



# POLLARD PEN

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<http://www.pollardschool.com>

**Our School Motto: WHAT YOU DO TODAY MAKES A DIFFERENCE TOMORROW.**

◆◆January 28, 2011◆◆

## principal thoughts



Dear Pollard Families:

Happy New Year! I can't believe we are in 2011 and half way through our school year already. We are also half way through the first year of our School In Need of Improvement (SINI) Plan! Initial results of the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) for grades 3-5 will be available to school districts at the end of the month and then shortly after they will be released to the public. After this Pollard should receive individual student reports. We will send these reports home to parents as soon as we can. Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) of each school will not be determined until after January. This is important information for us as Pollard must make AYP for two consecutive years before we are no longer considered a SINI school. With all this talk about NECAP, I thought it might be of interest to some parents to see what Pollard School has accomplished so far from our SINI Plan. On page 3 of the Pollard Pen Mrs. Joyce and I have summarized our progress to date.

With each winter comes the possibility of inclement weather that may impact our school day. If school is canceled, you will receive an Alert Now phone message. The SAU tries to get that message out around 5:45 am, if the decision is made by that time. In the event of an unexpected early dismissal, there will also be an Alert Now call to the numbers that you have given the school; home, both parent's cell and both parent's work. **It is very important that you keep the school updated with any changes to phone numbers.** In the event of an unscheduled early release, please call the school if there will be a change in your student's transportation or if you have questions. Weather may cause a delay in our buses. Please be aware that buses may be delayed at least 30 minutes on snowy days. Please make sure that you have a plan in place for your child in the event that you are delayed in getting home due to poor weather. Please call the school if you have questions.

Pollard Staff have also been receiving Bullying Training so that they can deal appropriately with all students involved. On **February 8th @ 7PM at Atkinson Academy**, Atty. Dean Eggert will be coming to talk about the new bullying legislation and what it means to student, parents and school personnel. I urge you to attend if you would like to learn more about the changes. I heard him speak this past fall and he had many wonderful suggestions.

Ms. Auger  
[michelle.auger@timberlane.net](mailto:michelle.auger@timberlane.net)

## Important Dates to Remember

January 31  
Hoops for Heart

February 8  
Bullying Presentation  
7pm @ Atkinson Academy

February 9  
Jump Rope for Heart

February 10  
4th Grade Testing

February 16  
Invention Celebration  
(Snow Date February 17)

February 18  
No School—  
Professional Development

February 21—25  
Winter Vacation



## Hello from Mrs. Joyce, our Assistant Principal



Dear Parents,

Now that the snow is upon us, I would like to remind you that when you are at car drop off, please wait for the staff to let you know that your children may come out of the cars. The amount of cars that we unload at one time is dependent upon the number of staff who are out there and the weather conditions. For the safety of all at car drop off and pick up, please be mindful of your speed.

Even though, we are approaching the half way mark to the school year, if you are still finding your child having a difficult time settling in with homework, here are a few tips to help your child:

Ask your child specific questions

Sit next to your child, rather than across from him/her.

Define the task

Give directions slowly

Work through one step and one problem at a time

Encourage older children to work independently

Don't get discouraged when your child does

Minimize the use of negative phrases

Go over your child's homework, but don't do the homework for your child

Try to have some fun

Hope you find this helpful,  
Mrs. Joyce

### **NAEP(National Assessment of Educational Progress) Assessments**

Reminder that all fourth grade students will take the NAEP assessment on February 10<sup>th</sup>. Please encourage your child to do his/her best and have your child get plenty of rest the night before the assessment.

If you would like additional information about NAEP, please visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>

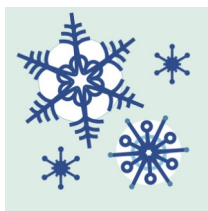
# School in Need of Improvement (SINI) Update

Pollard School staff has been working hard during the past five months. We have bulleted some of the action items below for anyone that is interested in learning some of the wonderful things we have accomplished so far.

