

December 19, 2014



Pollard Students Not only Know Our School Motto, “What We Do To-day 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, items for pets, yarn and even finger knitted blankets 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 sea-

KINDERGARTEN

Alter - Donating clothing and misc items to the Emmaus House

LaRosa & Hood - Donating yarn to the Raymond Senior Center which makes hats for veterens, cancer patients and shelters

Buckley - Toys for Tots

GRADE ONE - NHSPCA

GRADE TWO - Food drive to help the Lions Club Holiday Gift Baskets

GRADE THREE

Shute, Lindquist & Rodriguez - NHSPCA

McMeniman - Finger knitting baby blankets for NICU babies at Eliot Hospital

GRADE FOUR - Run of the Savages (Jimmy Fund)

GRADE FIVE - Food Drive for Plaistow Food Pantry

STUDENT COUNCIL/ POLLARD SCHOOL - Stamped letters collected & given to MACY's they donate \$1 to the Make-a-Wish Foundation per letter collected

What you do today makes a difference tomorrow

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

Important Dates

December 19

PTA Holiday Shop
Pollard Café
5-7pm

Dec 24 - Jan 2

Holiday Break

January 19

No School
Civil Rights Day

January 20

No School
Professional Development

January 21

Winter Concert
@ the PAC
7pm

February 13

PTA Parent Night Out
5pm

February 20

Early Release

February 23 - 27



Winter Break

Dear Pollard Families,

The past month has been quite a busy one! I hope that you all have a chance to spend some quality time with your families or plan to during our holiday break.

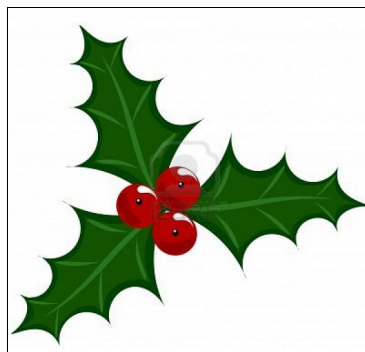
How wonderful it is to belong to a PTA that is so active, wanting to make sure all students have everything that they need. Grandparents & Special Persons Day, Holiday Pancake Breakfast, our Gift Card Fundraiser, the Laser Light Show, and next Friday evening our Holiday Shop...Pollard families have been very busy! Thank you to all the parents and staff that have helped with these events, I know that the holiday season makes it hard to fit everything in and we appreciate all that you do!

Speaking of Grandparents & Special Persons Day, I enjoyed meeting so many grandparents and special friends the Tuesday before Thanksgiving break. We had over 800 visitors throughout the day and I thank everyone for being so flexible. The PTA had volunteers helping to point our visitors in the right direction and the "Someone at Pollard School Loves Me" key chains were a great touch. I hope that our visitors enjoyed the day even half as much as our students. We took a lot of pictures and they have been posted on our website. Please check both the pictures and our website out at www.pollardschool.com.

Report cards went home the first week in December so I hope that you have sat down with your child and discussed his/her progress. It is so important to let them know you value all of their hard work. At school, students continue to have Tier 2 instruction so they are working with many different staff on re-teaching or enriching our grade level curriculum. Please ask your son or daughter how this is going. We, here at Pollard, are excited about the growth many of our students are making this year in both reading and math. The STAR Assessment has been instrumental in assisting staff with differentiating instruction and we look forward to the results of our mid-year assessment (starting January 6th)

Have a super holiday season and thank you for partnering with the Pollard staff in educating your child.

Michelle Auger
Your Child's Principal



From the desk of Mrs. Vance, our Assistant Principal

Wishing each Pollard Family a joyous holiday season filled with loving memories and the laughter of children.

Here is the list of the best educational apps for 2014. Some of these are currently being used at Pollard School.

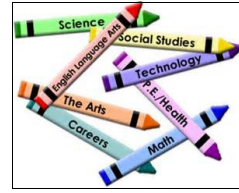


The 30 Best Educational Apps For iPad In 2014 by TeachThought Staff

These apps are appropriately diverse for project-based learning, some for game-based learning, some are task-oriented—file-sharing, note-taking, and pdf markups. After my own heart, some are designed for open-ended creation. Some are academic, and some are more authentic, like the kinds of things students might download on their own iPads. A few are content-centered with a focus on animation, biology, literacy, math skills, or the universe itself, but overall you'll see that content drill-and-kill is pleasingly absent from many of the most compelling educational apps for iPad in 2014, and, subsequently, so is this collection below.

