



The Guide

Polaris Expeditionary Learning School May 2019

K-12 **K-5** **6-12**

4/30 5/1 5/2*

12th Grade Presentations of Learning
Ft Collins Discovery Museum

5/1*

Secondary Students get Intensive
Selections via PSD email

5/3*

Secondary Students: Intensive Choices
due Through Google 3:30PM

5/8*

10th Gr. Presentations of Learning

5/10*

8th Grade Presentations of Learning

5/17

Secondary School Polaris Games and Senior
Exit Celebration

5/17

NO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Elem. Teacher Work Day

5/21

MS-HS ALTERNATE SCHEDULE
8:00 AM CLASSES BEGIN

5/22*

NO EARLY RELEASE

5/23*

K-12 Early Release @ 11:30
NO LUNCH SERVED

High School Graduation - 12:30 PM Lincoln Ctr.

5/24*

Elem. Fun Run and Field Day
12:00 – 3:15

5/27

Memorial Day **NO SCHOOL**

5/28 – 5/30

Secondary Intensive Week

5/30*

Last Day of School
11:30 Release - **NO LUNCH**
End of Year K-5 Pot Luck
West Playground

Dear Polaris Community,

During the month of May, it can sometimes be a challenge to determine if the school year is winding down or picking up. With the number of activities and celebrations that will be taking place these last few weeks we'd ask that you please read this newsletter, and the attached documents that were emailed home, as thoroughly as possible. By doing so you'll be better able to help your child navigate all that needs to be managed through May 30th.

Perhaps the biggest event to make note of this year is our Polaris Graduation. For the third time since our elementary and secondary programs moved into Moore Elementary together our graduation will have an impact across the K-12 community. **On Wednesday, May 22nd there will be no early release. Our early release for that week will take place on Thursday, May 23rd instead.** By rearranging these dates, it will be possible to:

- Invite the entire K-12 community to attend our Polaris Graduation at the Lincoln Center at 12:30 that day.
- Assure appropriate staff coverage at the building all week (it always felt awkward leaving the building understaffed on graduation days in the past).
- Give the younger students the opportunity to see their older classmates celebrate, and to understand what could be in store for them in the future.

With the 11:30 release on **Thursday, May 23rd** please know **NO LUNCH SERVED.**

If you or your graduate's loved ones cannot make the ceremony, please know that Poudre School District will be streaming the ceremony live on May 23rd. It will be made available to view afterwards as well by using the same link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WeeU0H0bgEY>

This year we have several students graduating that have been with our program since their kindergarten year, and we expect that this trend will continue to grow over the years. This truly is a wonderful event that captures the growth and learning that our entire K-12 community contributes towards. We hope to see as many Penguins there as possible so that we can support these students as they embark on their next journey.

Sincerely,

Joe Gawronski

SECTION 1: K-12 News/In

PAC Thanks You All

The generosity displayed by our parent community is heartwarming. During our spring “Show Your Love for Polaris” fund drive, we had a goal of bringing in \$5,000. Thanks to your generosity, and some match corporate funds, we were able to bring in over \$6,000 in the five days that we sponsored the drive.

These funds will go a long way in providing students the opportunity to go on Adventure trips in the coming year.

Thanks again.

Parents Needed for 8th Grade Presentations of Learning Friday, May 10th

We are actively seeking Polaris parents that are interested in being a part of our upcoming 8th grade Presentations of Learning (POLs). This could be a particularly great opportunity for parents of elementary and middle school students to gain some insights into their own child’s path toward an 8th grade presentation, if not the type and quality of work students do in their 8th grade year.

Presentations of Learning, or POLs, are a rite of passage at Polaris. At the end of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grade years, students present their learning to a panel of guests, reflecting on who they are, what they have learned, and where they hope to go in the future. Focused on personal and academic achievement as well as growth and self-discovery, these presentations mark our students’ transition to the next phase of a lifelong journey of learning. We would love to have you be a part of this year’s **8th grade POLs on Friday, May 10th**.