**“The overall goal is for all students to progress toward, or maintain, proficiency in math and reading...”**

- ♦ Our SINI Team reviewed NECAP data and based on their findings the **2010-2011 Pollard School's School in Need of Improvement (SINI)** Plan was written.
- ♦ The overall goal was for all students to progress toward, or maintain, proficiency in math and reading, as measured by the Follow the Child School Growth Target.
- ♦ In order to achieve this goal the SINI Team concluded that we needed to focus on the following strategies: (The bullets underneath each strategy signify what Pollard has achieved so far.)
  1. To provide time and resources for all staff to better understand each students' progression of learning in the areas of reading and math.
    - ☑ All staff attended a presentation on “What Does Progression of Learning Mean and Why is it Important” presented by an outside consultant.
    - ☑ All staff have had four hours of additional training with an outside Reading Consultant thus far in this area.
  2. To effectively use assessments in order to identify students' areas of needs and or strengths in a timely manner.
    - ☑ All staff have had additional hours of training with an outside Reading Consultant thus far.
    - ☑ All staff meet weekly in their Professional Learning Communities to review current data.
    - ☑ Staff have begun to use Linkit software to generate reports to analyze reading test data.
    - ☑ All staff are engaging in a monthly book talk using “RTI From All Sides” by Mary Howard to increase their knowledge with Response to Instruction.
  3. To engage parents in literacy instruction for students
    - ☑ A parent night was held on October 5th to learn ways to help your child become a better reader.
    - ☑ A monthly newsletter is also sent home to all Title I students
    - ☑ Webinars on Independent reading have been taped and will soon be put on our website for all to view.
  4. To provide time and resources for all staff to deepen their understanding of math concepts
    - ☑ All staff have had 2 hours of training with an outside Math Consultant to deepen their understanding of math concepts thus far.
  5. To engage parents in numeracy instruction for students.
    - ☑ A parent night was held on November 10th, presented by our District Math Coach, to help parents learn the algorithms that are taught in EveryDay Math.
    - ☑ All staff meet weekly in their Professional Learning Communities to review current data.





## Counselor Corner

Marcia Blutstein & Elissa Salemi

### Inside the Classroom

We continue to visit classrooms on a 4 week rotation. During this time, we have delivered a guidance curriculum that includes lessons and activities on "Making Good Choices," "Friendship," "Bullying," and "Tolerance." Each classroom's lessons are tailored to best meet students' developmental needs, and are created around Pollard's core values of Respect, Responsibility and Safety.

### Tip: Let's Talk About It!

We know that most children have fights. It's still up to us to discourage violence by teaching our children how to solve problems by talking with others. Explain that not everyone will want to be our friend. However, we can still use words to try to solve our differences. We should also explain how important it is to admit that we have made a mistake. Learning to apologize is the most important lesson in repairing relationships.

From the book: *Mind Your Manners in School* by: Arianna Candell / Rose M. Curto



### Band News from Mrs. Nelson

Strings students in their second and third year of study are busily learning their Stringfest music for the All-State Fest on March 26<sup>th</sup> in Goffstown. They are also beginning music for their mid-May concert at the PAC with the Timberlane Middle School Orchestra. Strings in their first year of study are preparing for an early April concert at the PAC with district-wide instrumental beginners (band and strings 1<sup>st</sup> year students).

Please download Smart Music 2011 from [smartmusic.com](http://smartmusic.com) if you have not already done so. This allows your child to read music directly from the computer screen and get instant feedback as to the accuracy of the notes. They can also hear the other parts of the orchestra along with their own! What fun! Use the code TIMBERLANE10-STU in order to register. Call Smart Music Tech support at 1-866-240-4041 if you need assistance. Enjoy!

## **Pollard Students Not only Know Our School Motto, “What They Do Today will Make a Difference Tomorrow!”, we live it!**

Pollard students and their families have once again gone above and beyond. Classrooms collected money, clothing, toys, and items for pets instead of exchanging holiday gifts with their classmates. Teachers were genuinely impressed with how generous their student and families were with the endeavor. The charities varied but were all worthwhile causes. I am sure that having experienced the wonderful feeling of giving to others helped to make this holiday season a memorable one for all of our students. Thank you to everyone that donated.

