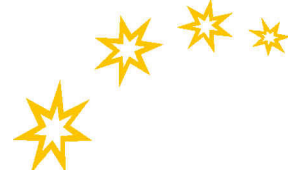




POLLARD PEN

120 Main Street, Plaistow, NH 03865
Phone: (603) 382-7146 Fax: (603) 382-2782
<http://www.pollardschool.com>



Our School Motto: What you do today makes a difference tomorrow

September 28, 2012

Principal thoughts

Dear Pollard Families:

I am always happy to say "Welcome Back" to our students, families and staff as well as a "Welcome" to all of our new friends that are joining us for the first time. We have many new staff members this year and I hope you will welcome them to our Pollard Community when you see them. This year we also have student teachers joining our staff. I think it is wonderful to have them choose Pollard as their final learning experience. I believe that they can bring so many new and innovative ideas to our teachers and students, we are happy to have them!

The district also welcomed a new Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Earl Metzler and Debra Armfield, Director of Professional Learning. Dr. Metzler has already visited the school twice, along with our Assistant Superintendent, Winfried Feneberg, and they walked around and met many students and staff. If your child has mentioned some "boys with ties" visiting the school, that is who they meant! We are excited about the changes for our district and know that our students will always come first.

Speaking of first, our first few weeks have gone very smoothly! I would like to thank everyone that attended our Meet the Teacher Night on August 29th. It was a great success. I heard many wonderful things from our students, staff and parents. We are back in full swing here at Pollard and off to a great school year. I welcome all of you to make this the year that you volunteer either directly at Pollard or during one of our PTA events. If you would like to help out but not sure how, give me a call or call Jacki Freeman, your PTA President.

We had a wonderful welcome back from the Plaistow Walmart this past week. As part of their teacher appreciation program Pollard School was chosen to receive 20-\$50 gift cards to help pay for all of the extra things teachers buy for school and students. I think I can speak for all of them in thanking Walmart-what a great way to say thank you to our teachers!

Important Dates

October 1

Progress Reports

October 1st—23rd

NECAP Testing

October 8

No School
Columbus Day

October 25

Early Release @ 1:00
Parent/Teacher Conferences

October 31

Halloween Parade @ 1:30



During this past summer staff members have been busy learning new ways to reach and teach all of our students, regardless of ability. Our school's SINI (School In Need of Improvement) Plan has been revised and will be posted on our web site shortly. Many Pollard teachers participated in trainings to learn more about the Common Core State Standards and the NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) testing. These are the test that your child has been taking during the past few weeks if they are in grades 2-5.

As I am sure you have heard, EEE has started to creep back into the news. I understand that this is a concern for many parents so I have spoken with Denise Horrack from the Town of Plaistow to make sure we are doing all that we should here at Pollard. She assures me that Plaistow is testing and no mosquitoes have been found carrying the virus as of yet in our area. She also asked that I encourage parents to make sure that their children wear long sleeves and pants when they are outside, especially after dusk. We only have a short window to be cautious. Once we have a hard frost we should be all set.

I would like to remind you that we would like all sick children and adults to stay home when they are sick. We know and understand that most parents are working outside of the home but we think that we all need to try to keep the germs out of school as best as possible. Please remember to let us know why your child is being called out sick when you call the absent line. (382-7146 x-1) If the nurse calls to have you come pick up your child because they are sick please try your best to get here as soon as possible. Thank you for your help in this matter.

In an effort to assure that all students are "teacher ready" by 8:40, staff will be welcoming students in to the building 10 minutes earlier than last year. Students can go through the car drop-off line at 8:20 and it is our goal to have everyone in by 8:35 so instruction can begin promptly at 8:40 AM and you children will go home on their regularly assigned buses at 3:10 PM each afternoon.

Welcome and let's have a great year!
Michelle Gaydos
Principal



Parents Right to Know

In response to regulations set by the New Hampshire Department of Education and the United States Department of Education, we are required to notify you of our staff's highly qualified status. All teachers, Title I tutors, and support staff at Pollard School meet these requirements and are highly qualified to teach. We are also required to inform you that parents have the right to request information regarding their child's performance level in the classroom or from Title I. Any parent of an English language proficient student has the right to withdraw his/ her child from English language instruction. If you have any questions about the above regulations, please contact Michele Vance.

