

Wise Owl News

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From The PTA President

Hello Polk Community,

Thanksgiving is almost here! So, in the spirit of giving thanks, I'd like to recognize some PTA volunteers who have made wonderful things happen at Polk.

Special thanks to ...

- Julie Goodale, for organizing a week-long book fair that our children enjoyed;
- Anne O'Neill, for bringing an evening magic show to Book Fair Family Night and Reptiles Alive to the entire school;
- Betsy Wong, for managing the Reflections creative arts contest;
- Kyle Dunbar and Marie Zack, for sending every child home with a new book from RIF;
- Leslie Kruse, for coordinating the Cookie Dough Sale and Distribution,
- Mary Patterson, for coordinating a fantastic teacher chili supper, and
- Kerri Dugan, Christina Brennan, Keri Cupples, and Maryann Duffy (in addition to Anne, Leslie, and Betsy) who make up the PTA Board. Without their support and laughter, this job would be impossible.

And, last but not least, thank you to every teacher and parent who has supported our PTA events. It was wonderful to see so many people at the meeting with Dr. Sherman and then again at the Thanksgiving Feast held in cafeteria.

Have a happy and safe Thanksgiving,

--Susan



Muddmucker's Garden Club

The Muddmucker's Club is off to a fantastic start! In just two weeks we cleared out the raised bed and readied it for planting, planted saplings, filled bird feeders, placed more bird feeders around the garden, and cleaned and sealed the alphabet garden letters. All club members are working hard to make our outdoor learning lab look fabulous. The Muddmuckers are: Alexandra Goodale, Angie Murillo, Carleigh Rockett, Kieran O'Neill, Naomi Daniel, Nicholas Mackey, Olivia Gilmer and Tyler Rose. Please thank these industrious students!



Fundraising Reminder

Thanks for all your fundraising efforts this year! If you need wrapping paper or small gift items (chocolates, candles, etc.) for upcoming holidays, birthdays, or other occasions, please remember that Sally Foster products are sold online all school year. Forty percent of sales through SallyFoster.com go to Polk when you enter our school code, **504164**, at check out. Thank you for supporting Polk!

Just Between Friends Group: To receive PTA e-mail updates, please join the Polk PTA and provide an e-mail address with your PTA payment. We will add you to the Just Between Friends group. Alternatively, join Just Between Friends directly by visiting www.justbetweenfriends.com and use invitation code 14249tok or see instructions on the PTA link of the Polk web site at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/polk/pta-just-between-friends.pdf>.

Dates to Remember

11/29/11	Make-up Picture Day
12/9/11	Family Movie Night (6:00 pm Pizza Sale, 6:45 pm Movie)
12/12/11	No school for students
12/13/11	PTA Meeting (7:00 pm)
12/23/11 – 1/1/12	Winter Break

Community Events

Marine Corps Fun Run: Despite the rain, Polk had a great showing at the Marine Corps Fun Run last month. Congratulations to everyone who participated!

Walk to School! Stay tuned to Just Between Friends notices for more information on fun walk to school activities.



Family Movie Night!

Bring a pillow and sleeping bag to watch "Cars 2" in the James K. Polk multipurpose room on Friday, Dec 9 at 6:45 pm! PTA's Family Movie Night is free and open to all Polk students and family members. Prior to the show, the PTA will have a pizza and snack sale starting at 6:00 pm. Please remember that all children must be accompanied by an adult. Don't miss this fun evening! If you can volunteer, please contact Maryann Duffy at mduffy0629@aol.com.



Book Fair was Huge Success!

Although Book Fair seems a long time ago, we wanted to thank all the dedicated volunteers who helped to make it so successful. This year we sold \$8500 in books! Thanks to...Marybeth Thompson, Anne O'Neill, Mary Ferrand, Jay Ribler, Leslie Kruse, Erica Copa, Lulu Zepeda, Alicia Hosmer, Elizabeth Hileman, Marie Zack, Barbara Viney, Gihan Moustafa, Brenda Slater, Jasmine Martinez, Christina Brennan, Mary Patterson, Susan Keightley, Jason Schmauder, Betsy Wong, Kyle Dunbar, Michelle Gilmer, Emmy Gilmer, Michelle Kellhofer, Nusrath Faruque, Angela Drake, Mirella Maho, Maryann Duffy, Donna Ganter and Rosa Maria Rojas. Special thanks to Julie Goodale and Marie Quidas, who organized the event. The book fair would not have been possible without each and every one of you.

