

Pollard Pen



May 11, 2018

Dear Pollard Families:

True of our typical NH weather, spring has proven to be anything but typical. It is warm one day and cold and rainy the next. Since I do anticipate at least some warm/hot weather ahead, I wanted to review some of the basics with you. I believe that our Pollard Handbook says it best. It states:

Our students at Pollard School are young children. Their job while they are at school is to learn. Their clothing and/or belongings should support their need to attend to academic activities and to be involved in physical exercise. Therefore, Pollard students should dress in ways that do not include: make up, raised or high heeled shoes or boots, shoes that are floppy (flip flops) or without backs (we have a lot of stairs!), skirts or shorts that are not at least mid-thigh or nearly knee length or excessively tight, clothes that expose the midriff or have bare shoulders or are see through, clothes that have designs or wording that include foul language, suggestive pictures, or references to alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or sexual topics.

The "croc shoe" has been proven to be dangerous so please do not send your children in with the crocs that have no back strap. They will be asked to call home for a new pair of shoes. The intent with having a dress code policy is not to restrict, but to keep all children safe. I hope that parents will support this policy and discuss its importance with their child(ren).

Students are now able to ride their bikes to school. Please make sure you send in the proper notes or use Pick-Up Patrol so that they have the appropriate pass at dismissal time. Remember, safety first, please wear your helmets and abide by all rules when on main roads.

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

May 14

Kindergarten Musical
5:00pm—PAC

May 15

Science Tellers Family
Enrichment Night—5pm

May 17

Spanish Club—Prior
registration required

May 18

4th Gr Rocket Launch—
Back Field

May 19

Cleaner Greener @
Pollard School—9am

May 22

ASD Parent/Family
Support Group—
5:30pm—Pollard Cafe

May 24

3rd Gr Big Buddy/Little
Buddy Day—TRHS

May 25

Early Release Day @
1:10pm

May 28

No School—Memorial
Day Observed

May 31

Elementary Instrument
Trials—5-7pm @ PAC

June 1

Field Day



If students are not sure about how they will be dismissed to get their bikes, please have them speak with their teacher or school administrator before the end of the day.

Car Drop-off and pick up Reminder: I have had some teachers concerned about parents getting out of their cars while waiting in the car drop-off/pick-up line around back. We have asked (and signs are posted) that parents turn cars off but stay in them while waiting for the line to begin to move. I know some are waiting a long time but my suggestion would be to come a little later. When you get out of your car and/or allow your younger children to get out and play, it is disturbing students whose classrooms are located at the back of the school. Car drop-off/pick-up works so much better this way but we must all abide by the rules.

Let's have a great spring!

Thank you again!

Michelle Auger, Principal



Mr. Shawley's Corner:

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Pollard School is working with the bus drivers and the students to safely transport your child(ren) to and from school. It takes cooperation and responsible actions by each bus driver, student, parent, teacher and school administrator to achieve this goal. We rely on all students (supported by their parents or guardians) to follow procedures that contribute to the safety of everyone on the bus.

Teachers and administration have reviewed the expectations on the bus. Teachers have used their class meetings to discuss this subject and focused on what the bus should sound like, look like and feel like when riding the bus.

Parents please take time to have conversations about the importance of bus safety with your child(ren). The safety of the students is our number one priority. Having these frequent conversations helps ensure that the students are understanding this message. Bus drivers have many responsibilities and have voiced their concern with the recent behavior on the school bus. Students are expected to follow the direction of the bus drivers at all times and follow their expectations for everyone's wellbeing.

Most students do a great job contributing to the safety on their buses. The daily bus ride is part of our students' education in learning to be good citizens by taking responsibility for their own



behavior, safety and the safety of the other students on the bus. As Pollard School continues to grow, we need your continuing help to make sure that all students riding our buses are safe as possible. Your support is needed.

