



# Wolf Weekly

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WHAT'S NEW WITH OUR PACK

**April 24, 2025**

Good evening, Polaris Families,

We have just 18 student days left of the 2024/25 school year– it is crazy how fast each year passes by. We are looking very forward to welcoming families and students into the building the next two Fridays for Student-led Conferences, a perfect way to celebrate the growth, success, and development of each of our students this year.

We are also nearing the start of Spring intensives, which start for secondary (6-12) on May 5 and elementary (K-5) on May 12. **As a reminder, our entire K-12 community will dismiss at 2:00 PM starting May 5 in reflection of this intensive schedule.**

Have a wonderful weekend, everyone!

Take good care, Polaris,  
Tia

## Timely Reminders:

- ☐ Spring Intensive Payments - Due TOMORROW, April 25th via [ParentConnect](#)
- ☐ Prom Tickets | Last Call - Sale ends May 1 in person and/or via [ParentConnect](#) (tickets will not be sold at the door)
- ☐ **Secondary Spring Intensives Start May 5th – All K-12 Students are dismissed at 2:00 PM**
- ☐ Secondary Fall Intensive Registration - Available NOW, closes April 30.

## New Information:

### Secondary (Only) Fall Intensive Registration | Available NOW!

It's already time for our secondary students to register for their Fall Intensives. Fall Intensives for students in grades 6-12 will take the place of regular classes from Thursday, August 14 to August 22. Secondary students will have the opportunity to earn .25 credits for these upcoming courses. Students and families are encouraged to read through the [Intensive Catalog](#) to preview our intensive course offerings and then complete the registration process via the [Intensive Registration Google Doc \[Linked Here\]](#). Please note: all current 5th and 8th graders will automatically be enrolled in the 6th-grade Transition Strategies and/or the 9th-grade Freshman Academy Intensive. For more information, please see our [website](#).

### Graduation | Tuesday, May 20

It's almost time to celebrate our graduating seniors in a way that only Polaris can! We will begin the festivities at 9:00 AM by having our K-1 students parade our graduating class around our campus, symbolizing the journey they have all taken to be at the pinnacle of this tremendous milestone. This parade will lead our seniors to their cording ceremony, which will take place in our atrium here on campus. Their graduation ceremony will then place at 4:00 at Wendy Williamson Auditorium. We would like to encourage all community members who are friends with one of our seniors to join in these celebratory events!

### End of Year Picnic | May 21 from 11:30-2:00

As the end of our school year is quickly approaching, so is our most special community gathering— our End-of-Year All-School-Picnic! We would like to cordially invite you and your family to this wonderful gathering hosted on the last day of school. To help make this event a continued success, we ask for your help in donating items based on your student's family group and/or advisory. Please take a look at our [All School Picnic Flyer](#) on our website for Burgers/hotdogs and water will be provided by Polaris and our PPTA!

### Current Donation Requests:

- ☐ Gifts/Goodies in sets of 50 for our upcoming Staff Appreciation Week— all donations can be given to Patty and/or Tia **Deadline is May 2.**

## **Important Reminders from Previous Issues:**

### **PPTA**

Our final Polaris PTA meeting of the year just wrapped up, and we're thrilled about everything we've got planned to close out the school year strong! From celebrating our amazing teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week, to cheering on our students at Field Day, supporting scholarships, organizing graduation festivities, and celebrating together at the end-of-year picnic — there's so much to look forward to. And let's not forget the success of our school store this year — thank you to all the wonderful parent volunteers who made it happen!

As we look ahead to the 2025–2026 school year, we'd love for YOU to join the PTA and help us continue building this incredible Polaris community.

Mark your 2025/2026 school year calendars: PTA meetings will be held on the last Tuesday of each month at 3:15 PM. We will hold our first meeting next school year on August 26th at 3:15 PM — we can't wait to see you there!

Let's make 2025–2026 our best year yet!

### **Making Smart Phones less 'Smart' | Family Help Session**

Algorithm got you down? Concerned that the infinite scroll might have a down side? You're not alone, and you have options. Several students have asked for help managing their interactions with their devices, particularly with their smartphones. To this end, Bryan has arranged to host Geoff and Oliver Wright after school during our next half-day, April 30, at 11:45, in room 149. Geoff is a semi-retired local tech entrepreneur and will discuss the why and how of making our smartphones a little less interesting and addictive. Oliver is Geoff's youngest son and a recent Polaris graduate, and he'll be able to provide a more youthful perspective on how life is different in the absence of social media and a device that directs his attention. We anticipate a short introduction followed by a question-and-answer session that could extend as long as people are interested. Students and parents are encouraged to attend together. We're trying to arrange for a group of around 5-8 families to have a good variety of experiences and concerns while still maintaining a personal small group discussion in a classroom. So, parents, if this interests you and you'd like to join us on April 30, please send an email to Bryan at [smith\\_bryan@asdk12.org](mailto:smith_bryan@asdk12.org).

### **Attendance Information**

[Please see our Website](#) for more information regarding ASD's attendance policy, procedures, and documentation protocol.