Reading is Fundamental (RIF)

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with distribution of 600+ books at RIF. With your help, every child at Polk chose a new book to take home. What a great day!

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“Diversity Means ...” Reflections Winners

James K. Polk had another year of high participation in the National PTA’s *Reflections* creative arts contest, with 81 projects entered by 68 Polk students! The kindergarteners led the pack with 55 students drawing wonderful pictures – and full-class participation from Liverpool, Cox, and Henry’s classes.

Four professors from Northern Virginia Community College served as our judges. Awards were given in the following categories:

Literature—Primary

OI, Aspen Nielsen
AE, Angie Murillo
AM, Sarah Brennan
HM, Alexandra Goodale
HM, Jane Patterson

Photography--Primary

OI, Angie Murillo

Visual Arts--Primary

OI, Cameron Nielsen
AE, Noah Brown
AM, Sophia Afi
HM, Jada Hopkins
HM, Francis Wright

Literature—Intermediate

OI, Catherine Quidas

Photography--Intermediate

OI, Marcela Estrada
AE, Marcela Estrada
AM, Catherine Quidas

Visual Arts--Intermediate

OI, Ryan Goodale
AE, Marcela Estrada
AM, Kiernan Almand

Film--Intermediate

OI, Nate Wong

Musical Composition—Primary

OI, Jane Patterson

Musical Composition—Intermediate

OI, Spencer Patterson

OI, Outstanding Interpretation (goes on to city-level competition); AE, Award of Excellence; AM, Award of Merit; HM, Honorable Mention

All participating students will be honored at an evening ceremony at Polk in January. In addition, all entries will be on display at a January 22 All-City PTA Reflections Arts Festival at T.C. Williams High School. Stay tuned for more information and CONGRATULATIONS to all our participating students!

Character Counts

The Habits of Mind focus for this month is thinking flexibly and hearing ourselves and others. Respect is the character pillar that we are focusing on. The following students are showing these characteristics and representing their classes this month. Their names rest on turkeys on the Wall of Character outside the library. They will be celebrated on Wednesday, November 30th in the multi-purpose room at 1:30 pm. Parents/guardians are welcome to attend.

Kindergarten

Nina Wilborn
Samuel Hileman
Jaelenn Fitzgerald
Ameena Deen
Caden Wilson

Ms. Cox
Ms. Goblesky
Ms. Henry
Ms. Vargo
Ms. Webster

Grade 1

Christian Ganter
Michael Ortiz
Jeremy Fagen
Ayati Joshi
James Ambrose
Cristiano Rice

Ms. Brumback
Ms. Drasheff
Ms. Joy
Ms. King
Ms. Polite
Ms. Rougier

Grade 2

Cristian Gonzalez-Fuertes
Michelle Andzie -Mensah
Ismail Khalil
Sabrina Ali
Alexandra Goodale

Ms. Bryant
Ms. Gavan
Ms. Ketcham
Ms. Pittman
Ms. Williams

Grade 3

Kiernan Almand
Joseph Vilorio
Chris Sanchez
Abdul Conde
Rayna Martin

Ms. Alexander
Mr. Curran
Ms. Kingsbury
Ms. Lathrop
Ms. Koz Calvo

Grade 4

Randi Rocha
Dorian Marlowe
Nicholas Yuen
Shamat Salih

Ms. Burton
Ms. Masao
Ms. Ochs
Mr. Palmer

Grade 5

Christopher Stewart
Ian Zack
Sorje Koroma
Adam Elnahas
Bryan Chavez

Ms. Joyner
Ms. Peaches
Ms. Sodaro-Jensen
Ms. Thornton
Ms. Wieder