Hello from Mrs. Vance, our Assistant Principal

Dear Pollard Families,

It is amazing to think that we have already been in school a full month. It is wonderful to see all the students learning the routines and falling into daily schedules. I have the pleasure of having morning car drop off duty and enjoy witnessing the smiles of those students as they enter the building. It is truly a great way to start my day.

I would like to thank all those parents at car drop off for following the signs, stopping and putting their cars in park, and for not using cell phones during this time. The system we have in place is for the safety of our Pollard students and we appreciate all your support with this. Please remember that we would like to have student in classrooms ready to learn by 8:40 am.

As routines and expectations are being taught and established at the beginning of the school year. We strive to set a tone that emphasizes respect, responsibility, and safety on the bus, in classrooms, hallways, on the playground, and in our cafeteria. An essential element of a successful school is providing students and staff with a healthy and safe environment, where teachers have a right to teach, and students have a right to learn. At Pollard School we acknowledge that each individual student is at a different developmental level. Therefore, our objective is to foster self-discipline and develop responsible members of society. It is expected that students will treat each other with dignity and respect. As students develop and make choices we provide educational opportunities that support and provide them with a reflective learning opportunity. When a reflective learning situation occurs students might be asked to complete a "Bucket Dipping Think Sheet", and/or a student behavior form. To continue to have continuous communication between home/school parents are asked to sign these forms and return them to school.

Children receive the best education when parents and teachers work together as a team. As a parent and an educator I am aware how true this is. I look forward to celebrating with you many student successes and accomplishments this school year. Should you have any questions or concerns, offerings or accolades, please feel free to stop by or give me a call.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Vance



Curriculum Corner

NECAP Testing

During the first three weeks of October, students in grades 3-5 will be participate in the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP). All students will be tested in reading and mathematics, but only 5th graders will be tested in writing. The New England Common Assessment program will be one of the important tools available to parents and educators to determine how well our students are applying their grade level skills. In every assessment, scores are only as meaningful as the effort students put into the assessment. Encourage your child to give her or her best effort. You can best help your child prepare for the assessment by making sure that she or he is rested on the days the tests are given. And, as with every day, it is critical that students have a good breakfast before heading off to school, and that they arrive on time. Thank you for supporting your child and our school during this testing period.

5th Grade will test October 1st ~ 4th
4th Grade will test October 9th, 10th, & 11th
3rd Grade will test October 15th, 16th, & 17th
All make-ups will follow scheduled testing dates.

Yours in education,
Michele Vance, Curriculum Coordinator



Reminders from the Front Office:

Please remember to call the absent line by **9am**, 603-382-7146, #1, if your child will be absent or if your child is going to be late to school.

Students who do not arrive on the bus may not be dropped off at Pollard until 8:20am. Students need to be at school by 8:35am in order to insure that they are not tardy. Students who are not in their classrooms by 8:40am will be marked tardy.

When your child has a change in their dismissal plan, we need to have it **from you in writing**. If that change involves your child taking a bus, **we need to have the bus number and the address to which your child is going.**

It is very important to keep your contact information up to date in case of an emergency. Please remember to let the office know of any changes in your contact information and that of your emergency contacts.

Thank You!

Counselor Corner

Welcome Back Pollard Families and Friends!

Hello and welcome to the first 2012-2013 Counselor Corner. This section of the Pollard Pen will focus on ways that children, their caretakers, and the school can work together to promote social and academic success in the lives of Pollard students. It is here where I will post suggestions, articles, tips, and other counseling information.

I have visited all kindergarten and most 1st grade classes to introduce myself to your children. I read a book called, "The Invisible String" which talks about how everyone has invisible strings that connect them to people they love, even when they're apart. Ask your child who their invisible string is connected to and you'll hear what they shared with me and their classmates.



Tip: Connecting with Your Child

Bedtime Debriefing: To really connect with your kids, spend a few minutes before bedtime going over the day. Ask specific questions: "What was the most interesting thing that happened at school today?", "What was the nicest thing you did for someone today?", "What are you looking forward to tomorrow?", "What challenged you most about today?" Then listen. It's an easy, effective way to keep up with how they are doing.

Please feel free to contact me- Marcia.Blutstein@timberlane.net, 382-7146 x250, at any time with any concerns or questions.