### **Here are the people and places Pollard School students and staff have tried to help this season!**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Contribution</b>
<b>Mrs Hamilton</b>	They collected cloths for the Emmaus House.
<b>Mrs. LaRosa</b>	They helped the Community Action Agency for Hillsborough County by donating yarn.
<b>Ms. Gallagher</b>	They collected donations for the Animal Shelter in Stratham, New Hampshire
<b>Mrs. Laudani</b>	They collected donations for the NHSPCA
<b>Mrs. McFarlin</b>	They collected donations for the Animal Shelter in Stratham, New Hampshire
<b>Mrs. Ward</b>	They collected donations for the NHSPCA
<b>Mrs. Bell</b>	They collected money and then purchased books for the Plaistow Public Library
<b>Mrs. Bloom</b>	They collected donations for the NHSPCA
<b>Ms. Ferrante</b>	They collected donations for the Friends of Plaistow Recreation
<b>Mrs. Toscano</b>	Collected money for Mealy's Meals
<b>Mrs. Bellmore</b>	They collected funds for Mercy Ministries
<b>Mrs. Rodriguez</b>	They collected donations for the NHSPCA
<b>Mrs. Lindquist</b>	They made a donation to the Make-A-Wish Foundation
<b>Mrs. Marvin</b>	They collected donations for the NHSPCA
<b>Mrs. Comeau</b>	They collected donations for the Animal Shelter in Stratham
<b>Mrs. Kane</b>	They collected pajama's for the Great Sprout Pajama Tuck-in
<b>Mrs. Winter</b>	They collected pajama's for the Great Sprout Pajama Tuck-in
<b>Mrs. Shute</b>	They collected pajama's for the Great Sprout Pajama Tuck-in
<b>Mrs. Vengren</b>	They collected pajama's for the Great Sprout Pajama Tuck-in
<b>Mrs. Coyle-Quirk</b>	They collected toys for the Boston Children's Hospital
<b>Mrs. Hazelton</b>	They collected toys for the Boston Children's Hospital
<b>Mrs. Kennedy</b>	They collected toys for the Boston Children's Hospital
<b>Mrs. Robichaud</b>	They collected funds for Mercy Ministries
<b>Student Council</b>	They sponsored a "Wear a Hat To School Day" on December 22nd. Students & teachers paid a \$1.00 to wear a hat and all money was donated to the Make a Wish Foundation.



On Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, Pollard will hold its annual ***National Spelling Bee Competition!*** Congratulations to the following students who were the top spellers in their classroom contest and will be competing in the school's competition:

**GRADE 4**

Izzie Alexander  
Scott Bergeron  
Vaughan Bourassa  
Danielle Duhamel  
Seth Fisher  
Aidan Fisher  
Matt Marcotte  
Victoria McLeod  
Robbie Morin  
Evan Mullings  
Sarah Padellaro  
Nick Valhouli

**GRADE 5**

Robbie Agneta  
Sophia Cesati  
Erica Dube  
Sasha Dunn  
Sonny Matteson  
Anthony Mazzola  
Emily Noonan  
Brianna Parker  
Connor Ross  
Matthew Schaejbe  
Lindsey Whittaker  
Brandon Yeager



The winner of Pollard's Spelling Bee will compete in the 2011 Regional Spelling Bee on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. The NH State Spelling Bee will be held on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>.



**Pollard Recycles Paper**

Don't forget Pollard School is recycling paper products in our all green "EMPIRE" dumpster behind the school. Empire pays us for each ton we collect so please bring old Holiday catalogues, wrapping, arts & crafts paper, fax, office, magazines, newspapers and now... cardboard of all types. Please make sure cardboard boxes are broken down. (we get paid by the ton and empty boxes will waste too much space in our dumpster.) Remember the Empire paper recycling dumpster is on the left side of the school near the book collection and regular dumpsters. So hopefully we'll see you & your paper at the dumpster!





## Cold, Ice, and Snow Safety



Winter isn't a time to just stay indoors and wait for spring. There's a whole wonderland of sports out there for the entire family - sledding, snowmobiling, and snowboarding, to mention a few. Once outdoors, however, you may need to take extra steps to keep your family safe in the cold. In ice and snow, accidents can occur easily. There are ways to keep safe - and stay fit - during the cold months. By following a few tips, you can have a great time, no matter how much white stuff piles up outside.

If you're going outside in the cold, stay safe - and warm. Make sure your kids have a snack before going out. The calories will give their bodies energy in the cold weather.

And protect your kids' faces with sunscreen. Even though the idea of a sunburn in January can seem odd, snow can reflect up to 85% of the sun's ultraviolet rays.

Kids should dress warmly using layers of clothes - but not before using the bathroom! If the top layer gets wet from snow or freezing rain, they can peel off some clothes down to a dry layer.

Avoid cotton clothing because it won't keep the kids very warm. Stick with wool or other fabrics. Dress them in long underwear, a turtleneck, and a sweater and coat. Add more layers depending on the temperature. Waterproof pants and jackets are great top layers because they don't let the wetness seep into the other clothing. The cold-weather ensemble wouldn't be complete without warm socks and boots to keep feet dry and a hat to top it off.

There's no set amount of time children should be allowed to stay out in the cold. However, when being cold becomes unpleasant, it's time to go inside. Sometimes, though, kids may just need some dry gloves. It helps to have an extra pair of gloves or mittens tucked into their pockets if they plan to be outdoors for a while.

