

Pollard Pen



January 26, 2017

Dear Pollard Families:

Happy New Year! Wow, its 2017 and almost half way through our school year already! In just another few weeks we will be celebrating our 100th day here at Pollard.

Winter has finally shown its ugly side! With each winter comes the possibility of inclement weather that may impact our school day. If school is cancelled, you will receive a School Messenger message on your home phone as listed on your child's emergency information. The SAU tries to get that message out around 5:30 am, if the decision is made by that time. In the event of an unexpected early dismissal, there will also be a School Messenger Announcement call to the numbers that you have given the school; home, both parent's cell and both parents' 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 also cause delays with our buses. Please be aware that buses may be delayed at least 30 minutes on snowy days and if this is the case I will try to get a School Messenger announcement out to students' parents for those particular buses. Also, 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.

It is extremely important that you listen to the entire School Messenger announcement for "School Cancellation" days. If a snow day is deemed an **"Online Learning/Blizzard Bag Day"** your child will be expected to complete their pre-established assignments. Students in grades kindergarten through second,

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

January 27

No School

Professional
Development

February 8

Pollard School
Winter Concert
7pm @the PAC

February 9

Deliberative Session
7pm @ the PAC

February 15

Kindergarten 2017-2018
Parent Info Night
6:30pm Pollard Cafe

Feb 17

PTA Bingo for Books
5:30 - 7:30pm

February 24

Report Cards

Feb 27 - Mar 3

Winter Break

March 14

No School

Professional
Development

March 22

5th-7th Grade Chorus
Concert 7pm @ the PAC

March 24

PTA Silent Auction & Fun
Family Night

April 4

Honors Orchestra , Band
& Chorus Concert
7pm @ the PAC

April 24-28

Spring Break

as well as those students in grades 3-5 without internet access, have paper Blizzard Bags. Students in Grades 3-5 with internet access have their assignments on google docs. Students (or parents) may contact their classroom teacher or assigned teacher if they have any questions. Our first Online Learning/Blizzard Bag Day was a great success, thank you to everyone that participated!

For those parents that have or know another family that has children entering kindergarten next school year, please mark your calendars. On **Wednesday, February 15th** we will be having a **Kindergarten Parent Information Night here at Pollard at 6:30PM**. If you are unable to make this meeting please call our main office (382-7146 X-5503) and speak to Deb Stokinger so she can add your child to our list and explain our online process for kindergarten registration to you. If you do not have access to a computer for this please let us know so we can get a packet sent to you. We also have paperwork and basic information online at www.pollardschool.com.

We continue to evaluate our safety protocols here at Pollard, including our various drills and procedures. During the winter months we try to work on those drills that allow us to stay inside. Your child may mention a drill we have had or will be having. It is always a good idea to talk with your child about the drill as drills are not done to agitate children but to prepare them for unforeseen emergencies.

Michelle Auger
Principal

Happy New Year Pollard families!



We will continue the school year celebrating our great accomplishments. This month we will be rolling out bus expectations and what a positive role model looks like on the school bus. Ms. Auger, Mr. Blay and I feel this will be helpful in helping keep students safe while riding the bus. Students were reminded to sit quietly, use indoor voices, keep hands and legs in front of them, and place backpacks on their laps. By following these simple bus rules, students are helping the driver to safely navigate the elements on the roads.

R+R=S. Pollard School Core Values are Respect, Responsibility, and Safety!



Winter Playground

For your information:

Temperatures including wind chill are considered before sending students out to the playground for recess. When the temperature falls

below 20F, taking in account of the wind chill, the students are kept indoors.

As a reminder: Please send your child to school with a coat, hats, gloves, snow pants and boots. These items are needed for the children to play in the snow during outdoor recess.

Head lice (Pediculosis Capitis)

With the return to school after winter break and family vacations, this is a reminder that, like many childhood issues, Head lice (Pediculosis Capitis) can be a common occurrence with children. Head lice is not solely a school problem but often is addressed within the school community. These parasites cannot, fly, jump or crawl long distances, and they do not cause illness. They are transmitted from one child to another through direct head to head contact or, much less commonly, by sharing combs, brushes, hats, or bedding. Head lice are not associated with poor hygiene. Lice can happen to anyone.

