



## Peek at Polk ~ February 2, 2024

### **Reminder-Attendance:**

Thanks to everyone who has been so diligent in following our attendance procedures!

As a reminder, please call the school if your child will be absent (860-945-4840, press 0). Please send in a note when your child returns to school **or** complete the Google Form [here](#) to send an electronic note (you do not need to do both). You may submit both a parent note on the Google Form (acceptable for absences # 1-9) or a doctor's note (required for absences #10+). If you submit a doctor's note electronically, you do not need to also send in a paper copy.

Should you ever have a question about your child's attendance, please contact Kimberly Keil (Polk's Elementary Dean- [keilki@watertownps.org](mailto:keilki@watertownps.org)) or me ([galikje@watertownps.org](mailto:galikje@watertownps.org)).

### **Reminder- Aladdin Ticket Orders:**

Don't forget to order your tickets to the Polk Players presentation of Aladdin, coming up in April! The order form may be downloaded [here](#) or hard copies are available in the main office or through your child(ren)'s teacher.

### **Ben's Bells:**

We're very excited to be having our very own Ben's Bells kindness tree mural created and installed this year, courtesy of our Polk PTO. Our 5<sup>th</sup> graders will start us off by creating the tiles on February 15<sup>th</sup>. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders will get involved later this year as they will help paint the different tile pieces. The final mural, which will look similar to this picture, will be installed on the front of the building in May. Interested in learning more about Ben's Bells? Click [here](#).



### **Butter Braid Fundraiser:**

The PTO Butter Braid Pastries and Joyful Traditions Cake Rolls fundraiser kicks off on February 12<sup>th</sup> and runs through March 4<sup>th</sup>. Order forms will come home next week or students can fundraise online (see information on the paper flyer to set up your child's account). Pick up of orders is scheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup> and more information will be shared as we get closer. The top 3 sellers will earn prizes!

### **Chess Club:**

The second round of chess club begins later this month. Any 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade student wishing to be a part of the chess club can submit a permission slip (see link [here](#) or ask your child's teacher for a form), which is due February 8<sup>th</sup>. There is a cap of 20 students and if more than 20 students are interested, names will be selected at random. All participants will be notified on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Hundredth Day:**

Barring any additional snow days, Polk will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School on Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. At Polk, we'll be celebrating all the ways we love our school and the students and staff who make it so amazing but creating a school-wide bulletin board with the hundreds of reasons Polk is incredible. If you're in the building, stop by to check it out or ask your child about his/her contribution.

**Music Happenings:**

There are so many things happening in both music and band! Our 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Polk musicians, along with their Judson counterparts, will be performing on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the St. Jude's telethon between the hour of 10:15-11:15! The St. Jude Telethon will take place at Torrington High School. Please tune in to support St. Jude and our amazing musicians!

Polk & Judson Jazz Band will perform at the WPS Coffeehouse in the Cafe at Watertown High School at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Come hear these talented musicians and enjoy some delicious refreshments!

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus, Band, and Strings will perform in their Spring Concert in the Watertown High School Auditorium on Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. Polk's concert will begin at 7:00 PM. We are so proud of our 5<sup>th</sup> Grade musicians and everything they have accomplished so far this year!

**PAWS Assemblies:**

Our monthly PAWS assemblies continue and we love coming together as a school to learn more about the monthly character traits. Each assembly provides time for a class or two to teach us about the focus trait for the month and then teachers plan follow up activities that are done during morning meetings. We also have the chance to honor our Inner Champion award winners who are selected by their classroom or specials area teachers for demonstrating PAWS expectations.

In December, our theme was kindness. Ms. Grzewinski and Mrs. O'Donnell's classes taught us about kindness through a series of skits with common school scenarios that students encounter. In addition, they made Flipgrid videos about acts of kindness they were committed to completing and encouraging other students to participate as well. Our focus for January was optimistic thinking, a solid way to start the new year! The Barlow-Geraci Bunch shared their "optimistic vision" and provided students with optimism glasses to help focus on shifting their mindset during challenging moments. The Pflomm Family created videos about their New Year resolutions and explained how optimism helped them focus on growth. Additionally, our students had the chance each month to trade in their Dojos, which are earned for demonstrating expectations, for fun experiences like recording morning announcements and lunch with their teacher.

**Reminder- Snow Play Day:**

We're hoping for some snow! The next significant snow fall, our students are in for a special treat as we're planning on some extra playtime outside to enjoy the snow! Check [here](#) for more details. We will send out a notification to confirm when this will take place.

**Souper Bowl Food Drive:**

Cast your vote for the team you think will win the Super Bowl by bringing in a can of soup next week. We'll announce the winner at school on Friday! All cans will be donated to the Watertown Food Bank. Click [here](#) for more details.

**Reminder- World Read Aloud Day:**

World Read Aloud Day is recognized on February 7<sup>th</sup>. At Polk, each class will be visited by a surprise guest reader from our Watertown community. Guest readers will join each class that morning to share a special story. In addition, classes will participate in virtual read aloud sessions with some of their favorite famous authors throughout the day.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer L. Galik  
Principal

**Upcoming Events:**

<b>Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup></b>	100 <sup>th</sup> Day of School! Aladdin play practice @ 3:30-5:00 Farm Friends @ 3:30-4:30 Learning Lab @ 3:35-4:05
<b>Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup></b>	World Read Aloud Day Invention Convention Meeting @ 3:30-4:00 Jazz Band @ 3:30-4:15
<b>Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Early Dismissal for Students, Staff Professional Development
<b>Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup></b>	PAWS Assembly
<b>Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Chess Club @ 3:30-4:30 PTO @ 6, Polk Library BOE @ 7, WHS Lecture Hall
<b>Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Aladdin play practice @ 3:30-5:00 Farm Friends @ 3:30-4:30 Learning Lab @ 3:35-4:05
<b>Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Student Council @ 3:30-4:00 Jazz Band @ 3:30-4:15
<b>Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Aladdin play practice @ 3:30-5:00 Farm Friends @ 3:30-4:30
<b>Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup></b>	Polk Families