During POLs, individual students will lead their respective presentations during a session in a specific classroom. We ask that interested guests plan on attending at least one complete session (approximately 1 hour). You can indicate your availability as a panelist by completing the following survey below:

<http://bit.ly/polaris8thpol> 8th Grade Presentation of Learning: Panelist Registration for May 10th, 2019

As we are always looking to expand our community of panelists, please feel free to refer other individuals you believe would be excellent additions to our panel.

If you have any questions about 8th grade POLs on May 10th, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Matt Strand at mstrand@psdschools.org.

Lost and Found

Please know that any items that remain in lost and found at the end of the school year will be donated to local charities if they are not claimed by a student.

Feel free to peruse the items while you’re here for the various year-end events we’ll be holding in the month of May.

Congrats to our PSD Super Art Award Winners!



Lexi Hapner – Elementary



Zoe Johnson – Middle School



Olivia Lucas – High School

End of the Year Medication Pickup

Medications cannot be sent home with students at the end of the school year.

- Parents must pick up all medications on or before 11:30 am the last day of school, May 30. **REMINDER: the last day of school is a half day.**
- If medications need to be picked up before the last day of school, please make arrangements with the school nurse or health tech.
- Emergency or as-needed medications (Epi-pens, Tylenol, Inhalers, etc.) must also be picked up.
- The school nurse will follow state health department procedures of medications not picked up to dispose of properly.
- If medications will be brought back to the school in the fall, you may obtain new medical permission forms from the health tech in your school, or on the PSD website.

If you have any questions, please contact your school nurse or health tech.

This procedure is important to safeguard all students against improper or accidental ingestion of medication.

Polaris Social at Pizza Press

The Exchange in Old Town is hosting a social event and fundraiser for Polaris on May 8. Get together with other Polaris families and enjoy some great pizza and drinks. The Pizza Press will give us 15 percent of all proceeds. Email steveagraham@gmail.com with questions or concerns.

Teacher Appreciation Week - May 6

Let's say thank you to our great Polaris staff. [Click here](#) to sign up for the few remaining items for the potluck breakfast and lunch we are providing during the week. Your PTO is also providing a small gift for each teacher and short chair massages.

Box Tops Summer Submission and Big Changes in Box Tops

Please turn in any Box Tops you may have collected before May 27 for a May 30 submission. This helps

“catch” those few Box Tops that have June expiration dates. Then, please keep collecting during the summer. One new brand that carries them is Nestle Pure Life water.

One thing you may notice during the summer is a change in the Box Tops process. Starting in June, they will be rolling out a new digital process. You'll see this icon that lets you know the product is a Box Tops participant.



Then, you'll need to scan your receipt using the Box Tops Bonus app, which can be found in the App Store or Google Play.

In some ways, things will be easier because, at some point, we won't have to cut, count, or mail Box Tops anymore. However, there may be some inconvenience at first as we get used to the app and remembering to scan our own receipts. Also, for a period, we'll need to do both because there will still be some to clip out there.

So, for now, please keep looking for Box Tops to clip from products AND start looking for the new icon and scanning your receipts. If this is a real problem, please just keep your receipts until we get back to school in August and turn them in. This is a change, but I know we can make it work.

If you have any questions or comments, please email me at ljinam@comcast.net. “

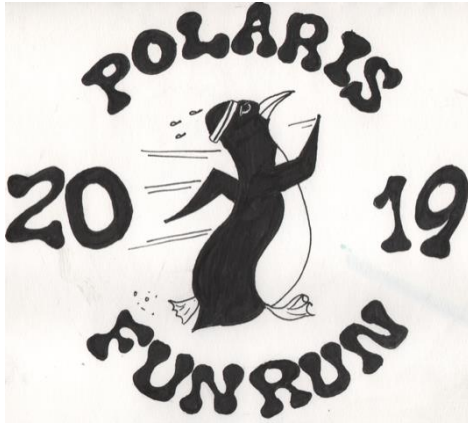
SECTION 2: Elementary News/Info

May PTO meeting

The final PTO meeting is at 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 13, at Avogadro's Number. It's the last time we will meet as an independent elementary parent-teacher organization. Next year, the PTO will merge with the middle and high school Parent Action Committee to become one unstoppable force for creating community, supporting staff and raising money for the entire K-12 school. We'll be like the Avengers but with less spandex and time travel. If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns about the PTO, please email PTO president Steve Graham at steveagraham@gmail.com.

