



October 23, 2015

## Happy Halloween!

Dear Pollard Families:

Most importantly I want to start by thanking all of our Pollard parents for donating their time (or food for our builders) to help build our new playground. What a wonderful group of people. They worked hard and took very few breaks to make sure we were done and kids would be able to enjoy our playground as soon as possible. It is official, the children love our playground. A special shout out needs to go to Jacki Freeman, our Pollard PTA President. Jacki stayed all day overseeing the project with me and did much of the running around and organizing. Thank you everyone!

Next Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> our Halloween Parade will be starting from Pollard at 1:30. I did send a memo home last week outlining the do's and don'ts of costumes and make-up. Please make sure that your children are able to walk comfortably and safely in their costumes. The parade continues to be one of the most popular events here at Pollard. Dean Zanello should be at Pollard, taping our parade, and this video will be posted online sometime after that. Please go to our website and select the "Photo Album"/phanfare, you will see all of the wonderful pictures and the video.

(<http://trsd.phanfare.com/ps>)

During the month of November we should try to think of all

**What you do today makes a difference tomorrow**

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<http://www.pollardschool.com>

### Important Dates

#### October 23

5th Grade  
Parent Committee  
Halloween Party

#### October 26

Grade 4 Fieldtrip

#### October 30

Halloween  
Parade  
1:30

#### November 4

Title 1 Open House  
6 - 7pm

#### November 10

Early Release  
1:10 Dismissal

#### November 11

No School  
Veteran's Day

#### November 13

PTA Bingo for Books

#### November 17

PTA Meeting  
7:00pm

#### November 24

Grandparents &  
Special Person's Day

#### November 25 - 27

Thanksgiving Break

#### December 4

Report Cards

#### December 10

No School



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that we have to be thankful for. We have such great community support, parents and other community members that give so much of their time and their energy. We could not operate to the level that we do without our wonderful PTA officers and parent volunteers. On Wednesday, October 14, 2015 Pollard School received the Blue Ribbon Award as part of the NHPIE (NH Partners in Education). Kate Sherman-DeRoche represented the Pollard PTA (she is the treasurer). We also recognized 5 community partnerships and these groups/individuals received Gold Circle Awards: Plaistow Police Department (DARE/Officer Pat), Ocasio's True Martial Arts (Joshua Munoz), The Exchange Club of Plaistow (Bob Harb), The Town of Plaistow (Jill Senter and Gayle Hamel), and Plaistow Historical Society (Jim Peck). These partnerships have brought such great opportunities to our Pollard students. Congratulations to all of those involved in volunteering at Pollard School last year. Remember we are logging in hours for this year's Blue Ribbon Award so come in and volunteer.

The holidays are approaching and we understand that many families are having a hard time making ends meet. We can give names of families in need to a few community organizations that help with holiday meals and gifts. If you are in need of assistance, please contact our guidance counselor and she will move your request forward. We also have a new recycling bin (for cloths, books and many other items listed on the outside of the container) in our back pick-up area and all proceeds will be going to our Kids Helping Kids account, so please donate your old clothes.

Again, Thank you for all that you do to make Pollard such a great place to learn!

Michelle Auger

Your Child's Principal

[Michelle.auger@timberlane.net](mailto:Michelle.auger@timberlane.net)



# From the desk of Mrs. Vance, Our Assistant Principal

As we prepare our students for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and ask them, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" This question takes on a new meaning when we think about what the job market will be like in the future. In just 15 years, it is predicted that over two billion jobs will disappear, as robots and automation will make jobs such as commercial piloting, legal work, technical writing, tele-marketing, accounting, retail work, and real estate sales obsolete. It is amazing to think that the majority of today's kindergartners will have jobs that don't currently exist today. As we prepare our students for their future, developing their critical thinking skills has become a 21<sup>st</sup> century focus. I wanted to share with you the definition of critical thinking and the components I have researched from the enVision website.

Mrs. Vance

## A DEFINITION OF CRITICAL THINKING

Researchers from Pearson's Research & Innovation Network recently engaged in a comprehensive literature review to define the construct of critical thinking. The review encompassed more than 50 articles, including theoretical pieces, empirical studies and meta-analyses written by authors across the globe. Based on the results of the review, we present a general definition of critical thinking and its specific cognitive, metacognitive, and dispositional sub-components.



### GENERAL DEFINITION

Critical thinking involves purposeful and goal-directed thinking used to define and solve problems, make decisions or form judgments related to a particular situation or set of circumstances. It involves cognitive, metacognitive and dispositional components which may manifest (or be applied) differently in specific contexts.

### COGNITIVE SUB-COMPONENTS

#### Defining a problem

- Identifying central issues & assumptions
- Recognizing important relationships
- Forming hypotheses

#### Analyzing arguments

- Making inferences (deductive/inductive)
- Seeking evidence & criteria
- Differentiating opinion from evidence
- Considering alternative opinions/theories
- Avoiding biased reasoning
- Weighting evidence
- Asking clarifying questions
- Making counter arguments

#### Making decisions

- Using criteria to make judgments
- Explaining evidential, conceptual, methodological considerations for a judgment

### METACOGNITIVE SUB-COMPONENTS

#### Cognitive Knowledge

- Knowledge of oneself as a learner and what factors might influence one's performance (self-appraisal)
- Awareness and management of cognition, including knowledge about strategies
- Knowledge about why and when to use a given strategy

#### Cognitive Regulation

- Planning (ID and selection of appropriate strategies and allocation of resources)
- Self-regulation (attending to and being aware of comprehension and task performance)
- Evaluation & appraisal; revisiting and revising goals

### DISPOSITIONAL SUB-COMPONENTS

#### Critical Thinking Dispositions

- Persistence
- Open-mindedness & flexibility
- Tolerance of ambiguity
- Inquisitiveness
- Willingness to suspend judgment
- Sensitivity to others (social aspect)

For information about the Research & Innovation Network's research on critical thinking, contact Jennifer Kobrin at [jennifer.kobrin@pearson.com](mailto:jennifer.kobrin@pearson.com)

Curriculum Corner  
Online Learning/Blizzard Bag Day  
Frequently Asked Questions for Elementary Parents

**1. What is an Online Learning/Blizzard Bag Day?**

Online Learning/Blizzard Bag Day is a “snow” day during which students will work at home on online instruction and assignments provided by their teachers.