"They may forget what you said, but they will never forget how you made them feel." -Anonymous"



Plaistow 911 Remembrance Ceremony

Our Pollard forth and fifth grade students read poetry at the park to reflect on 911. On September 11th they walked to the Plaistow Town Hall Park to participate in the 911 Memorial Service. These four students were, Heather Catlin, Tatum Goebel, Braeden Ouelette, and Travis Wyman. The students were greeted by Town Manager, Mr. Sean Fitzgerald. They were witness as fire Chief John McArdle placed a wreath at the memorial stone of Carol Flyzik. Mr. Roy Jeffrey, WWII Veteran led us all in the Pledge of Allegiance. Students listened attentively as Selectman Vice Chair, John Sherman, made remarks about this tragic event that has made our country stronger.

Only a few of these students were born prior to the terrorist attack on our country on September 11, 2001, however, they all demonstrated a strong sense of unity and patriotism as they represented Pollard school.



PE News from Mrs. Silva, Physical Education Teacher

Welcome to a new school year at Pollard! Our program at Pollard consists of developmentally appropriate activities that create maximum opportunities for development of skills, knowledge, health-related fitness, and ultimately, the confidence to enjoy an active, healthy lifestyle. Physical education courses offer the chance for your child to develop habits for a lifetime of fitness and health. During the school year, we want to encourage you to participate in your child's physical development and fitness. Children need a maximum of at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day and what a better way than playing together. Go for a walk, take a bike ride or toss a ball. It is so very important for your children to see you being physically active as role models. Thank you for partnering with our physical education program to develop your child's lifetime health and fitness. By working together we can bring the joy and health of physical activity to your child and family. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I look forward to teaching you child this year.

September and October Happenings

Grade One: We have been learning about classroom protocols, space and body awareness, locomotor skills, level and pathways. We have played a few fun games. We also have started a unit in soccer and will learn how to dribble, pass and kick the soccer ball.

Grade Two: We have and still will be reviewing classroom protocols and locomotor skills. They have played a few fun games. We have started a unit in soccer and will learn how to dribble, pass and kick the soccer ball. We will also be playing lead up games with this unit.

Grade Three, Four, and Five: Will have and still will be reviewing classroom protocols and locomotor skills. These grades have played a few fun games and have started a unit in soccer. They are learning more dribbling skills, and kicking skills with the soccer ball. We will be playing many games with this unit.

What a season so far in **CROSS COUNTRY!** Students are having so much fun and they are getting so much exercise and experience running cross country. They are meeting so many students from different schools. They are having a ball! Thank you parents for letting your kids see what it is like to run a cross country meet. These events promote fitness and knowledge about a sport that can be enjoyed for a lifetime! This year there are about 550 students in 7 different schools who joined to run cross country this year. The next meet is next Tuesday at Stratham and the following one is in Newmarket on Wednesday. The last one is at Stratham Hill Park in East Kingston on Wednesday. The meets start at 4:30pm. Thanks to all parents who have helped me at the meets!





Happy new school year from the art room!

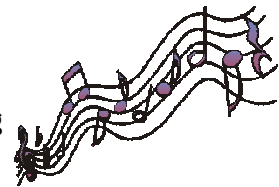
I am Becky Lightizer, and very excited to introduce myself as the new Pollard School art teacher! For those of you that don't know me, I will tell you a bit about myself. Like many of the students at Pollard School, I loved art since I was a child. I grew up in Wilmington, Massachusetts and graduated from ULowell with a BFA in commercial illustration and a minor in art history. My husband and I moved to Plaistow in 1988. After many years in the graphic design field and the birth of our first son, I began my own home based design and illustration business. When our second son started school, I began volunteering and substituting at Pollard School. I fell in love with the school, the staff, and of course the kids! I accepted a job as a paraprofessional in special education, and after four wonderful years, I went back to school to pursue a masters degree in education. I just completed three exciting years at Newton's Memorial Elementary School, but jumped at the chance to be back at Pollard! I am thrilled to be back!

