



# Wolf Weekly

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WHAT'S NEW WITH OUR PACK

**August 28, 2025**

Good evening, Polaris Families!

We hope this email finds you well and looking forward to our upcoming Labor Day Weekend. We have had another great week here in our halls– our elementary family groups are thriving in the classroom communities they have built and have dove head-first into academics. It is so fun to pop-in and see all the engaged learning taking place! Our secondary students have worked this week to get into the new routines of their core-class schedules, learn the expectations in their various classes, and dive right into to the rigorous academics that have met them across all of our courses. This is when the school year really begins, and we are excited to see the growth we can collectively gain this year!

## Quick Reminders:

- Dismissal for all students (K-12) has returned to 3:00 this week and will continue through 1st semester, with the exception of ½ day Wednesdays. If you have to pick your child up early, please be mindful of our [Early Pick-up Policy](#), outlined below. We now require 1-hour notice for all early pick-ups.
- Many new things are starting after Labor Day:
  - Hot Lunch service will begin– meaning **no free lunch will be available for students unless they are enrolled in the Free & Reduced Lunch Program.** [Please see below for more information.](#)
  - CampFire After-School Program will also start 9/2. If you haven't enrolled your student yet and would like to, [please follow this link.](#)
  - Polaris Community School Clubs also start the week of 9/2. There are still open seats in many of the club offerings, but space is limited and filling fast! Visit the [PPTA Storefront](#) to enroll your child today.
- Lastly, Open House is Thursday, 9/4, from 5:30-7:00 here at Polaris. We invite all Polaris students and families to come in, hear from me (Tia), and then visit classrooms and teachers around the school. [More information below.](#)

Wishing you a wonderful and safe 3-day weekend,

Tia

## New in This Issue:

### Hot Lunch Begins Next Week | September 2, 2025

We are excited for our hot lunch service to start next week, giving students access to hot meals during the school day. Here is a link to our [school's lunch menu, via ASD's SchoolCafe](#).

To prepare interested students for the hot lunch service, you can load monies onto their student accounts via [ParentConnect](#). [The ASD website](#) can give you additional direction and information on how this is done, if needed.

**With this change to hot lunch service does come the caveat that students will no longer have access to free shelf-stable meals during the day.** We encourage all our families to check their eligibility for the [Free & Reduced Lunch Program](#) that ASD offers– you may be entitled to free or reduced lunch prices.

### Campfire Begins Next Week | September 2, 2025

For those of you already registered, we are excited for you to begin! We have been hopeful to get this after-school program back within our school for many years, and it is exciting to see it come to fruition! The CampFire program will run every afternoon from dismissal to 6 PM. They are also offering a unique opportunity to all our families with students in K-6 for ½ day Wednesdays, whether you are a fully registered participant or not– so please check out their [welcome/information letter for more information](#).

### Open House | Thursday, September 4 | 5:30-7:00

We will be opening our doors to all students and families on the evening of September 4 and encourage all of you to join us. It is an opportunity to hear from the principal, meet our collective staff, and walk the hallways to meet with teachers and peer into the classrooms your students attend each day. The following schedule will be utilized to guide the evening:

- 5:30 PM Principal Address in the MPR
- Immediately following until 7:00 PM- Classroom visits

### Middle School Debate Club | Interest Meeting Wed (9/3)

Word has been spreading that there is interest from students in starting a debate club, and Jeff Bevier is happy to support this initiative. He is hosting an interest meeting this coming

Wednesday, September 3rd, in his classroom from 3:00-3:30, right after school, for any interested 6th-8th-grade students. No need to sign up, just show up to get more information and demonstrate your interest in joining this club!

## **Polaris PTA Meeting Recap | Notes from 8/26**

What an incredible turn-out for our first PPTA meeting of the year– The energy was high and the creative ideas were flowing fast! I want to take a moment to thank all of you who came to Tuesday's meeting and actively engaged with us as we talked about new and old initiatives that will help continue to serve our students and teachers here at Polaris. We would like to encourage anyone who isn't yet a member to join in and get involved! Membership information is available on the [PPTA Website](#).

Below is a recap of what was discussed and planned during Tuesday's meeting:

