

November 14, 2014



Dear Pollard Families:

During the month of November we should try to think of all that we have to be thankful for. We have such great community support and so many parents that give us so much of their time and energy. The Pollard PTA will once again be having its' annual Bingo for Books Night tonight (November 14th). Students and their families will have the opportunity to play bingo and the winners will be able to choose a book from a large assortment provided by the PTA. One of our most popular events, Grandparents/Special Persons Day will be held Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure paperwork is returned so we know how many visitors to plan for. We could not operate to the level that we do without our wonderful PTA officers and parent volunteers. Thank you!

The Pollard Halloween Parade is always a hit and this year was no exception. Thank you to all the parents and volunteers for helping to make it so successful. The weather was perfect and we had a great crowd around the town green. I would also like to thank Dean Zanello for taking such wonderful pictures/video. Go to our web-site and select the "Pollard-Videos" and you will see the video of the entire parade.

(<http://vimeo.com/78362379>)

You will also find pictures of our other school events online. The Kids Painting Party pictures should be up at any time, our Pollard School has HEART assembly pictures are up there and we will be adding more with each new event.

Thank you to all of the parents that helped to make the parent-teacher conferences a great success. It is so important for parents to be involved in their children's ed-

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

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<http://www.pollardschool.com>

## Important Dates

### November 14

Bingo for Books  
Pollard Café  
TLC - 2nd 6-7pm  
3rd - 5th 7:30 - 8:30

### November 19

Title 1 Open House  
6:30-7:30

### November 25

Grandparents & Special Persons  
Day

### November 26 - 28

Thanksgiving Break

### December 6

PTA Pancake Breakfast  
@ Penguin Place 8-10am

### December 11

No School  
Professional Development

### December 19

PTA Holiday Shop  
Pollard Café  
5-7pm

### Dec 24 - Jan 2

Christmas Break

### January 19

No School

Civil



one way you can be supportive. Our teachers also enjoyed all the yummy goodies that the PTA Hospitality Committee arranged to have available during the long nights of conferences.

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, Marcia Blutstein, or Nurse Kate Sherman-DeRoche and either of them will move your request forward.

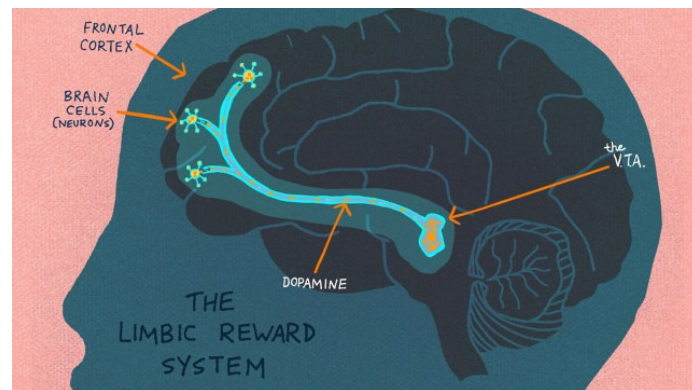
Again, Thank you for all that you do to make Pollard such a great place to learn!

Michelle Auger  
Your Child's Principal

## From The Desk of Mrs. Vance, Our Assistant Principal

Hello Pollard Families,  
I am forever curious about how children learn and what motivates them. I came across this article and found value in this research and thought you might also.

### What's Going on Inside the Brain Of A Curious Child?



The Limbic Reward System lights up when curiosity is piqued. (LA Johnson)  
**By Maanvi Singh**

How does a sunset work? We love to look at them, but Jolanda Blackwell wanted her 8th graders to really think about them, to wonder and question. So Blackwell, who teaches science at Oliver Wendell Holmes Junior High in Davis, Calif., had her students watch a video of a sunset on YouTube as part of a physics lesson on motion.

"I asked them: 'So what's moving? And why?'" Blackwell says. The students had a lot of ideas. Some thought the sun was moving, others, of course, knew that a sunset is the result of the earth spinning around on its axis.

Once she got the discussion going, the questions came rapid-fire. “My biggest challenge usually is trying to keep them patient,” she says. “They just have so many burning questions.”

‘Curiosity really is one of the very intense and very basic impulses in humans. We should base education on this behavior.’