POLLARD CORE VALUES: RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, SAFETY

Thank you,

Mr. Shawley
Assistant Principal



Dear Families,

As we move into the busy spring season we often don't take the time to enjoy the world around us. It is especially important for children to take a moment to play!

There is a great deal of research that shows a link between play and the development of cognitive and social skills that are prerequisites for learning more complex concepts as children get older. Play is linked to growth in memory, self-regulation, oral language, and recognizing symbols. It has been linked to higher levels of school adjustment and increased social development. Play has also been linked to increased literacy skills and other areas of academic learning.

When children play with open-ended materials, (blocks, blank paper, boxes) they have a chance to build many different skills. When children build with blocks they can create scenes from their life or world. This building helps them to understand the world around them and to process information. When children build in sand they are actually working on developing abstract thinking skills. Lastly, when children use art materials to create a picture or project they are developing fine motor skills that they need to write and perform tasks such as buttoning clothes.

These are just a few of the reasons that play is important is we want our children to develop strong academic and social skills.

Take some time to play!

Doug Blay
Assistant Principal/Curriculum Coordinator



Reminders from the Front Office:

PickUp Patrol

If your child will be absent or late to school (tardy), please put the **absence or tardy in PickUp Patrol** no later than **9am** 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.

When your child has a change in their dismissal plan, we need to have it **from you in writing or in PickUp Patrol before 2pm**. If that change involves your child taking a bus, **please remember to include the bus number and address to which your child is going, even if it's to your home**. What you type into PickUp Patrol is what prints out on the slip.

If you are making an all year change, please send in a note to the front office as we need to have that from you **in writing**.

Don't have PickUp Patrol.....contact the front office at 603-382-7146 and we'll be happy to help you get started!

Thank you for helping us with this important information!



News from 2nd Grade

On April 12th, the Second Grade students gave a show-stopping performance of "How Does Your Garden Grow?"!

The Timberlane Performing Arts Center was filled with family, friends and staff members. Weeks in the making, all of the students worked hard, learned lines, music and dances that demonstrated what focused work, effort and a good sense of humor can achieve!!

A special acknowledgment to both Ms. Pinard and Mrs. Rodriguez for undertaking the overall directorial responsibilities. Bravo!!!

A fun and memorable time was had by ALL!!



ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION “PLANT FOR THE PLANET”

Pollard School Celebrates Arbor Day in the Plaistow Community

Pollard School students have been excited about learning how to help our Earth through the “Plant for the Planet” poster and poetry contest. Arbor Day was celebrated on Friday, May 4th with Pollard 5th graders walking to the Plaistow Public Library and planting a Liberty Elm Tree. This was the culmination of a lot of work from many young environmentally conscious and artistic boys and girls. With guidance from Pollard art teacher Mrs. Becky Lightizer, students in grades 1-5 each designed a poster that would share the message “Plant for the Planet”. Students in grade 5 also wrote poems to deliver this important message. All posters and poems were entered into the town annual Arbor Day contest. The finalists were invited to the Plaistow Board of Selectmen’s meeting on May 7. Winners were announced and poster artists shared their posters and the top three poetry winners read their poems to the Board. The winners were:

Posters

Grade 1 – Rylee Hebert
Grade 2 – James Moran
Grade 3 – Kasey Fitzgerald
Grade 4 – Gabi Bourque
Grade 5 – Ava Llorens

Poetry Grade 5

First Place - Braden Masera
Second Place - Armaan Anthony
Third Place - Julia Juvelis

This year was extra special because the Liberty Tree that was planted was dedicated to Pollard 5th grade teacher, Mrs. Dolores Coyle-Quirk. She asked that students stop by the library, find a good book and go sit and read under the beautiful tree. Students in fifth grade have learned how the “Liberty Tree” has great significance in our country’s historical fight for liberty and independence. This annual event is sponsored by the Plaistow Conservation Committee.