**2. Will every snow day be an Online Learning/Blizzard Bag Day?**

No. There will be some traditional snow days. The NH Department of Education has approved Timberlane’s Online Learning/Blizzard Bag Day plan for a maximum of five days. An Online Learning/Blizzard Bag Day will not be scheduled when a large-scale power outage may occur.

**3. How will I know if it is an Online Learning/Blizzard Bag Day or just a No School Day?**

The decision will be made by the SAU if an inclement weather day is a No School Day or an Online Learning/Blizzard Bag Day. Parents will be notified through Power Announcement (the district’s emergency notification system). On-line lessons will be used.

**4. How will my child receive instruction or lessons?**

**K-2:** Instruction and lessons for reading and math will be provided through a pre-approved take home copy. Blizzard Bag lessons will be sent home in advance of Blizzard Bag days. On October 23, 2015, a folder containing the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Blizzard Bag lessons will be sent home in advance of a Blizzard Bag day. The lessons will only be used when a Blizzard Bag day has been decided by the district. Teachers will be available via e-mail from 10:00am-2:00pm to answer any questions.

**3-5:** Instruction and lessons for reading and math will be provided through your child’s google apps for education account. Teachers in grades 3-5 will be using Google Classroom.

Students in grades 3-5 will have lessons assigned to them which they will complete online and submit to their teachers. Teachers will be available online during the 10:00am-2:00pm window. Teachers will respond with feedback, questions, or comments, and students can continue working. When students complete the lesson they submit the lesson to be graded by their teacher. Students may work online at other times during the day, but teachers are only available from 10:00—2:00 for immediate feedback.

During the lessons, students can log on and off as needed. It is not expected nor required for them to stay at the computer during the window of time. Documents on Google Classroom save automatically, so students do not need to worry if their work will be lost.

## 5. What if my child has Art, P.E., or Music on the Online Learning/Blizzard Bag Day?

Students will only do one special per day. Look at the matrix and follow what special your child will be doing. Specials will be completed during the Online Learning/Blizzard Bag Day. Lessons in grades K-2 will be turned into the classroom teacher when they return to school. Lessons in grades 3-5 will be completed on Google Classroom. Every student, regardless of grade will receive a hard copy of the special lesson. Lessons can also be accessed through our school's web page.

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
K	P.E.	MUSIC	ART	P.E.	MUSIC
1	ART	P.E.	MUSIC	ART	P.E.
2	MUSIC	ART	P.E.	MUSIC	ART
3	P.E.	MUSIC	ART	P.E.	MUSIC
4	ART	P.E.	MUSIC	ART	P.E.
5	MUSIC	ART	P.E.	MUSIC	ART

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or Mrs. Vance if you have any questions about Online Learning/Blizzard Bag days.

## News from Grade 2



Back on September 25<sup>th</sup>, the entire Second Grade was lucky enough to share an afternoon with the incredibly talented staff from our local YMCA. Working in four groups, the instructors presented activities and team challenges reinforcing positive communication and team building! Pollard staff were amazed at how the students worked together and marveled at how patient the Y staff were with all involved! It was a *great* experience and a fantastic afternoon! Thank you Ryan Allen and the other Plaistow YMCA staff!

## Greeting from the PTA

The box top contest is ending as of October 23. Thank you to all who participated and sent in box tops. There is a bulletin board in the cafeteria of classes that are in the lead! Have your kids check it out.

On November 13th we will be having the annual Bingo for books! A night of fun, food and books for the winning!

Again this year the PTA will be helping with grandparents/special person day. It is scheduled for November 24. More information will be going home regarding times.

November 17th is our next PTA meeting please come to the meeting to meet some new people, share your ideas and learn what we are all about.

The playground committee would like to thank all the parents that volunteered their time to help build the playground. The kids at Pollard are so excited to have their playground back. A special shout out to the following parents for their hard work-

Mike Whittaker  
Aaron Tilden  
Dan Freeman  
Dan Guide  
Ronald Therrien  
Patrick Bixby  
Tim Ahearn  
TJ. Conveney  
Ian Winter  
Bill Smith  
Brian McCarthy  
Jeff Raymond  
Tom Aprile  
Rebecca and John Ouellette  
Dana Charest  
Jeff Petry  
Kim Brackett  
Jay DeRoche  
Lisa Cartwright  
Dominique Sierra  
Clayton Patles



Please watch for another paint party coming up this year as a fundraiser for the second stage of the playground.

### **Reminders from the Front Office:**

If your child will be **absent** or **late to school**, please remember to call the attendance line by **9am** at 603-382-7146, #1 with the reason for the absence or tardy.

Students who are absent due to illness or are late or dismissed due to a doctor's appointment will have their absence, tardy or dismissal excused only with a note from the doctor verifying the absence or appointment.

Students who arrive by car may not be dropped off at Pollard's car drop off area until 8:15am. Students need to be at school by 8:25am in order to ensure that they are not tardy. **Students who are not in their classrooms by 8:30am will be marked tardy.** If your child is tardy, please sign them in at the front office.

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 for helping us with this important information!