Fun Run and Field Day

Elementary Field Day and Fun Run are coming up on Friday, May 24. Jeff is planning some great activities for our kids, and the fun run is a good fundraising opportunity. Watch your inbox and Friday folders for details about fundraising and volunteer opportunities.



A Big PTO Thank you!

A big thanks from the PTO for all your support and help this year. We couldn't have done it without our volunteers and supporters. And your PTO fundraising efforts have purchased iPads for elementary classrooms, Wizard of Oz costumes and props, field day equipment, vegetable garden watering cans and even next year's Eco-week trip. We still have one more fundraiser — Fun Run 2019 — so let's finish strong.

K-5 Running and Walking Club

Everyone is welcome to enjoy the spring weather and run or walk with the running club after school on the back field at 3:15 p.m. every Friday. Or just hang out on the playground to socialize and cheer on our runners. Our apologies if you have been missing running club. Weather has kept us from taking to the field, but we're hoping to get back into our stride (pun intended). Big thanks to Julie Siddens for her continued commitment as our staff sponsor.

Field Day is Coming!

The Polaris Elementary Field Day and Fun Run is coming Friday, May 24. We are currently seeking t-shirt sponsors. If you know a company that would like to support our school and get some great advertising on fun run shirts, email steveagraham@gmail.com.

Teacher Appreciation Week

The week of May 6th is Teacher Appreciation Week. The PTO will host a potluck breakfast and lunch events

for the Polaris staff, so perfect those recipes and let your kids know if they want to make a card or get a gift for their teachers.

Garden News

Spring has sprung and with it comes the planting of our spring garden. I'm so excited that this time of year is here again! Many classes have planted (or will be planting) a spring salad garden with the intention of enjoying it before the year ends. We will also be planting our summer garden before we say good-bye. Our hopes are to return to a thriving garden in August. This is where you come in. I am looking for volunteers to water and care for the garden during the summer months. If your family will be in the Fort for any of the summer and you are willing to care for our garden, please watch for a **SIGN- UP- GENIUS** invite via email. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you, and happy growing!
Julie

jsiddens@psdschools.org

SECTION 3: Secondary News/Info

Secondary Presentations of Learning Are Just Around the Corner!

Our 12th grade students are finishing up their POLs on May 2nd.

10th grade students will take a crack at their POLs on Wednesday, May 8th.

Finally, the 8th graders will wrap up this year's POL season on Friday, May 10th.

During POLs students are asked to reflect on their learning by highlighting pieces of evidence that speak to significance, growth, quality and complexity. Some of the goals we hope to accomplish by reinforcing these POLs practices may include, but not be limited to:

- Build student investment in high-quality work
- Support oral presentation skills
- Assess the skills and knowledge of students
- Provide families and community members an understanding of the standards, learning targets, and work habits of the school
- Give the students an opportunity to synthesize and reflect on their learning
- To ask students to demonstrate and reflect upon their level of preparedness for their next level of schooling

It's often stated that "what gets measured gets managed." At Polaris we strive to see each of your children as unique individuals, and our POLs help paint this broader picture that represents your child beyond what the state of Colorado measures. Your child is more than a math and literacy score, and we want to support them as they celebrate who they are and how they contribute at citizens. We hope you can support the POL process in a similar fashion.

- University of Colorado, Boulder, CO
- University of No. Colorado, Greeley, CO
- University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM
- Western State University, Gunnison, CO

Girls in Construction HOYA Foundation

The HOYA Foundation started Transportation and Construction Girl because we saw a need. Currently, only 8% of the construction work force is women. That means there are huge opportunities for young women. We also have more women construction business owners than ever before. We saw a need to help these women reach back to change the lives of the women coming behind them.