Planting a Tree



Arbor Day Activity



Learning about the Liberty Tree



Arbor Day Poetry and Poster
Contest Winners



Plaistow, NH Incorporated in 1749
- Don't Believe It, Ask a 5th Grader
By Dolores Coyle-Quirk

How much do you really know about our colonial town of Plaistow, NH? Well you'll learn a lot if you ask a Pollard 5th grader. Students in 5th grade have just completed their unit on Historical Plaistow. They have learned many things from the agriculture, industry, railroad, buildings, and its people to even legends and folklore.

Students also visited the Plaistow Historical Society, right on Main Street. They had the chance to see the old Town Hall clock up close, as well as the oldest thing in the museum, a section of the "Big Old Elm Tree", that stood at the corner of Elm and Main Streets until it had to be cut down due to the infestation of Dutch elm disease. The students also went on a guided Historical Walking Tour of Plaistow. They learned where our local brick industry began, and that Plaistow had five different elementary schools. They strolled through the Town Hall Park, which was once a swamp, and learned that the real name of our village park is actually Pollard Square, named after the wealthy benefactor, Mr. Arthur Pollard. Can you guess what else may have been named after this generous philanthropist?





News From Ms. Silva, The Physical Education Teacher

I hope everyone had a wonderful April vacation! Before vacation students in grades K thru 5 were super busy with gymnastics stations. For two weeks, we worked on everything from the balance beam, to forward rolls, cartwheels, handstands, tripods, animal movements and rope climbing.

Students in grades K thru 5 also played on a 9 hole golf course. This golf course was named after shapes and colors, which integrated the arts in with physical education.

Upcoming events from the physical education department:

June 1st is Field Day!!! (Rain date is June 8th) Please get those volunteer forms in... they were sent home the Friday before vacation. Without parent volunteers field day will not happen. Thanks so much!



Box Top Update:

Congratulations to the 1st grade! They won the box top contest, with 2,661 boxtops turned in! A big thank you to the entire school for collecting over 10,000 box tops! We earned \$1033 for Pollard School!

Upcoming events:

Raffle tickets available for the Principal and Assistant Principal for a Day, Dump Truck Ride to School, and Ride to School via Police or Firetruck. Raffle tickets are \$2 each and must be purchased by May 11th. Drawing will be May 15th.

Please like the Pollard PTA page on Facebook for updates on upcoming events as well as meetings for the next school year.

Thank you for your support!

BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

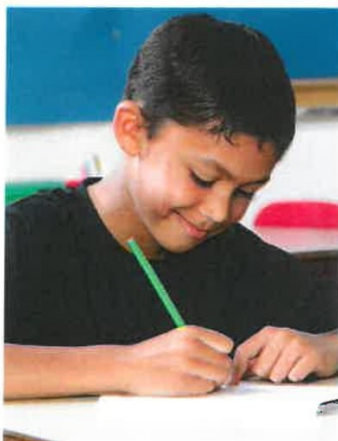
Pollard School Reading Room
Ms. Tozier

Journals can improve comprehension

To boost reading comprehension, encourage your child to take notes in a journal as he reads. Writing down characters' names, places, situations and problems will help him remember these details and follow the material better.

When he finishes reading a section, encourage him to write down additional notes about his observations:

- **What did he think** of what he read?
- **What details are important?** Why does he think so?
- **What questions** does he have?
- **Can he relate** to the characters in the story? If so, how?
- **Does the story** remind him of something else he has read?
- **What was the funniest,** saddest, strangest or most exciting thing that happened in the story?



"The books that help you most are those which make you think the most."

—Pablo Neruda

Stand up to the 'fourth-grade slump'

Interest in reading often drops as students move from early elementary school to the upper grades. Some experts say fourth grade tends to be when this starts.

To maintain your child's interest, make sure home reading time is frequent and fun. Keep irresistible materials around the house, such as:

- **Novels** related to your child's interests.
- **Kid-friendly news articles** and comics.
- **Biographies** of role models.
- **Magazines** about your child's favorite topics.
- **High-quality graphic** (comic) novels.
- **Cookbooks** and other how-to books.
- **Books** and articles *you'll* enjoy—so you can set a good example!