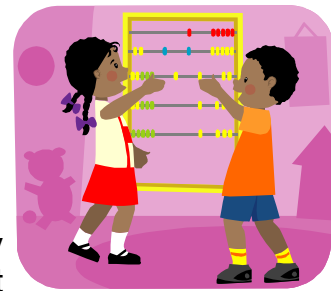
If your kids decide to go sledding on their own for the day, make sure you know about the hill where they will be playing. Is it steep or covered with trees? If so, it's not a good location for sledding. Also, watch out for hills where there are rocks or those that are near busy roads.

Sledding injuries can be very serious, resulting in head trauma, neck trauma, and broken bones. In serious injuries, there often is internal bleeding and abdominal trauma, which is why it's a good idea to supervise when your kids are sledding.

Ice-skating and ice hockey are great cold-weather activities, but they require safety smarts. Make sure your children avoid sports injuries by wearing supportive and properly fitted skates. In addition, rinks are always safer than ponds for skating. If you only have access to a pond, check the thickness of the ice yourself to prevent falls through the ice and supervise your children while they skate. Remember you should always have your child wear a helmet when sledding, skating skiing, snowboarding or playing ice hockey!

# News from Everyday Mathematics

Kathy Fowler, Elementary Math Coach



## Why is Math Taught so Differently Today?

That is the question many parents ask, and the cause of the frustration they feel when helping their children. The changes are based on research about the brain and how it learns. This research wasn't available when many of us were learning mathematics. Teachers taught the procedures and rules that worked, but without developing the conceptual understanding that supports those procedures. Most of us who were "good at math", were good memorizers. We were taught at the abstract level (and expected to memorize what we were taught) without the opportunity to progress through all the levels we now know are crucial for the brain to know and understand mathematics. From Dr. Mahesh Sharma, President of the [Center for Teaching/Learning of Mathematics](#), these levels are:

**Intuitive** (relating the concept with something already known)

**Concrete** (demonstrating it with concrete models)

**Pictorial** (representing the concept or skill through pictures and diagrams)

**Abstract** (representing the concept symbolically, i.e. numbers, variables, mathematical symbols)

**Applications** (using it in other mathematical concepts, other subjects, real life situations)

**Communications** (describing, explaining, teaching it to others)

According to Dr. Sharma, "Every new concept should be introduced through some concrete activity. When students have worked with appropriate and efficient concrete models, they can abstract ideas from them." As students, most of us were taught only at the abstract level without the necessary prerequisite levels of intuitive, concrete, and representational. "And, as a result, many of us had difficulty learning the concepts and procedures being taught."

When your child struggles with a concept, they need a real life context, pictures, and/or concrete models to help it make sense to them. Explaining in words or numbers (the abstract level) usually will not clear up their confusion. Since most of us did not learn this way, it can be difficult to help your child when s/he struggles. After all, we were taught that there is "one right way to do math". The teacher showed you the "right way", and you practiced until you could do it yourself. No one asked if we understood what we were doing. The problem was we weren't learning concepts; we were just memorizing procedures we usually didn't understand. This is what makes the way your children are learning so strange and foreign to you, but it is also the reason they will be better able to learn and understand mathematical concepts and procedures.

So, what do you do? My suggestions would be: Ask them questions about **how** they learned the concept. Did they use base 10 blocks? Draw pictures? Read the parent letters for more about the concrete and pictorial models that are used. If it isn't making sense to you, ask your child's teacher. If you jump to the abstract level (the numbers) without the manipulatives and pictures, your child will probably try to do as you ask, but will be more confused than ever. Most importantly, don't get frustrated or say "I was never good at math". Write a note to the teacher and move on to something else. Make math a positive experience for you and your children.





## LINES FROM THE ART ROOM- Ellen Stutman

As always lots is going on in the art room. First graders have been busy exploring drawing with ink; they've learned how to make lighter and darker shades, using only black ink and water. In celebration of Chinese New Year they are making Chinese scrolls with ink and watercolor.

The second graders used both pastels and oil pastels to see what was different between them and which ones they liked better. They are also doing a project inspired by Chinese New Year. They have been learning the art of calligraphy, writing Chinese words; they will use this and will make a Chinese style ink drawing.

Third graders have just finished a watercolor unit inspired by the Swiss artist Paul Klee. They looked at his abstract paintings of many small blocks of color and did their own watercolor interpretation. They are currently making totem poles, which connects with their classroom study.