Parents and family members are often the first to recognize the most common symptom of head lice which is constant itching of the head, particularly behind the ears or at the nape of the neck.

This is a reminder that it is important to check your child's hair regularly. Observe for itching of the scalp. If itching is noted...

- Carefully examine the hair and scalp of your children and all family members for lice and/or their eggs. Lice are small, the size of a sesame seed and tan or grey and move quickly. Nits (eggs) are small, oval shaped and gray or white in color. Nits are usually firmly attached (glued) to the hair shaft, close to the scalp. It may help to use a magnifying glass to detect them.
- Remind your children that the best prevention is to avoid head to head contact with others, keep hair pulled up or braided, and not to use or borrow anyone's personal accessories like brushes, hats or combs.

If you suspect your child has lice, check with your health care provider, school nurse or pharmacist for instructions on how to treat an infestation. The school nurse will give ongoing support and ensure student confidentiality. If you have treated your child for head lice, please consider informing the parents of your child's close playmates.

As we move into the spring months our students will be taking many standardized tests. These include SBAC for our students in grades 3-5 and NECAP Science for grades 4. Below are some thoughts about what standardized testing is and why we do them with our students.

What are standardized tests?

Usually created by commercial test publishers, standardized tests are designed to give a common measure of students' performance. Because large numbers of students throughout the country take the same test, they give educators a common yardstick or "standard" of measure. Pollard uses these standardized tests to tell us how well the school programs are succeeding and to give us a picture of the skills and abilities of our students.

Why do we use standardized tests?

Standardized tests can help teachers and administrators make decisions regarding the instructional program. They help us measure how our students are doing in a given class, and in relation to other students who take the same test. Using the results from these tests we can evaluate our Pollard School programs and better meet student needs.

Can standardized tests alone determine my child's placement in the classroom?

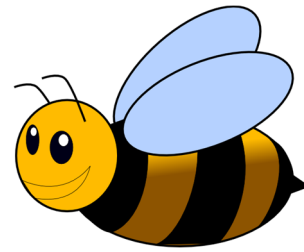
No. standardized tests give us only part of the picture of your child's strengths and weaknesses. We combine the results of these tests with other methods to gain insights into the skills, abilities, and knowledge of your child. These methods include:

- Observing students in the classroom
- Evaluating day-to-day classwork
- Grading homework assignments
- Meeting with parents
- Keeping close track of how students change or grow throughout the year

Standardized tests have limitations. These tests are not perfect measures of what individual students can or cannot do or of everything students learn. Also, your child's scores on a particular test may vary from day to day, depending on whether your child guesses, receives clear directions, follows the directions carefully, takes the test seriously, and is comfortable in taking the test.

As we move into state testing please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Working together we know our students will be able to show all they've learned!

Have fun learning,
Douglas Blay
Curriculum Coordinator/Assistant Principal



On Friday, January 13th, Pollard School held its annual ***National Spelling Bee Competition!*** Congratulations to the following competitors, who were the top spellers in their classroom contests:

GRADE 4

Joseph	Cruz
Nia	Diamontakis
Elizabeth	Fellows
JT	Fox
Lindsay	Fuller
Jessie	Hall
Julia	Juvelis
Ava	Llorens
Braden	Masera
Evan	Mono
Jack	Murphy
Ella	Watts

GRADE 5

Lily	Brien
Anthony	Buggea
Robert	Fairhurst
Tyler	Fitzgerald
Lily	Gearty
CJ	Hill
Ryan	LeBlanc
Shayna	Leger
Hunter	Liszewski
Jelisa	Lopez
Jack	Mottram
Elijah	Timlin

A special congratulations to the top 3 spellers of the school contest:

First Place: Ryan LeBlanc

Second Place: Jelisa Lopez

Third Place: Elijah Timlin

The winning word was *perilous*, for which the definition is full of danger or risk.

Pollard's winner, Ryan LeBlanc, has chosen to sit out this year's state spelling bee, so Jelisa Lopez will represent Pollard School at the NH State Spelling Bee in Concord on February 25th!

G-o-o-d I-u-c-k, Jelisa!