We are off to a great start, the students have already learned many new art room procedures and seem to love creating art. First graders are learning about shapes. They painted large busses made of shapes, and will be playing a game called, "pass the paint", which is another fun way to learn shapes. Second graders have been working on fabulous patterned cats and turtles, and will be starting still life drawings. Third graders finished summer vacation postcards, and are starting self-portraits. Fourth and fifth graders created amazing artist trading cards, and are now working on Anime self-portraits. I think many of them are shocked by their own success with this project! All grades will be moving on to fall projects, soon.

As their artwork comes home, I hope you are as elated about their creativity as I am. If you have any comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me at Rebecca.lightizer@timberlane.net. I will use many plastic tri-fold egg cartons through the year. I have found that they are an excellent way to save paint for several weeks. If you happen to buy this type of egg carton, your donation would be greatly appreciated! I am looking forward to a wonderful year with your children!

Welcome to Band!

Band class lessons are underway! Please help your child by reminding them which day their lesson is and by reminding them to bring their instruments, music & pencil on that day.



Hopefully every band member will have a chance to practice at home, at least 4 days a week for 15 min. a day. That way it will be easier to remember what we learned in class and easier to become skilled and sound AWESOME!

Speaking of awesome...mark your calendar for Wednesday evening December 12 at 7pm when the 4th & 5th gr. band will be performing at our first concert of the season! Woo Hoo! Set aside Wednesday Dec. 12 for a most fantastic musical event!

Thanks for all your help,

News from the Enrichment Room...



Welcome to a new school year!

I would like to introduce myself to you as the new Pollard School Enrichment Teacher. My name is Kristen Dalphond and I have been working at Pollard for 4 years as the Read Aloud/ SSR teacher. I am excited to take on this new role. I have been gathering and analyzing data to identify students who may be candidates for the enrichment program and will soon begin taking groups to expand, encourage and engage exceptional talents.

Our enrichment committee will be planning many exciting school wide enrichment activities this year - topics and dates to come.

Technology - A New Year and a New Program!

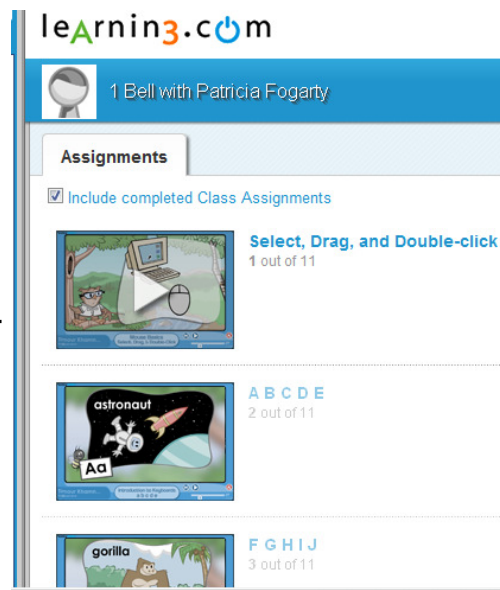
All the students from first to fifth grade will be using a new program during technology this year as a way to implement the technology curriculum. The program, EasyTech, will help the students with technology skills and applying those skills. It also has lessons concerning online safety and cyber-bullying that will help the students learn appropriate ways to use online resources. The program uses lessons, activities, journals, discussions, quizzes and games to teach and reinforce the district and national technology standards and will provide continuity throughout the district. So far the student response has been very positive.

Just a reminder - in order for the student to use this new program they need to have access to the internet.

At the beginning of the year a form gave you the choice to restrict internet use or not.

If you chose to limit your child's use of the internet they will not be able to use this program (or other educational online resources). I will be glad to answer any questions about our procedures for dealing with the students and the internet so you can feel comfortable allowing them to use all of our supportive online programs. If you would like to change your decision please send a note with your child to the office. If you did not send the form back your child is automatically restricted from the internet until the form is received in the office.

Here's to a great year in technology!
Patti Fogarty, Pollard's technology teacher





BOOKMARKS



Occasional notes from the library

Pollard School Library has been a busy place these first few weeks of school with students visiting for circulation and classes coming for information literacy lessons. Kindergartners have already made their first library visit and have met Mother Goose. First graders are quickly becoming independent library users as they practice library routines. Second graders are learning to think like “Goldisocks” in the library to help them make “just right” independent reading choices. Third grade children have been talking about “good fit” books and reading some excerpts from transitional chapter books. Fourth grade students went on a scavenger hunt to demonstrate how quickly they could locate print and electronic resources in the library. Finally, fifth grade students have been asking, “Can It Be For Me?”, learning some using quick strategies to inform book choice.

