

# Advisory Update

Monday, October 8th, 2012

**Advisory students and families,**

This year seems extra busy, but busy in a good way. I am excited about the renewed parent involvement in so many areas of our school. Thanks to all of you who are getting involved. This school really is Polaris because of our families and the connectedness between family and school. In an effort to send out fewer emails (though it is really tempting to just forward everything as it comes across my desk) I will try to compile information into a bi-weekly update. I was hoping to have this out to you last Thursday as I will target Thursdays for distribution – this week it is coming on Monday ☺



One of the expectations is that students lead a day in advisory. We had three great games introduced to advisory from the students that traveled to the Galapagos last year. **Jessica Adler** presented "Chubby Tortoise" pictured above, **Sarah Bartholomew** introduced us to "Bibbiddy Bibbidity Bop", pictured below and Maya Narang taught everyone how to play "Fuah" All three games are great fun and engaged the whole advisory for the entire period. Ask your student which was their favorite?



# Advisory Update

**Student Led conferences:** This time of year in advisory our focus moves to our portfolios. Each student in the Polaris community maintains a portfolio of work and leads a conference twice a year for their family and their advisor. I will post the sign up for conferences on October 12<sup>th</sup> with the rest of the staff. It is attached here along with a letter describing student led conferences, "StudentLedConfParentInfo", for those of you who are new to Polaris. Please be sure to save some time on Wednesday Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> or Thursday October 25<sup>th</sup> to come spend a half hour with your student. Your student comes only for their conference, there is no regular school Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> or Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> and Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> is an in-service day so please plan accordingly.

The **end of first quarter** is October 18<sup>th</sup>. October 19<sup>th</sup> is an in-service day, there is no school for students. Please check in with your students to make sure they are on track to finish the quarter with the grade they want.

**Second Semester Scheduling:** We will be doing credit checks the week after conferences to prepare for course selection for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. On the 29<sup>th</sup> of October, your student will have a course request form and the second semester schedule and intensive catalogs will be posted on the website. Course request forms are due back to me by November the 6<sup>th</sup>. On November 6<sup>th</sup> all Polaris Advisories will meet 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> hour for the purpose of completing credit checks and course requests. Students will be placed in Winter intensives by November 12<sup>th</sup> and Scholarship applications will be due November 14<sup>th</sup>. All winter intensive fees will be due before Thanksgiving.

**We tugged, we lost - at least Kathryn's Advisory followed the rules!**



# Advisory Update

**Grade Level Meetings** – On Friday during Advisory we held our “First Friday” Grade Level meetings. Students meet with their grade level co-horts and two Advisors to discuss/ participate in grade-specific topics.

**School Mission & Beliefs** – At the beginning of the school year, staff revisited the school mission and belief statements. We asked questions like: Where do we see these belief statements in action?, Do these statements still apply to us? Have we changed as a community and do we need to change our beliefs? Over the last couple of weeks, Advisories and family groups have been looking at the mission and belief statements and asking similar questions. In Kathryn’s advisory we did this last Thursday. At the Parent Forum tomorrow night, the parents will have an opportunity to look at and think about whether they feel these beliefs apply. The information from all three sectors of our community will be compiled and posted on the website. This will be a live and on-going conversation as we ensure that we are still a community of learners with common values and beliefs. Our current mission and belief statements are attached and can be found on the website: <http://www.polarisk-12.org/polaris-belief-statements.html>

## **Spirit Week and Secondary Dance, October 12th**

A part of our secondary dance is a tradition to use the week before as spirit week. Today, Monday was **pajama day**, Tomorrow, Tuesday is **Class colors** (12th-red, 11th-blue, 10th-purple, 9th-green, 8th - yellow, 7th-orange, 6th-pink, 4/5-purple, 2/3-green , K/1-blue , Staff-black )

**Western Wednesday, Sci Fi Thursday and Fancy Friday**

Mindi and Alysha’s Advisories will be hosting the Secondary Dance. They are currently looking for parent chaperones to work either the 7-9 or 9-11 shift. Please contact them directly at [vogel\\_mindi@asdk12.org](mailto:vogel_mindi@asdk12.org) or [gates\\_alysha@asdk12.org](mailto:gates_alysha@asdk12.org).