Reminders from the Front Office:

- ♦ If your child will be **absent** or **late to school**, please **call the attendance line** by **9am** at **603-382-7146, #4**, with the reason for the absence or tardy. Students are marked absent until they arrive at school. Parents must come into the school and sign their child in if they are arriving late. Students who are not in their classroom by 8:30am are considered tardy
- ♦ 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, you must sign them in at the front office.
- ♦ 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, sent into school within 5 days, from the doctor verifying the absence or appointment.
- ♦ 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**.

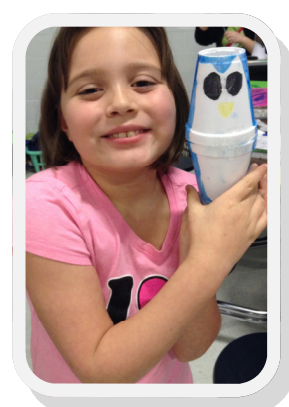
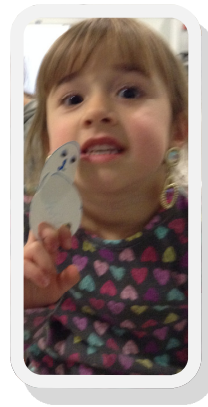
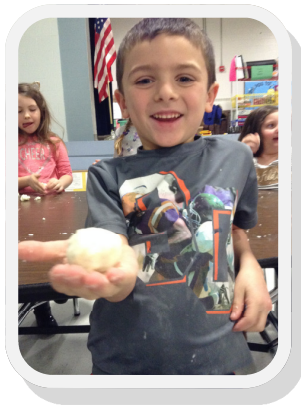
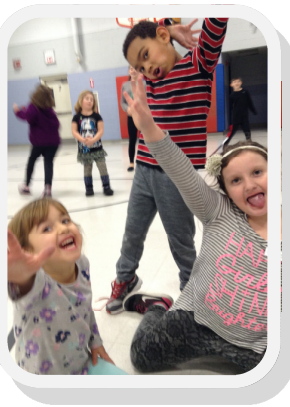
Thank you for helping us with this important information!

YMCA SCHOOL AGE NEWS LETTER

January 2017

Greetings from the YMCA Before and After School Program located at Pollard School!

The children had so much fun this month exploring a variety of winter themed curriculum activities. Each week we focus on a new curriculum theme by engaging in a variety of arts and crafts activities. This month, some of the childrens' favorite activities included: creating and playing with snow dough, making polar bear finger puppets, and making Styrofoam cup penguins. We enjoyed playing freeze dance during our daily gym time. The children also enjoyed our Monday sports enrichment time and Wednesday STEM enrichment time.



Pollard PTA News

Dear Families,

It has been so wonderful to see all the students enjoying the new playground equipment (when the weather permits, of course). We cannot thank everyone enough for supporting this endeavor. Our students are lucky to have such a dedicated community! Recently, students were able to enjoy a fascinating yo-yo show by Ned and a great visit from Santa at the Pancake Breakfast and Holiday Shoppe. We are grateful to the Pollard families as we are able to offer these activities with your assistance.

Upcoming Events! Please update your calendars!

Bingo for Books February 17th, Time TBD

Annual Silent Auction- March 24th

Popcorn Days- upcoming dates in March and May

Last Box Top-Our contest was a huge success; nearly \$1500 was raised, so we will keep collecting for our spring contest in April.

HELP needed! We are currently looking for Silent Auction raffle item donations, as well as volunteers to help with food items during our upcoming Teacher Appreciation Celebration in May. Please let us know if you can help out!

Please check out our Facebook page: Pollard PTA for updates, upcoming events or to contact us about additional information.

PTA MEETINGS FOR 2016-2017: Jan. 17th, March 21st, May 16th, 2017.

Silent Auction Committee meetings: Feb 7th, 2017

We are always in need of volunteers and contributions throughout the school year. If you can't make it to a meeting, but are able to help in any way, we need you! We greatly appreciate the continued support of the Pollard School families. Please feel free to contact us at anytime for additional information. We look forward to hearing from you!!

Jacki Freeman- President: jayfree9603@comcast.net

Erica Stack- Vice President

Kate Sherman-DeRoche- Treasurer

Shauna Manthorn-Secretary: shaunabelle@yahoo.com

Colleen Ferrante- Teacher Liaison