



Wolf Weekly

WHAT'S NEW WITH OUR PACK

January 9, 2025

Good evening, Polaris Families,

We sincerely hope this first communication of 2025 finds you well, rested, and thoroughly rejuvenated from our recent break! We are so excited to have welcomed students back into our building on Monday to kick start our Winter Intensives. With an interruption on Tuesday due to the ice skating rink that Anchorage has become (please continue to exercise caution getting around our city!), we are happy to have gotten right back into the intensive rhythm yesterday and today. A recent post on our school Facebook page captures the joy and excitement from our first few days in these uniquely Polaris experiences. Please take a moment to read the outlined information below and join us on Friday, January 24 at 3:30 for our next PPTA meeting!

With care and kindness,
Tia

Community Schools Second Semester | Registration Closes Soon!

We are excited to be able to offer another full catalog of after-school activities starting after intensives and spreading across second semester. Enrollment began before winter break and classes are almost full. If you are interested in any of these offerings, please register now to secure your child's seat via the [PPTA Storefront](#). We are also offering our before-school Early Wolves club again which allows you to drop off your child at school beginning at 7:15. If you are interested in enrolling, please use the same link above. **Registration for all Community Schools Clubs will close Friday, January 17 at 5 PM.**

New Information:

Snow/Ice Days | Follow ASD Notifications

ASD has recently announced that all future snow/ice closure days would no longer be Remote Learning Days and would instead be considered the traditional 'Snow Days' we knew prior to COVID; we had our first experience of this on Tuesday already! Due to this change, we feel

additional communication from Polaris on these closure days is now unnecessary as there are no remote learning day plans to share. Please follow ASD notifications regarding school closures as we are a public school and will abide by those decisions.

Upcoming PPTA Meeting | January 24 @ 3:30 PM

Our Polaris PTA is requesting your presence and voice at their next PPTA meeting scheduled for Friday, January 24 at 3:30 PM. This first meeting of the year will be held right after school in room 157 to hopefully allow more of our families to attend. Please see their message below:

Pack together and make a difference! The first PPTA meeting of the year is on January 24th at 3:30 PM (right after school). Room 157 and by Zoom. Come find out how you can help our wolf pups paws-itively thrive! We will have child care available and we look forward to meeting with both staff and parents.

Attendance | State Letters & District Procedures

The Anchorage School District, in accordance with Alaska State Statute, requires schools to track and adhere to specific attendance policies and procedures; one of which requires schools to send automated letters once a student reaches or surpasses 10 days of absenteeism in a given semester, regardless of the reason. Many of you received these letters just before, or during, winter break. On behalf of Polaris, we sincerely apologize if these letters impacted your family negatively; that was not our intention. In an attempt to be transparent and better communicate with our community, I have outlined ASD's attendance policies, documentation protocol, and procedures below that we are required to follow:

- For any student absent from school, the following attendance codes will be utilized in accordance with School Board Policy 443 (b);
 - (E) Excused Absence: for illness, death or serious illness in the immediate family, participation in a school function, attendance at religious services, and/or medical appointments that cannot be scheduled outside of the school day.
 - (U) Unexcused Absence: for any absence that does not meet the criteria of an excused absence, including tardies beyond an hour (elementary) or beyond the first half of a given class (secondary).
 - (P) Pre-Arranged Unexcused Absence: for any pre-arranged absence, including travel, that does not meet the criteria for an excused absence.
 - (T) Tardy: for students who report to school after the official school start time (8:30) but within one hour of the day (for elementary) or within the first half of the class (secondary).
 - (X) Tardy Excused: for any student whose tardy is beyond the control of the student, including delay in travel, and whose arrival falls within the time constraints mentioned above.

- Any student (K-8) who reaches or surpasses 10 absences in any class in a given semester, excused or unexcused, will receive an automated Excessive Absence Letter.
- Any student (9-12) who reaches or surpasses 10 absences in any class in a given semester, excused or unexcused, will receive an automated Attendance Probation Letter.
- Any high school student (9-12) who reaches or surpasses 15 days absent in any class in a given semester, excused or unexcused, will have credit withheld and will be dropped from the respective class(es).* *Substantial communication from the school will be made leading up to and prior to these actions being taken and extenuating circumstances will be considered in these situations.

Given the above information, communication between home and school is of vital importance. Please communicate with us if your child is absent and for what reason. This can be done using the attendance phone line or via ParentConnect. If more information is needed, please see the [ASD Guidelines page](#).

Important Reminders from Previous Issues:

Parking Lot Safety and Courtesy Reminder | Right Turn & Kindness

As a reminder, 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 pick up students.

Additionally, Safety, kindness, and respect are not only important qualities to live by, they are essential components of our school community. We recognize our parking lot is not the funniest place to be in the morning or the afternoon, especially when you have someplace to be, but 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. If you see something, say something: we encourage our families to report parking lot incidents to 311 directly.

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

January 6-17	K-12 Winter Intensives; 2:00 Dismissal
January 22	PLC ½ Day; 11:30 Dismissal
January 20	No School
January 24	PPTA Meeting; 3:30 in room 157
February 12	PLC ½ Day; 11:30 Dismissal
February 17	No School
February 28	No School
March 5	PLC ½ Day; 11:30 Dismissal
March 7	No School
March 10-14	Spring Break
March 19	PLC ½ Day; 11:30 Dismissal
April 3	2-9 MAP Testing
April 4	2-9 MAP Testing
April 9	PLC ½ Day; 11:30 Dismissal
April 16, 17, 18	Play Performance
April 18	No School
April 25	Student-led Conferences
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; All School Picnic!

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.