Is this your student’s first dance? In my years chaperoning dances I notice 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders usually come from 7-9 pm, by 8<sup>th</sup> grade some may stay a bit longer but after 10 pm it is generally high school students.

Several important Polaris Committees are up and operational and Polaris families are encouraged to be involved.

**Nancy Burke, Marie Husa and Angela Borjon** are the parent representatives on the School Action Plan Committee and they are looking for feedback from families on the School Action Plan. Please take a few minutes out of your evening to give them some feedback. To learn more about this see the flyer on the Polaris Website <http://www.polarisk-12.org/parent-forum.html> or go straight to the survey <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MHTYP6X>

**Denise Deal and Trena Gamel-Howes** are the parent representatives on a committee that will be looking for feedback from Polaris families on whether we should move forward with a proposal to include secondary teachers in a Professional Learning Community model.

# Advisory Update

**Fall Carnival October 26th** – This outstanding annual event is being chaired by **Charity Maldonado**. If you would like to help make this event the best ever, take a look at the letter about all the ways you can be involved and then contact Charity at [charity\\_ced@live.com](mailto:charity_ced@live.com)

**Why is this coming home hard copy?** ASD has learned that it's been blacklisted from some email providers, such as Hotmail and others. People with email accounts from those providers are not able to exchange messages with @asdk12.org email accounts. The district's IT department is aware of the situation and has been working to clear up the situation but it can take several days before it is corrected. If you haven't received a response to an email or were expecting to receive an email from an @asdk12.org account, please contact the school or person directly. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and thank you for your patience.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about Polaris, I'll be happy to work with you to find answers or solutions. As always, thanks for sending me such a great group of kiddos!!

*Kathryn*

[kurtz\\_kathryn@asdk12.org](mailto:kurtz_kathryn@asdk12.org)

# Advisory Update

## For Your Calendar:

October 9 - First Advisory Board @ 5PM and Parent Forum @ 6:30PM  
October 9 - Kathryn's Advisory's Portfolio conversations 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>  
October 10 - Kathryn's Advisory's Portfolio conversations 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>  
October 11 - Kathryn's Advisory's Portfolio conversations 10<sup>th</sup> & Up  
October 12 - Fall Secondary Dance - CHAPERONES NEEDED contact Mindi or Alysha  
October 17 - Picture Retakes, Advisory Photos & All School Picture  
October 19 - End of First Quarter Inservice; NO SCHOOL  
October 20 - PSAT at Polaris  
October 22 - College Fair  
October 24/25 - Student-Led Conferences  
October 26 - State Released Inservice; NO SCHOOL  
October 26 - Fall Carnival  
October 29 - Intensive Catalogs & Second Semester Schedules Distributed  
October 31 - Last day to purchase Polaris Yearbook at Fall Price  
November 2 - Grade Level Meetings during Advisory  
November 6 - Workeys Testing for all 11th Graders  
November 6 - Second Semester Registration Advisory Work Session 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> hours  
November 6 - Second Semester & Intensive Course Requests Due  
November 14 - Intensive Scholarship Applications Due  
November 21 - Winter Intensive Fees Due  
November 22/23 - Thanksgiving Holiday; NO SCHOOL  
December 7 - Polaris Auction  
December 11 - Advisory Board  
December 19 - Band and Orchestra Concert 2nd Hour  
December 21 - End of Second Quarter Inservice; NO SCHOOL  
January 7-18 - Winter Intensives

**Fall Special for 2013 Polaris Yearbooks** - Purchase online before prices go up November 1st. Visit the school website and follow the Yearbook link. Be sure to "like" Polaris Yearbook on Facebook for fun updates and photos as the staff works to create a memorable keepsake for the 2012/13 school year.

## **PSAT**

The PSAT will take place on Oct. 20. We start with interested 11th graders, then 10th, and 9th. All 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders should sign up to take this test. It is great practice for the 10<sup>th</sup> graders and important for college scholarships for 11<sup>th</sup>. See Sharon to sign up. The cost is \$17.

**The Anchorage College and Career Fair** will take place at the Dena'ina Center; our juniors and seniors will take a field trip there on Monday, Oct. 22.