

Advisory Update

Thursday, October 18th, 2012

Advisory students and families,

Advisory Happening:

Today we took the all-school picture and advisory photo. Students led days continue in advisory. Jerry Yang took us into the gym for a game of soccer last week which was great fun!

Student Led conferences: Our portfolio work continues this week. Each student in the Polaris community maintains a portfolio of work and leads a conference twice a year for their family and their advisor. We have been using our advisory time to work on our portfolios. We are making some changes this year to the requirements of portfolios so check in with your student to learn about these changes. Students are aligning their work samples from each class to the State Content and District Common Core Standards. Students each have a copy in their portfolio and these documents can also be found online on the ASD website: www.asdk12.org/commoncore

Following this link will also take you to the Parent Road Maps. These road maps help parents understand how to support their child in math and language arts. Each road map lets parents know what their child will learn, how to partner with the teacher, provides examples of skills and strategies students will use and how to ensure learning continues outside of school.

The conference sign-up is up, see attached pdf and email me if you don't see your student's name on the list. As I mentioned in the last update, on Wednesday Oct. 24th or Thursday October 25th you and your student will come spend a half hour with me. Your student comes only for their conference, there is no regular school Wednesday the 24th or Thursday 25th and Friday the 26th is an in-service day so please plan accordingly.

Second Semester Scheduling: We will be doing credit checks the week after conferences to prepare for course selection for 2nd semester. On the 29th 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 6th. On November 6th all Polaris Advisories will meet 3rd, 4th and 5th hour for the purpose of completing credit checks and course requests. Students will be placed in Winter intensives by November 12th and Scholarship applications will be due November 14th. All winter intensive fees will be due before Thanksgiving.

New School Business partner

Thanks to senior student Callie Akins, we have a new School Business Partnership with IBEW Local 1547! Callie did all the work in building our newest partnership. In response to her aspiration of printing the Sispelle in color, she networked with Dora Wilson at IBEW and the partnership was made official. Please ask your student to see a copy of our school newspaper: The Sispelle".

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Battle of the Books Please see the attached flier for this great opportunity!

Canned Food Drive

The month of October is our canned food drive headed up by our wonderful Nurse Patty. Please collect some non-perishable food to donate to families in our community that are less fortunate than us. Conferences is a wonderful time to bring in food and add to the growing pile in our lobby. Let us try, as a community to bring in more pounds of food than we did last year!

Fall Fundraiser

Each fall parents coordinate a fundraiser with all the proceeds going to support programs here at Polaris. If your student did not bring home a packet and your family would like to participate in this fundraiser, please let me know and I will make sure you get a packet. Attached is a Flyer describing the fundraiser.

Seniors & College and Career Fair –Please check out Susy’s webpage on the Polaris website. You’ll find the agendas from First Friday’s meetings, in case you missed them, as well as lots-lots- more information. <http://www.polarisk-12.org/college-and-careers.html> Those interested in attending the College and Career Fair on October 22nd can download the permission form from the site. Also, any parents who are able to assist with chaperoning are welcome to contact Susy for more details – chaperones will ride the bus to and from the Denaina Center with students.

From the Professional Learning Communities Committee:

A committee of parents and high school students is working with Carol Bartholomew and Kathryn Kurtz to initiate a proposal for a secondary half-day Wednesday once a month. This potential common time will offer expanding opportunities for Polaris’s professional learning community which, in turn, will support the connective curriculum throughout grade levels. Our committee endorses the integration of elementary and secondary education with one common shared mission and vision since we have experienced Polaris at many levels (the parent committee members have children who have attended Polaris throughout their educational years and the secondary student members have attended Polaris since elementary school). We have volunteered to guide the proposal through the voting process of parents, students and staff. Ultimately, the findings will be presented to the ASD superintendent for implementation.

We need your assistance . Could you please distribute/forward the following survey link to your students/advisees, whether by email to each student or a printout in tomorrow’s Thursday folder? We will also supply a link on the school’s website.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GN7MRGK>

Thank you for your assistance!

Committee Members:

Denise Deal deal@gci.net

Emily Evans, Polaris sophomore

Trena Gamel Howes trenaandjosh@gci.net

Max Erickson, Polaris sophomore

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Fall Carnival

Charity Maldonado is heading up the Fall Carnival, I am attaching the "How You Can Help" document, this is the same one as last week but please contact Charity if you can help. Also see attached pumpkin carving contest flyer.

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

For Your Calendar:

October 9 - First Advisory Board @ 5PM and Parent Forum @ 6:30PM
October 9 - Kathryn's Advisory's Portfolio conversations 6th & 7th
October 10 - Kathryn's Advisory's Portfolio conversations 8th & 9th
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 3rd-5th 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 Solstice Gathering
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