## Mt. Spurr | Preparing for a ‘Likely’ Eruption

ASD will be sending out communications to families on Friday, including a link to access a new webpage resource they are putting together with information on the district’s safety plans. However, I wanted to be sure to give our community information that I currently have to help ease any fears and to help with your families planning and preparation. **Please note, if/when Mt. Spurr does erupt, swift communication will be given to families with information on the district’s/independent school’s action plans and how to respond.** Here is information we currently have:

### *If Mount Spurr Erupts*

- *If school is NOT in session and ashfall is imminent, ASD will close schools.*
  - *If school IS in session and ashfall is imminent, expect early dismissal.*
- Communication will come from the individual school on the dismissal protocol.*

### *How to Make Sure You Are Ready*

- *Have 3-5 days of food, water, and medications at home in case of disruptions.*
- *Have spare air filters for your vehicles and homes to prevent damage from ash buildup.*

### *How to Stay Informed and Be Ready to Act*

[The Alaska Volcano Observatory](#)

[The Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management](#)

[Municipality of Anchorage Office of Emergency Management](#)

[ASD Office of Emergency Management](#)

## 2025/26 Enrollment Intent

As we near the end of the school year, and our Spring Lottery is in full swing, please let us know if your family intends not to return for the 2025/26 school year. Seats within our program are highly sought after and we would like to be able to offer seats to new/incoming families if you and your student(s) will not be returning. Please contact the front office at (907) 742-8700. We appreciate your timely communication if you intend not to return to our program.

## 30th Anniversary Celebration

We have been celebrating the 30th anniversary of our beloved program all year so far, but now it is time to culminate this celebration and share in the joy as a collective community! Coupled with our upcoming Student-led Conferences, families and students will be able to view our Journey to 30 video, currently being curated by the ASD communications team, interact and share your love for our school on a permanent banner that will hang in our lobby for years to come, and take away a small token of our appreciation to you for your continued investment and

commitment to our program. Please consider spending a bit more time in the building during our upcoming Student-led Conference days so you can share in the joy of this tremendous milestone.

## Northern Lights & Sirens Girls Fire Camp | May 31 & June 1

A Polaris family has provided us with information for this awesome opportunity for our girls here at Polaris– The Northern Lights & Sirens GFC is a two day leadership and empowerment camp taught with fire and EMS. Open to 30 campers (ages 14-19), the girls enrolled will be guided through skill stations by a female crew leader and active female firefighters. If interested, please fill out the camper form below. CAMP IS FREE. [Camper Form](#)

### Parking Lot Safety Reminders:

- To help with the flow of traffic at drop-off and pick-up, **please plan to make a right turn only off Ashwood and onto 64th heading to Brayton Drive.** This helps to avoid left turns towards Meadow and Rilke and helps get more vehicles into our parking lot to drop-off/pick up students.
- Safety, kindness, and respect are not only important qualities to live by, but they are also essential components of our school community. **At no time is it acceptable to speed, drive aggressively, disrespect another parent, or use profanity around our students.** Community members displaying this behavior will be reported to APD.
- **Pull all the way around the building to load/unload** and be mindful not to block the flow of entry into our parking lot. **At no time should cars be left unattended when positioned at the sidewalk;** if you need to come into the building, please park in a designated parking lot space.
- **Please refrain from using cell phones (texting or making calls) while driving or queuing in our pick-up/drop-off line.** If you need to make a call or use your personal device, please be parked in a marked parking space.
- **If you see something, say something: we encourage our families to report parking lot incidents to 311 directly as staff here at Polaris do not have jurisdiction over parking lot matters.**

### Keeping Up with the Polarians | Check out Recent Postings

Our [new Facebook page](#) is gaining momentum and we have been posting updates and highlights from student activities! Be sure to check out, like, and friend us on [Facebook](#) to get notifications when new content appears 😊

## Technology Policy

For more information about this policy, its origins, or our goals with this initiative, please visit the [Technology Acceptable Use Policy page](#) on our website.

## Dates at a Glance

April 25	Student-led Conferences
April 29	Band & Orchestra Concert
April 30	PLC ½ Day; 11:30 Dismissal All School Seminar
May 2	Student-led Conferences
May 5	Start of Secondary Spring Intensives; 2:00 dismissal for all students
May 12	Start of Elementary Spring Intensives; Secondary Intensives continue; 2:00 dismissal
May 14	PLC ½ Day; 11:30 Dismissal
May 20	GRADUATION
May 21	Last day for Students; <a href="#">All School Picnic!</a>

## Family Feedback

Feedback is important to us at Polaris. We would love to hear what we are doing well to serve your student(s) and family and also how we might continue to evolve and grow. Please consider submitting feedback using the [Family Feedback Survey](#). If you need immediate assistance, however, please contact the front office at (907) 742-8700.

*“Our continued drive for excellence will never truly cease, it will merely open new doors of opportunity to strengthen who we are, what we do, and what we continue to become.”*

*-Dr. Tia Clay*



**The Wolf Weekly is brought to you by the dedicated staff at Polaris  
K-12.**

Not receiving the communication? The Wolf Weekly is sent every Thursday at 5PM to contacts currently listed in ParentConnect. Please make sure your contact information is current on the ParentConnect Portal. If you need assistance, please contact the front office at (907) 742-8700.