milk	26 Pancakes Ham Bananas Orange juice Milk	27 Chicken pattie on bun Tri-taters Rosy applesauce Pumpkin bars Milk	28 Nacho's w/meat & cheese Corn Apple slices Milk
31 Spooky chicken shapes Candied carrots Mixed fruit Bread/margarine Milk				

Polo Community School District - October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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2	3 5:00PM Fr FB at Dakota	4 5:00PM Fr-F/S-Var VB Forreton at Polo	5 Var Boys Golf Regionals at Galena	6 Var Girls Golf Regionals at Galena 5:00PM Fr-F/S-Var VB Freeport Aquin at Polo	7 11:30AM Early Dismissal School Improvement Day 5:30PM F/S & Var FB vs LeWin at Polo (Homecoming)	8 8:00PM Homecoming Dance																																																																																				
9	10 Columbus Day - No School	11 5:00PM Fr FB at Forreton 5:00PM Fr-F/S-Var VB at AFC	12 7:00PM Aplington/High School Fall Concert at PCHS	13 5:00PM Fr-F/S-Var VB Milledgeville at Polo	14 7:00PM Var FB at South Beloit	15 F/S VB at Scales Mound F/S Tourney Var VB at Durand Tourney IMEA Auditions at Sterling																																																																																				
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23	24 4:00PM 7/8 Acad Team vs Oregon at Polo	25	26	27	28 End of First Quarter	29 8:00AM Student Council Blood Drive at PCHS																																																																																				
30	31 4:00PM 7/8 Boys BB at Chadwick																																																																																									