Explain Everything	Evernote	Duolingo	Hangouts	Brainfeed
Google Drive	Pocket	Google+	Adobe Voice	Storehouse
Trello	Minecraft	eduClipper	Zoom Notes	Kodable
Thinkrolls	Bitsboard	The Elements in Action by Theodore Gray	The Sandbox	Knowji
Creatures of Light	Sound Uncovered	Math Fact Master	Phonics Genius	Brian Cox's Wonders of Life
Water Cycle HD	Summary Pro	Brian Cox's Wonders of the Universe	Lapse It	Animate Me!

Curriculum Corner



Dear Pollard Families,

Here is our timeline for our mid-year STAR assessments that are coming up in January. Also, our fourth graders will be completing the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in February. Please assist your child to do his/her best by doing the following:

Please try not to schedule dental or other appointments on the testing day

Ensure your child gets plenty of sleep

Encourage them to eat a nourishing breakfast and lunch

STAR Assessments

January 6th – January 9th ~ Preschool, Kindergarten, & Grade 3 Students

January 12th – 15th ~ Grade 1, 2, 4 & 5 Students

NAEP

February 11th – Grade 4 only



Reminder about morning car drop off ~

- Students need to be in their classrooms by 8:30 am or they are considered tardy and need to be signed in at the office. Staff members have to be in the building by 8:30 to begin classes.
- Students are not to be let out of vehicles until a staff member has waved for them to exit the vehicle.
- The safety of all students is our number one concern and we appreciate you following these procedures to ensure everyone's safety.
- Thank you for your support and help with our car drop off/pick up procedures

From The Conductor's Podium of Mr. Mainella

Congratulations go out to: Emily Hatt, Matthew Fairhurst, Annika Smith, Samuel Szczapa, Cassidy Caldwell, Summer Jones, Michael Gordon, Andrew Randall, and Nora Theberge. These musicians are participating in the Timberlane Elementary Honors Band representing Pollard School. This band is comprised of outstanding elementary band students from our four district elementary schools. They rehearse on Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 8:00 at the Timberlane Performing Arts Center and they had their first concert on Tuesday evening December 16th.

Congratulations go out to Mathew Fairhurst who was awarded the Band Excellence Award for the month of October, and Nora Theberge for the month of November. Mathew plays the saxophone and Nora is a percussionist. They both have shown exceptional work on their instruments, and have completed an award winning number of smartmusic assignments.

All of our band students have been working hard on assignments in hope of achieving their excellence in band letters. After completing a certain number of exercises the student receives a letter. Their goal is to spell the word EXCELLENCE. Upon doing so they will earn their red excellence medal. This is no small achievement because there are over 100 exercises to complete.

In other news the entire Pollard School Music department will be having its winter concert on January 21. This concert will also be at the PAC and will begin at 7:00PM. The 4th and 5th grade band members will be performing together. The advanced band will be performing two separate pieces by themselves. This concert will also include parents, siblings and some of our staff here at Pollard School who play band instruments. Of course this concert also includes our outstanding orchestra and chorus. This should be a very exciting night for all of us. Hope to see you then. More detailed information regarding this concert will be coming home with the participating musicians.

Musically yours,
John Mainella



From Ms. Silva in the Gymnasium

This month the intermediate grades have been practicing hockey skills such as stick handling and passing and played many lead up games pertaining to those skills.

The primary grades have been working on bowling as well as catching that would help them when playing such sports as horseshoes, softball, and baseball.

If your 4th or 5th grader signed up for after school snowshoeing it starts the week we come back from vacation on Tuesday, January 9, 2015.

I hope every family has a happy, healthy, and fun holiday vacation.

See everyone next year!

Counselor Corner

Greetings Pollard Families:

This is a wonderful, exciting and often stressful time of year for families. Expectations may be elevated during the holidays because of family rituals and assumptions about how the holidays are supposed to be.

Here are some ideas on how to get the most out of the holidays and reduce stress:

Identify what is about the holidays that get you down. Once identified, deal with it directly.

If doing the "same old thing" gets you down, don't do the same old thing.

Don't expect miracles; keep your expectations of others and self realistic.

Don't overdo- plan ahead of time, prioritize what needs to be done and try to involve others with the preparation.

If the holidays make you feel out of control, "take control" over the holidays by taking timeouts for yourself. Have more self-compassion and accept your limitations.

Use humor; try to see the lighter side of life and not take yourself so seriously.

Stick to a budget for gift giving and food shopping, or even consider alternatives to gift giving.

Have realistic expectations of yourself and others.

Establish healthy boundaries for yourself: It's OK to say "no."

Happy Holidays to all of you. I hope they are enjoyable and relaxing!

Marcia Blutstein

Pollard School Counselor