Make reading a late-night treat

It's important for your child to spend time reading for pleasure every day at home. But some kids resist this activity.

Try letting your child stay up at least 10 minutes later at night to read. Make this treat even more exciting by reading together or giving her a flashlight to use. You may be surprised to hear, "Please, Mom! Just five more minutes!"



Enjoy ranking book titles

Next time you're at a bookstore or library, suggest that your child take a closer look at book titles. Which five or 10 titles does he like best? Why? What's his top pick? Suggest that he try the book and see if it lives up to its name!



Ask 'what if?' questions

Reading and writing go hand in hand. The more your child writes, the better her vocabulary and reading skills will be.

Ask a few "what if?" questions to spark her creative imagination. Then, challenge her to write short stories explaining her answers.

To start, ask questions like:

- **What if oranges** were purple?
- **What if dogs** could talk?
- **What if everyone** had the same name?



Help your child develop research skills for now and the future

A solid understanding of how to conduct research will come in handy for your child's entire academic career. When he needs to research something for a school assignment, share these strategies:



- **Define the task.** Help your child figure out exactly what he needs to research. By narrowing down key words to search for, your child's research will be more focused.
- **Use reliable sources.** Together, determine if a source is appropriate and factual. Recently published reference books and websites that end in .gov or .edu are generally reliable sources.
- **Take notes.** Whether your child writes key facts on index cards or on a piece of paper, keeping track of information—and it's source—will help him stay organized.

Flowers can help your child explore genres

Spring is here and flowers are in bloom—in gardens, in planters and even in books. Take this opportunity to learn more about flowers *and* about different genres (categories) of literature.

With your child, read a:

- **Fiction book** about a flower. Talk about how you know it is fiction. For example, do the flowers speak?
- **Nonfiction book** about a flower. Discuss what makes this book nonfiction. Are there photos or realistic illustrations? Did you learn facts?
- **Poem** about a flower. How do you know that this is poetry? Do the words follow a pattern or rhyme?



Q: My child is not very sure of himself when he reads aloud. What can I do to help build his confidence?

A: Encourage your child to practice! Read to and with your child every day. Show him how to pronounce words he is unsure of. Help him understand what he reads by encouraging him to ask plenty of questions.

Keep talking with your child every day to strengthen his language and vocabulary skills.

Do you have a question about reading? Email readingadvisor@parent-institute.com.

Launch your family toward reading!

Have a question about how to help your child with reading? Visit Reading Rockets online, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The site aims to "launch young readers," and it motivates parents, too! Find it at www.readingrockets.org.



For lower elementary readers:

- ***Stealing Home: Jackie Robinson: Against the Odds*** by Robert Burleigh (Paula Wiseman). Burleigh uses poetry and narratives to tell the story of Jackie Robinson, the first African American to play major league baseball.



- ***A House for Hermit Crab*** by Eric Carle (Aladdin). Hermit Crab outgrows his shell and finds a new home. Kids will relate to the discomfort and value of change.

For upper elementary readers:

- ***The Have a Good Day Cafe*** by Frances Park and Ginger Park (Lee & Low). Every day, Mike's family sells food from their food cart. But when business starts to slow, Mike and his grandma come up with a plan.
- ***Bread and Roses, Too*** by Katherine Paterson (Clarion). During a mill-worker strike in 1912, a young girl must live with another family.

Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Publisher: Doris McLaughlin.

Publisher Emeritus: John H. Wherry, Ed.D.

Editor: Rebecca Hasty Miyares.

Copyright © 2018, The Parent Institute®

(a division of PaperClip Media, Inc.)

P.O. Box 7474, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7474

1-800-756-5525, ISSN: 1533-3302

www.parent-institute.com