Dear Polaris Families,

Congratulations on making it through the first few weeks of school, as it is a busy and exciting time for all. The Polaris staff and I thank you for all of your support as we have launched the 2019-2020 school year. We have truly enjoyed getting to know you and your child, learning about their interests and passions and working to build strong learning communities across our school. With four weeks under our belts, we are seeing classroom routines and procedures gel. Students are demonstrating the ability to work both independently and collaboratively with peers, they are moving about the building in ways that show respect to other learners and they are showing up as strong leaders and role models. Establishing this solid foundation at the start of the year is what allows us to accomplish so much over the course of the next nine months. We will be engaging your child in rich content, pushing their thinking and empowering them to read, write, argue and defend like scientists, engineers and field area experts. We will encourage their creativity, foster learning environments that make it safe to take risks and support students in seeing themselves as meaningful contributors to society. We look forward to the partnership with each of you as we support students in their academic and social emotional journey this school year.

Below are a few updates to keep you up to date on what's going on in and around our school.

**Electives:**
The first quarter of electives launched on 9/13/19 and the energy in the school was palpable! On electives Fridays, each student participates in two self-selected classes that align to topics that they are already interested in or would like to learn more about. Thanks to the incredible coordination efforts of Deb Aruca (outgoing Electives Coordinator) and Kimberly Soults (incoming Electives Coordinator), 50 different electives are being offered this quarter! Students have the chance to participate in everything from *Careers in Medicine*, to *History of Video Games*, to *Fencing*. I would also like to send a huge shout-out to all of the parent and community volunteers who are donating their time and talents to this incredible initiative! This unique program serves to invigorate and motivate students while also expanding their educational experience beyond the standard classroom topics.

**Positive Student Recognition:**
If your child has mentioned the yellow star-tickets that are being handed out, he/she is talking about a new way that we are recognizing students for positively contributing to our school community. Any staff member can give any student a ticket when they are seen demonstrating positive actions or behaviors such as: walking quietly in the halls, modeling expectations, demonstrating effort and motivation, helping a peer and responding positively to feedback. Each Friday we will draw tickets and recognize students for building a strong and positive school culture.

**DPS Library Services:**
Students become even better readers when they hear strong models of oral reading. Opportunities for this include listening to stories read by parents or siblings and listening to audiobooks. Denver Public Schools Library Services launched a new site where you are able to access audiobooks for your children at home. Check out the amazing collection! [https://sites.google.com/view/dpsetls/lion/e-books-and-e-audiobooks](https://sites.google.com/view/dpsetls/lion/e-books-and-e-audiobooks).
School Meal Menus:
Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) recently launched a new system for families, students and staff to access school meal menus. A PDF of the monthly menus for breakfast and lunch will no longer be published on the FNS website, and instead will be available using the School Café app. School Café is easy to access and provides more information about school meals, including photos of entrees, nutritional and allergen information. See this flier in English and Spanish for an overview of the new system and step-by-step directions on how to access the menus. If you have questions or need help, please contact Food and Nutrition Services at 720-423-5600 or foodservices@dpsk12.org.

School Pictures:
Picture Day is coming up on October 2, 2019. Online ordering is the easiest way to get photos. Please be sure to order by Wednesday, October 2nd. Use the Picture Day ID: CG949175Y0 at mylifetouch.com.

Morning Drop-Off:
I need your help! If you are dropping off your child in the morning, please either utilize the drop and go area on the Glenarm side of the building or park beyond the bus drop-off area. It is extremely important that the bus drop-off area remain clear so that we are able to accommodate multiple busses arriving at one time. Thank you!

After School Enrichments:
All pick-ups for after school enrichment classes take place at the patio door on the Glenarm side of the building.

In Partnership,

Amy Odell
#WeArePolaris

Our first Star-Ticket Drawing!  Electives have begun!

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