- The PPTA will meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 3:15 in room 157. Dates are as follows: 9/23, 10/28, 11/25, 1/27, 2/24, 3/24, and 4/28. A May meeting may also be added, if needed.
- The School Café, now officially known as *The Wolf Den*, will be open every Monday and Wednesday after school beginning on 9/3! A clearance sale of current items will be sold next Wednesday, and then beginning on 9/8, the official Grand Reopening will host a series of new, healthier products for our students to purchase and enjoy. All proceeds from *The Wolf Den* will go directly towards the new Ask & Achieve Program created by the PPTA last evening. This program will directly serve teachers and students by fulfilling teacher requests for items, materials, equipment, etc., for their classrooms.
- The PPTA is excited to host our BearTooth Fundraiser for Polaris families and our community at large on September 28 at 1:00 PM. Information on how to purchase tickets can be found [below](#), but we encourage you to help spread the word about this afternoon at the movies with your family and friends—share the flyers around town (available for pick-up in the office), invite neighbors and friends, and post on social media, if you are able! We are hoping for a huge turnout as proceeds come directly back to our school to support our students!
- Lunch & Learns for our Secondary Students will launch this school year with the intent to host one a month. Thank you to the parents who have already signed up to volunteer your time and expertise in your trade, profession, or passion to come share with students! A member of the PPTA Board will be in contact with you soon to get your availability and get you on the calendar for this school year! For anyone else interested in coming and speaking with students, please fill out the [Lunch & Learn Volunteer Career Speaker form](#). We are hoping to provide these opportunities for interested students to learn about their options post-high school from community members like you! We will happily host as many as possible for our students this year– the more the better!

- Our Fall Festival is scheduled for Friday, October 17– more information coming, but mark it on your calendars– we don't want you to miss it!

## **2025/26 Spirit Wear Sale | Distribution of Purchased Items 9/12**

Thank you to everyone who purchased our new run of Polaris Spirit Wear! Items will be delivered to us by 9/10, and we will get items distributed directly to students' family groups and/or advisories by Friday, 9/12.

If you missed the opportunity to purchase items and would be interested in purchasing if the option became available again, please fill out this [quick interest survey](#)– if we have enough interest to start a second run, we absolutely will!

## **Secondary Fall Intensives | Past Due Balances**

Any student who has an outstanding balance for Fall Intensives will receive an invoice in the mail in the coming days detailing their past due balances. Any remaining balance that goes unpaid may affect their enrollment in the upcoming winter and spring intensives. We appreciate prompt payment to reconcile these balances. If you receive an invoice and you feel it is in error, please contact the front office.

## **K-5 mClass Assessment | September 2**

All students in grades K-5 will be assessed in reading utilizing the mClass Screener. This universal screener is a State and district requirement, but will provide us with valuable data that we utilize here at Polaris to help ensure all students are being provided with the intervention, instruction, and challenge they need to make continued growth and progress. More information about this, and other upcoming assessments, can be found on our [Assessment Landing Page](#).

## **Reminders from Previous Issues:**

### **After-School Community School Clubs | Registration Open Now!**

We are excited to again offer after-school clubs and activities led by our amazing school-based staff. These unique clubs will run from 3:00-4:00 on various days of the week, and we have a full catalog of options for both elementary, secondary, and even adults! Please check out our [website](#) for more information and register for clubs via the [PPTA Storefront](#). Clubs will begin after Labor Day, but seats are limited, so register early!

## **(6-12) Zero-Hour and 7th-Hour Course Options | Register Now!**

We are offering our three Zero-Hour Courses again this year to serve students in extra-curricular options that boost their resumes and transcripts! Yearbook, Student Leadership, and Jazz Band are all being offered as before-school options from 7:30-8:20 on various days of the week. Please take a look at our [website](#) for more information. Additionally, we are offering a new Chamber Choir class on Tuesdays/Wednesdays/Thursdays from 3:10-4:00 for any student who is interested!

If your secondary student (6-12) would be interested in signing up for one or more of these offerings, please have them reach out to Susy to get them added to their course schedules.

## **Early Wolves | A Before-School Care Option**

Need to drop off students before 8:10? Early Wolves has you covered! This morning camp-style program will provide an opportunity for families to drop off their students starting at 7:15 AM 5-days a week, every day school is in session! Students will engage in a variety of morning activities, including journaling, crafts, board games, academic enrichment lessons, and have access to a small snack. There is a fee associated with this club, which covers the supervision fee as well as the snack provided each day. If you are interested in signing up, please see the [PPTA Storefront](#) to register.

## **Student Pick-Up | Safety Recommendations**

- Students in kindergarten should be picked up from the classroom everyday by either a parent or older sibling.
- Students in grades 1-5 should be picked up someone on campus— either in the school, in the parking lot, or in the pick-up line along the front or side of the building.
- **No student should be picked up along 64 Avenue.** This is a serious safety concern as students walk along the road with no sidewalk.

## **Bear's Tooth Fundraiser | September 28 @ 1:00 PM!**

The PPTA is hosting a fundraiser at Bear's Tooth on September 28th at 1:00 PM! Bear's Tooth will be showing the featured film *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* and all proceeds will go to support our PPTA and their continued efforts to support our students, staff, and community. For more information, and to purchase tickets, please see the [Bear's Tooth Website](#). Ticket sales are limited— so secure your tickets today!