Students asking questions and then exploring the answers. That’s something any good teacher lives for. And at the heart of it all is curiosity.

Blackwell, like many others teachers, understands that when kids are curious, they’re much more likely to stay engaged.

But why? What, exactly, is curiosity and how does it work? A study published in the October issue of the journal *Neuron*, suggests that the brain’s chemistry changes when we become curious, helping us better learn and retain information.

### **Our Brains On Curiosity**

“In any given day, we encounter a barrage of new information,” says Charan Ranganath, a psychologist at the University of California, Davis, and one of the researchers behind the study. “But even people with really good memory will remember only a small fraction of what happened two days ago.”

Ranganath was curious to know why we retain some information and forget other things.

So he and his colleagues rounded up 19 volunteers and asked them to review more than 100 trivia questions. Questions such as, “What does the term ‘dinosaur’ actually mean?” and “What Beatles single lasted longest on the charts, at 19 weeks?”

Participants rated each question in terms of how curious they were about the answer. Next, everyone reviewed the questions — and their answers — while the researchers monitored their brain activity using an MRI machine. When the participants’ curiosity was piqued, the parts of their brains that regulate pleasure and reward lit up. Curious minds also showed increased activity in the hippocampus, which is involved in the creation of memories.

“There’s this basic circuit in the brain that energizes people to go out and get things that are intrinsically rewarding,” Ranganath explains. This circuit lights up when we get money, or candy. It also lights up when we’re curious.

When the circuit is activated, our brains release a chemical called dopamine which gives us a high. “The dopamine also seems to play a role in enhancing the connections between cells that are involved in learning.”

Indeed, when the researchers later tested participants on what they learned, those who were more curious were more likely to remember the right answers.

## Curriculum Corner

### What are STAR assessments?

Start assessment are computer-adaptive test. At Pollard School all second thru fifth graders completed the STAR reading & STAR Math. The Early Literacy assessment was given to our four year olds thru first graders.

**STAR Early Literacy Enterprise™** is the leading computer-based diagnostic assessment of early literacy skills developed for Pre-K-3 students. STAR Early Literacy Enterprise tracks development in three domains and ten sub-domains:

Word Facility and Skills	Comprehension Strategies	Numbers and Operations
• Alphabetic Principle	• Sentence-Level Comprehension	• Early Numeracy
• Concept of Word	• Paragraph-Level Comprehension	
• Visual Discrimination		
• Phonemic Awareness		
• Phonics		
• Structural Analysis		
• Vocabulary		

**STAR Reading Enterprise™** is an assessment of reading comprehension and skills for independent readers through grade 12. STAR Reading Enterprise tracks development in five domains:

- Word Knowledge and Skills
- Comprehension Strategies and Constructing Meaning
- Analyzing Literary Text
- Understanding Author's Craft
- Analyzing Argument and Evaluating Text

**STAR Math Enterprise™** is an assessment of math achievement for students in grades 1-12. STAR Math Enterprise tracks development in four domains:

- Numbers and Operations
- Algebra
- Geometry and Measurement
- Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability

**What are computer-adaptive tests?**

All STAR assessments are computer-adaptive tests (CATs). Computer-adaptive tests continually adjust the difficulty of each child's test by choosing each test question based on the child's previous response. If the child answers a question correctly, the difficulty level of the next item is increased. If the child misses a question, the difficulty level is decreased. CATs save testing time and spare your child the frustration of items that are too difficult and the boredom of items that are too easy.

**What are STAR assessments used for?**

The STAR assessments are often used to screen students for their reading and math achievement levels. STAR Early Literacy Enterprise assessments help educators monitor students' growing literacy skills and students' progress toward becoming independent readers. STAR Enterprise™ assessments can also be used to monitor student growth throughout the year, to estimate students' understanding of state standards, and predict students' performance on the state test. In addition, STAR can help teachers determine appropriate instructional levels and skills that students are ready to learn.