Grade four students learned about New Hampshire artist Augustus Saint-Gaudens and looked at his monumental sculptures commemorating Civil War heroes. They are making their own large- scale (not so big as his!) animal sculptures; they are working as groups, cutting their shapes out of paper and then stuffing them with newspaper.

The 5<sup>th</sup> graders took a break from their wood sculptures to print their holiday cards. They had to make 2 prints of the same design; one of their cards they donated to a homeless shelter. The people at the shelter really appreciated them, both for their gesture and for how beautiful the cards are. We've just about finished the wood- snow days and holidays have put some classes ahead of or behind each other- and are ready to start on our next big project.

I hope that you're warm and well and are encouraging your children to draw or make things. They can always bring them in to school to show me; I love to see what they're doing at home.

All my best wishes for a good 2011.

## Technology Corner - Mrs. Fogarty



### What the classes are doing:

Most of the classes (third grade will do this later in the year.) just finished a unit on "Parts of the Computer". They learned how information travels through the computer and how a program makes the computer work.

5<sup>th</sup> grade is starting to design and write the text for a brochure. It will tell about Pollard School and their experiences here.

4<sup>th</sup> grade is going to be comparing resources - is a book or website easier to research information from? Is World Book online harder to read than a website found in a WebPath Express search? How to tell a primary or secondary source?

3<sup>rd</sup> grade is working through the lessons on Type-to-Learn typing program. Parents can really help by encouraging the kids to use the home row keys when they are typing. 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will be taking a break to work on the Word word processing program.

2<sup>nd</sup> grade will next be introduced to Excel while they collect data about their favorite healthy foods.

1<sup>st</sup> grade will be learning how to use Kidspiration (helps organize their thoughts) - one of the practice activities focuses on the changes during the cycle of a butterfly.

### For Parents:

#### Media Resource

Common Sense Media is a good website for information and resources to help you teach your kids about media choices. <http://www.commonsensemedia.org/> It reviews sites, games, apps, TV shows, movies, and music so parents can be in the know - parents need all the information they can get to protect their kids from being exposed to age- inappropriate media materials.

#### Internet Safety

It is never too young to talk to your kids about being safe on the internet.

The following links have information to help you start that conversation.

[http://www.commonsensemedia.org/get-cybersmart-phineas-and-ferb#tip\\_answer\\_0](http://www.commonsensemedia.org/get-cybersmart-phineas-and-ferb#tip_answer_0)

<http://www.netsmartz.org/Parents> (fun kids section)

[http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/family/net\\_safety.html#](http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/family/net_safety.html#) (great health site for parents, kids and teens)

## ENRICHMENT UPDATE!

It's time for our annual Invention Celebration to be held on February 16, 2011!

As part of our district Science Curriculum, all students in Grades K-5 will participate in the process of inventing. Students will practice their problem-solving skills by finding a real-life problem that an invention may solve. All students must make a drawing of their solution.

In addition, all students are invited to take that final step and make a model of their invention. The model does not need to work but must have the potential to work. These inventions will be judged by a team of volunteers from our school and community. Inventions will be selected from each grade level to represent the Pollard School at the 2011 Young Inventors' Celebration to be held in March at Merrimack Valley High School in Penacook, NH.

We are in need of 18-20 judges. Please send me an e-mail if you can help with this endeavor! So far, I have just three volunteers. It is fun to see what creative minds we have right here at Pollard School. Today's children are the problem solvers of tomorrow!

You can contact me at [karen.sullivan@timberlane.net](mailto:karen.sullivan@timberlane.net) or call me at (603)382-7146 extension 223.

Karen Sullivan

Enrichment Specialist



## BOOKMARKS



The American Library Youth Media Awards were announced on January 11, 2011. The awarding of the Newbery Medal (given for distinguished writing) and the Caldecott Medal (given for outstanding illustration) is equivalent to the Academy Awards in the world of children's literature! While those awards have the longest tradition, many other awards were announced by ALA on January 11. Those awards include the Theodor Seuss Geisel Award (given to a book for beginning readers) and the Robert Sibert Medal (given for nonfiction). Ms. Tozier and I recently discussed the winners and other books deemed to be the best of 2010 by School Library Journal Booklist, The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, and The Horn Book with the teachers during an "illuminating" Literature Lunch. An annotated list of the books we shared can be found on the Parent Pages link on the Destiny home page. Ask your child to log you in and check out the best of the best in children's literature! There are many links to book trailers and other media formats for the books on the list. The links are on the Destiny homepage under the Award Winners or Looking for a Good Book? headings.

*Patricia Collins* Library Media Specialist