



Peek at Polk ~ April 12, 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) or me (galikje@watertownps.org).

Aladdin:

A huge kudos to the cast and crew of Aladdin for their amazing performances last week! With a packed house, the Polk Players presented a truly fantastic and entertaining show. It was such a treat to see our students' confidence grow on stage over the last few months and we are so proud of all of their hard work and effort! Many thanks to Mr. Cheris and Ms. Izzi for making this show possible!



Book Drive:

Our plans for encouraging summer reading are underway and we need your help to make this a success! Please consider donating your gently used children's books to help us ensure every student has books to read this summer. Click [here](#) for more information.

Dance-a-thon:

What an amazing event we had this year! All told, we raised over \$10,000! We all thoroughly enjoyed today's pajama day and plans are in the works for our school-wide incentive where we will celebrate all of the hard work of our students (and their families!) by giving students the

chance to slime Mrs. D'Addona and me! Stay tuned for silly pictures of this event after break! While most of our plans will be for assemblies and field trips next year, we do have something special in the works for our 5th graders and will share details as soon as things are finalized!

PAWS Assemblies:

Our students continue to work hard to demonstrate PAWS expectations each and every day at school! So far this year, they have earned nearly 150,000 Dojo points for their hard work. Students love the opportunity to trade their Dojo points in each month for experiences like lunch with their teacher or principal, show and tell, or being an extra helper for the office or custodial staff. These experiences give students a chance to be rewarded for their positive choices and also build connections within our building.

We continue to meet for monthly PAWS assemblies and we love coming together as a school to learn more about the monthly character traits. February found us focusing on the theme of inclusivity and the act of including others as part of a group. Mrs. Sarandrea's class led us through skits with real-world scenarios and modeled ways students can be inclusive across the different areas of our school. Mrs. Schulte's classes produced a video talking about the ways they include others each day. In March, we focused on bravery and learned how bravery comes in different shapes and sizes when someone faces something that makes them nervous or afraid. Mrs. Tasker and Mrs. Eckerlin's classes taught us the many ways bravery can look by researching and presenting about 9 important women in history and the acts of bravery each woman committed. This was a lovely tie-in to our learning during Women in History Month.

During our April assembly, Mrs. Ahlgren's class helped us to learn how we can demonstrate persistence, an important character trait to help us finish the year strong! Students discussed how to be persistent by setting goals, making plans to accomplish their goals, meeting challenges and adjusting their plans to achieve success.

SBAC Spirit Weeks:

As we enter the home stretch of the school year, we want to keep our students pumped up and doing their best, especially during the weeks of April 29th and May 13th when we will participate in Smarter Balanced Assessments. We're hosting 2 Spirit Weeks to help our students get their game faces on for testing! Please click [here](#) and [here](#) for more details about each week's events.

Staffing Update:

We're so lucky to have some new members of our Polk Family. Welcome to Maya Abouchacra and Cheryl Romeo, both of whom joined us as paraprofessionals, and to Evan Smutney, our new grade 4 tutor.

Reminder- First Day School Supplies:

Get a jump start on next school year, and order your child's supply kits now! Supply kits may be purchased [here](#).

Reminder: SBA Letter of Encouragement:

Please remember that the blank envelope that was sent home with your child is for each family to send in a positive letter of encouragement that will be provided to students before we begin these assessments. Please feel free to put anything into the envelope that will help your child feel calm and motivated (e.g. jot some words of encouragement or send in a picture). Please return all envelopes to your child's teacher by Wednesday, May 1st.

Reminder- Yearbook:

It's time to place your yearbook orders! Polk School is using Treering to build the yearbook which means that your child's yearbook includes two free pages for you to personalize with your photos and your memories. The personal pages are totally optional, so if you just want the more

traditional yearbook, that's okay, too. You can personalize your book until April 18, 2024. The deadline for all orders is May 2nd. See the flier [here](#) for details on how to order.

Sincerely,
Jennifer L. Galik
Principal

Upcoming Events:

Monday, April 15th- Friday, April 19th	No School- April Break
Monday, April 22nd	Grade 5 NGSS Practice Assessment
Tuesday, April 23rd	Grade 5 NGSS Assessment Ahlgren/Pflomm field trip to Flanders Learning lab @ 3:30-4:05 BOE Meeting @ 7, Invention Convention students honored
Wednesday, April 24th	Tech Team @ 8:00 Grade 5 NGSS Assessment
Thursday, April 25th	Instructional Rounds @ Polk
Monday, April 29th	SBA Spirit Week - Hat Day
Tuesday, April 30th	SBA Spirit Week - Sports Apparel Grade 3 Field trip to Institute for American Indian Studies Learning Lab @ 3:30-4:05
Wednesday, May 1st	SBA Spirit Week - Crazy Sock Day Smarter Balanced Assessment (ELA) Installation of Ben's Bells Kindness Tree
Thursday, May 2nd	SBA Spirit Week - Work Out Clothes Smarter Balanced Assessment (ELA) Installation of Ben's Bells Kindness Tree
Friday, May 3rd	SBA Spirit Week - Read My Shirt Day PAWS assembly

Save the Dates!

Monday, May 6th- Friday, May 10th	BOGO Scholastic Book Fair (more details to come!)
Tuesday, May 7th	WHS Spirit Day (check flier here)
Friday, May 31st @ 4:30-7:30 (rain date June 7th)	5 th Grade Celebration at Camp Mataucha (more info coming soon)
Thursday, June 6th (rain date June 7th)	Summer Reading kickoff event (please note date change)
Tuesday, June 11th (rain date June 12th)	Field Day (more info coming soon)