**What kind of score does my child get?**

For every STAR assessment, your child receives a **scaled score (SS)**, which is based on the difficulty of the questions and the number of correct answers. Scaled scores are useful for comparing your child's performance over time and across grades. STAR Reading and STAR Math scaled scores range from 0-1400. STAR Early Literacy Enterprise scaled scores range from 300-900. STAR offers educators a variety of scores and reports. Some STAR scores compare your child's performance to specific criteria or to a standard (criterion-referenced scores). STAR Enterprise reports also include scores which compare your child's performance to other students who have taken the same test (norm-referenced scores). The criterion- and normreferenced scores are based on the scaled score.

**How can I help my child prepare for a STAR assessment?**

The teacher who gives the test uses pre-test instructions to explain the test to your child. It is important for you to encourage your child to try to do his or her best on the assessment. Since STAR is a general measure of student ability in math or reading, students perform best on the assessment in the same way they perform best in school—when they have had plenty of rest, attend school regularly, and have eaten.



## A Special Guest to help us Honor our Veterans

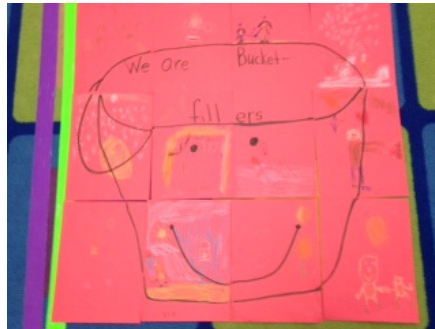
In honor of Veterans Day, students in Mrs. Coyle-Quirk's fifth grade welcomed a special guest to talk to them about what Veterans Day really means. Emma Gagne's father, CPO Paul Gagne, who has just returned from Afghanistan, serving in the U.S. Navy, talked to the students about how Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day. This day marked the end of World War 1, with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles. Fighting had ended between the Allies and Germany with the armistice, which began on the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month in 1918. The name was changed to Veteran's Day in the United States in 1954.

The class asked CPO Gagne to explain each of his many metals he wore so proudly on his jacket. The class read the poem, "In Flanders Fields", by John McCrae, written in 1915 during WWI. CPO Gagne gave them each a poppy to wear in honor of our soldiers. The class has built a wall for "Honoring Our Military Heroes", and have added names of people from their families who have served or are serving in our armed forces. CPO Gagne, Mrs. Gagne and Emma were the first to add a brick.



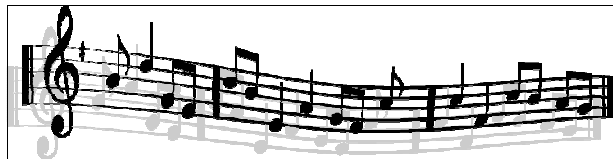


Mrs. Alter's kindergarten class recently posted a project on Dnorschoose.org. The class wanted moldable sand and mini sand tools for indoor recess time and to use to develop fine motor skills as well as to support literacy and numeracy skills. The project was fully funded on October 31 and supplies have been ordered! Students are looking forward to mini sandboxes, dinosaur excavation tools, mini sand tools, colorful kinesthetic sand and more! Thank you to all who supported the project!



### **A Note From Strings**

*Let the music ring!*



Our Pollard string students have been practicing hard to get ready for our winter concert on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Please ask them to serenade you with their favorite songs! They work hard in class each week, and lately we have been having fun playing along with the computer program, **Smartmusic**.

I am so happy to welcome several brand new string students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. These students are working hard to learn their instrument and catch up to everyone. It is inspiring to see these young musicians so eager to learn!

Returning 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are currently responding to their invitation to **Stringfest 2015** on March 28<sup>th</sup> in Goffstown. This is an exciting opportunity to play in an orchestra with string students from across New Hampshire!

A word about practicing – do not worry if practicing is your child's least favorite part of their instrument. I encourage and require practicing at home, but it is common for students to enjoy classes and concerts more! Please keep encouraging their home practice, and contact me if you would like any helpful practice suggestions.

Thank you for your support of our music program! It is a pleasure working with the Pollard string students!

-- Miss Helie

## FROM MS SILVA IN THE GYMNASIUM

What an exciting October the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders have had! We worked on throwing and catching skills. Ask your child the 4 steps of throwing. Throw a ball every now and then with them so they can keep practicing. Also in October we played many tag games and did jumping jacks that worked on loco motor skills.

The kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade also had fun in October working on space and body awareness, many loco motor skills and tag games, dodging games, and jumping jacks. How much fun it would be doing jumping jacks with your child so they can keep practicing what they have learned!