For more information about what the HOYA foundation has to offer feel free to visit their webpage... <https://constructiongirl.org>

Oh! The Places They Will Go!

Here's a list of all the colleges our graduates will be attending next year. Please note that some colleges will have more than one of our Penguins joining them next year.

- Colorado State University, Ft Collins, CO.
- Eckerd College, St Petersburg, FL
- Fort Lewis, Durango, CO.
- Front Range C.C., Ft Collins, CO
- McPherson College, McPherson, KS
- Montana State, Bozeman, MT
- Oregon State, Salem, OR
- Parsons School of Design, New York, NY
- Sierra Nevada College, Lake Tahoe, NV

ADVENTURE & INTENSIVES!

Our May Intensive Week / Adventure Trips will take place from May 28th through 30th, with an early release on the 30th. Please be aware of the following as the timeline is right around the corner!

- **5/1** **Students receive Intensive Google Doc through their school email**
- **5/3** **Students identify top four choices via Google Doc by 3:30 PM**
- **5/8** **Intensive / Adventure Rosters posted and emailed to families**
- **5/14** **Students receive Intensive Packets / Adventure Briefings – 3 pm**
 - **Permission Slips**
 - **Cost**
 - **Gear Lists**
 - **Week's agenda / plans**
- **5/21** **PERMISSION SLIPS DUE FOR ALL INTENSIVES / ADVENTURE TRIPS / ALT Schedule**
- **5/21** **PAYMENT DUE for Adventure Trips (if paying by this deadline is a hardship, or paying in general is a hardship please contact Pam DeVoe to make alternative arrangements or to put in a request for Scholarship Funds)**
- **5/28** **First day of Intensives / Adventure Trips depart**

▪ **Prioritizing Adventure and Intensive Selections**

All students will be asked to provide their top four choices of Intensives and Adventure Trips via their Google Doc by 3:30 on 5/3. It is difficult to give all students their top choices due to the following reasons:

- Some Intensives / Adventure Trips are highly desirable by many students
- Some Intensives / Adventure Trips are held to a smaller number due to risk management issues
- We simply can't accommodate every student on an Adventure Trip due to our trip capacity and the number of students we have enrolled.

To do our due diligence in accommodating as many students as possible, we devised a prioritization process to make such selections. This process was approved during the March 2010 School Improvement Team meeting. **This is how students are selected IF the demand for any particular experience is higher than what can be accommodated:**

- Students who get top priority:
 - Students completing their Google Form by the deadline of 5/1 at 3:30
 - Students who qualify under the Good Attendance Incentive Policy (see below)
 - Students who have earned Honors the previous quarter
 - Students who are earning enough credits to graduate “on-time” (pertains to High School students only)
 - Students who are second in priority:
 - Students completing their Google Form by the deadline of 5/1 at 3:30
 - Students who have earned Honors the previous quarter (3.0 or higher GPA)
 - Students who are earning enough credits to graduate “on-time” (pertains to High School students only)
 - All other students who don't qualify under the above-mentioned criteria will then be placed in an alternate Intensive or Adventure Trip
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- **Good Attendance Incentive**
 - **How Does the Incentive Work?**
 - During the window from 1/22/19 through 5/3/19, if a student has **four absences or less** in ALL their classes when it comes time to sign up for Intensives, that student will be given priority when selecting their first Intensive choice. Please note that three tardies in any single class is equal to one absence.
 - To be eligible for our Fall Intensive week in Sept. 2019, a student again needs to have two or fewer absences in ALL classes in the window from 5/6/19 through 8/30/19.
 - **What else do I have to consider to be eligible for this incentive?**
 - Be aware that all UNEXCUSED and EXCUSED absences are counted towards this policy. The only absences that aren't affected by this policy are SCHOOL EXCUSED absences.
 - Be aware that every three tardies in any class adds up to the equivalent of one absence.
 - Remember that exceeding three absences in any class results in ineligibility for this incentive.