Pollard School is already well under way on what I hope will be a literate enriching school year. Ms. Gallagher’s first grade class read the book **The Gingerbread Man Loose in the School** and then followed the gingerbread through the building to get reacquainted with VIP’s in school. We added a technology twist to this popular activity. Each poster of the gingerbread man hanging in various locations had a QR code on it. The children used our IPOD Touches to scan the codes and bring up a picture of the VIP!

On September 14th we took part in the celebration of International Dot Day. Inspired by Peter Reynold’s book **The Dot**, the event invites children worldwide to, “Make your mark and see where it takes you.” Every class visited the library and watched the story on DVD and then every child “made their mark”. Ours dots will be “dot”ting the hallways soon!!

September 19th is “Talk Like a Pirate” day and Mrs. Laudani’s class came to the library to do just that. We read the story **A Pirate’s Gildie to First Grade** together and used the glossary to practice pirate vocabulary. The children went back to class sporting temporary tattoo’s of a pirate reading a book!

We have begun Poetry Fridays and will be celebrating poets and poems all year long. Time is set aside each Friday for one class to come to the library to read and recite poetry. Mrs. Coyle-Quirk’s fifth grade class read some somber poems from a collection titled **This Place I Know**. The poems were written to express feelings after 9/11/2001. Rachel Vaughn ran in place while her classmates in Mrs. Winter’s fourth grade class recited “Fifty Yard Dash” and Mrs. Rodriguez’s third grade students pantomined some favorite playground activities while reciting the poem “Recess”. Mrs. Toscano and Mrs. McFarlin’s classes are waiting for their turns - coming right up.

Mark your literary calendars—Pollard School’s annual holiday reading and shopping event at Barnes & Noble will be held on November 29th.

Patricia Collins Library Media Specialist

Hello from Pollard PTA!!

We have had a wonderful start to the school year!! Our first event, **Stargazing**, went off without a hitch and hope everyone had as much fun as we did!! Thank you so much to all who helped with baking goodies for the bake sale! With October coming up we have our **Spirit Wear Sale** and **Membership drive** coming to an end, so get your forms in by October 5th. Currently in the lead for Membership drive is Mrs. Ward, followed closely by Mrs. Comeau's class and Mrs. LaRosa's AM kindergarten class!! Thank you to those who are new PTA members please watch your Pollard Express for your new membership cards!

The **Box top contest** is coming up! Last school year we raised over \$2,400 for Pollard School from collecting Box Tops for Education! Let's see if we can beat that amount this year! Our next Box Top collection contest will be Monday 10/8 - Fri 10/26; the classroom with the most Box Tops will win a class party! Check out boxtops4education.com for extra collection sheets, product list, bonus box-tops opportunities, and to track & compare Pollard School's earnings. (Pollard collects more than many other local schools!). Contact Kelley Fox, Pollard Box Top Coordinator at kelley.fox209@comcast.net with any questions!

We also have our **Labels for Education** collection that is continuous throughout the year. Clip and save UPC codes and caps from the following products: CAMPBELLS, PEPPERIDGE FARMS, DANNON, GLAD, BIC, SWANSON, PREGO, V-8, PEOPLE MAGAZINE and POP SECRET to name just a few. The PTA collects the points and redeems them for school supplies. Last year we were able to get 26 playground balls and 12 jump ropes! Please remember to Clip & save UPC codes and send them into school with your child. It is easy as pie! If you have any questions about Labels for Education please contact Lauren Fuller at lfuller@myfairpoint.net.

Watch your Pollard Express for your Yankee Candle Fundraiser coming home soon!!

Please feel free to contact any of us with any questions throughout the year!
Jacki Freeman **President** jayfree9603@comcast.net

Rebecca Moranville **Vice President** rebeccamoranville@gmail.com

Erica Stack **Secretary** ericalstack@gmail.com

Kate Sherman-DeRoche **Treasurer** kathleen.sherman-deroche@timberlane.net

Colleen Ferrante **Teacher Liaison** colleen.ferrante@timberlane.net

Please join us at our next PTA meeting on Wednesday October 17th at 7pm!! Hope to see you there!!!