### Notes from the Technology Lab



Here are grade level highlights from the technology lab:

**Fourth and fifth grade** are working on spreadsheets and how they are constructed and their uses. The students will work on inputting data and then interpreting the data to look for trends and draw conclusions. They will also learn about the tools to use for formatting a spreadsheet.

**Third grade**, as is the tradition, is learning to type using the program Type to Learn 4. This program moves at the student's pace. As the students move through this program and masters more letters it will be very helpful for all the adults in their lives to encourage them to use both hands on the home row to type when they are typing a fair amount of content. The students live in a time when there is more than one kind of keyboarding and adults can help by directing them to the correct type for the correct device. Anytime they are at a full keyboard and are typing a fair amount of text then they should be typing with both hands on the home row. If they are texting or using very small keyboards they will do a more short-hand version of typing.




**Second grade** is working on parts of the computer. This includes knowing what parts are input devices and which parts are output devices. They are working on a PowerPoint showcasing their knowledge of what the parts do and how they work to input information into the computer (keyboard, mouse, microphone) or how they send information out (printer, monitor, speakers). When they are finished the students will have the opportunity to share their presentations with their class.

**First grade** is learning how to use Easy Tech the online technology lesson program that all the grade levels use. Right now they are doing lessons that introduce the basics of the computer, lab rules and the location of the letters on the key board. They are also learning to navigate the school's network to find books to read and educational games to play.

Some **kindergarten** students come to the lab and are learning how to log in and navigate the network to get to different programs and websites that have been selected to go along with a theme. So far they have explored shapes and fire safety.

**Online Learning Blizzard Bag:** The 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students have also been practicing logging in to their Online Learning (Blizzard Bag) classrooms so that if and when we have a snow day that is designated a Blizzard Bag day they will be ready. This year the students will access their lessons on the Google Classroom platform. They can get to the classroom a number of ways but the two easiest are either through the Pollard website

([www.pollardschool.com](http://www.pollardschool.com)) and then click on the link  to the right of the page or they can go to [www.classroom.google.com](http://www.classroom.google.com). They might have to log in with their Gapps account information. All students should know this log in but if they do not remember it the log in information was sent home in a letter to the parents a number of weeks ago.

**Gapps log in info:**

User name: username@gapps.timberlane.net

Password: 11111abc (this is their regular school password with abc added)

FYI - Username is first initial, last name and a two digit number indicating the year of graduation. Third grade is 24, fourth grade is 23 and fifth is 22.



## **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.

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 insure that they are not tardy. **Students who are not in their classrooms by 8:30am 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 for helping us with this important information!



Hello from Pollard PTA!



We have had a wonderfully busy few months here in the PTA. There have been so many great activities going on and we want to thank you all who have participated or helped out!

Our annual stargazing event was moved over to the high school this year, so that we could utilize the new stargazing equipment there. Though we had to change the date, there was a great turnout and everyone had a great time on the hayride and viewing the moon and stars. Thank you to all who helped out by baking for the bake sale!

A special thank you to everyone who provided food and drink for the teachers on teacher conference day! It is such a long day for the teachers and staff members, and providing food is so helpful to them. They are so appreciative!

The Pollard PTA Playground committee is also working hard to raise funds for our new playground. Our first ever Walk a Thon was a hit, and although the we

ather was a little cool and drizzly we all had a great time. A special thank you to Mr. Pelletier for dressing like Elsa and providing a rousing rendition of "Let it Go" and thank you to Mrs. Vance for kissing a pig. The total amount raised from the Walk a Thon was \$4507. WOW!

A huge thank you to Mrs. Hood for donating all of her time and patience to running our first ever kids paint party! The kids all seemed to have a great day, and the artwork was incredible! Stay tuned for info on an adults only paint night coming soon, it will be first come first serve.

The Pollard PTA and Playground Committee run completely on volunteer support. We welcome everyone to attend our meetings!

Please keep an eye on your Pollard Express for more upcoming and family friendly events. See you there!!

As always thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who help on a daily basis! We couldn't do any of this without you!!

**PTA**<sup>®</sup>  
*everychild.one voice.*<sup>®</sup>