## A Last Few Important Need-to-Knows:

### Attendance Policy

In accordance with Alaska State Statute, the Anchorage School District and the schools within it are required to adhere to specific attendance policies and procedures. At Polaris, we stick closely to this policy as attendance is of paramount importance to student success, especially here in a program that offers unique opportunities for accelerated and rigorous learning. [Please see our website for more information.](#)

### Change in Early Pick-Up Policy | Effective August 14, 2025

Many schools in the Anchorage School District have moved, or are now deciding to shift, to a move regulated early pick-up policy— and Polaris is following suit. To reduce the disruption to instructional learning time, no students will be called down from classes during the last 30 minutes of the school day, unless a pre-arrangement has been made with the office no less than 1 hour before the end of the school day. In addition, we request that a minimum of 1 hour notice be given to the office prior to all early pick ups (at any time during the school day) so that teachers can be notified without interrupting the classes in progress.

Parents are able to notify the office of early pick up needs by calling the attendance line or by entering a notification in [Parent Connect](#).

### Technology Policy

At Polaris, we believe that technology can, and should, be used to enhance students' education without distracting or limiting their access to academic engagement and social interaction. Adopted in the Fall of 2024, Polaris has moved to a Cell Phone Free Campus. Students, families, and staff will be asked to enter the building technology-free. All cell phones, smart watches, and personal laptops should be silenced and stored out of sight. Only with direct permissions from a teacher or staff member can students access their personal devices for educational purposes throughout the school day. We request that families help support us in this initiative that proved extremely beneficial last school year by following the same guidelines while on campus that we ask of our students. [More information can be found on our website.](#)

### The Polaris Parking Lot

Polaris is a pick-up/drop-off-only school. No district bus transportation is available at any time. During peak drop-off and pick-up times, the parking lot is a busy place with many students and families with small children. **Extreme care, caution, and courtesy are expected to be exercised by everyone at all times.** Safety is always the highest priority. Please take time to

review our parking safety rules and etiquette outlined on our [website](#), but a few essential components are listed below:

- The speed limit while on Ashwood and within the parking lot is 5 m.p.h.
- The use of cell phones or other distracting devices while driving is prohibited.
- The crosswalks are designated for pedestrians; They have the right-of-way!
- When dropping off, please pull all the way around the side of the building before allowing your child to exit the car.
- When picking up, K-3 families are encouraged to park in the parking lot and enter the building to pick up their child from their classroom at dismissal time. This is mandatory for Kindergarten students.
- No queuing at the front doors– pull all the way around the side of the building, or park in a designated parking space.
- When exiting our parking lot, please make a right turn towards Brayton Drive. This helps the flow of traffic in and out of our parking lot.
- Respect the handicap spaces. If you do not have a handicap sticker or plate, you can not park there, even to wait for your child.
- Be patient and use common courtesy, and give yourself extra time in the morning and afternoon.

## **Volunteers in our School**

We want YOU to help in classrooms, on field trips, and during community events. Please ensure you have your ASD volunteer application completed. Additionally, if you are able and willing to drive on field trips, a driver application form needs to be submitted each school year. Please see the [ASD website](#) for more information.

## **Health Screening**

Health screens will begin right away, and this includes hearing, vision, height and weight for students in K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 10. You will be notified if there are any concerns. If you have concerns regarding hearing and vision for your child and they are in a grade not mentioned, please contact the nurse.

## **Illness**

Per ASD Policy, students becoming ill during the school day **must report to the nurse**. If it is necessary to go home or to a doctor, the nurse will inform the parent/guardian and the student will be released from school. Students leaving due to illness without properly checking out will be counted as truant from those classes missed.

## Medication

If your child requires medication during the school day, or if they have emergency medications, the appropriate medication forms and/or care plans must be on file. This includes over-the-counter medications.

## Dates at a Glance

September 1	No School - Labor Day Holiday
September 2	mClass Testing (K-5)
September 3	Debate Club Interest Meeting   3:00-3:30   Jeff's Room (212)
September 4	Open House! 5:30-7:00
September 10	<a href="#">Picture Day!</a>
September 11-12	MAP Testing (K-9th)
September 17	PLC ½ Day; Dismissal at 11:30 AM for all K-12 Students
September 23	PPTA Meeting at 3:15 in room 157
September 26	Secondary Homecoming Dance
September 28	<a href="#">PPTA Fundraiser at Bear's Tooth! 1:00 PM</a>
October 8	PLC ½ Day; Dismissal at 11:30 AM for all K-12 Students
October 13	No School - Indigenous Peoples' Day
October 14	Orchestra Concert PM
October 15	Band Concert PM
October 17	No School - Grading Day
October 17	PPTA Fall Festival <i>More information to come!</i>
October 24	No School - ASD Professional Development Day
October 28	Picture Retake Day PPTA Meeting at 3:15 in room 157



October 29

PLC ½ Day; Dismissal at 11:30 AM for all K-12 Students

## 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.