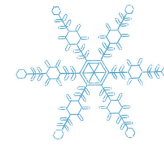




# POLLARD PEN

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<http://www.pollardschool.com>



**Our School Motto: What you do today makes a difference tomorrow**

December 21, 2012

## Principal Thoughts

Dear Pollard Families:

It has been a very emotional week for everyone and the holiday break is here just in time. I hope that you all have a chance to spend some quality time with your families.

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, PTA Fundraiser, Barnes and Nobles Night and Parents' Night Out...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!

I enjoyed meeting so many grandparents and special friends the Tuesday before Thanksgiving break. We had over 700 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" pens 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 newly revamped website! Please check both the pictures and our website out at [www.pollardschool.com](http://www.pollardschool.com).

Pollard School also had a very entertaining Holiday Concert on December 12<sup>th</sup>. I was so impressed with all of our budding musicians. A special shout out to Iain Sidor for his cello solo. And of course thank you to Mrs. Bird, Mrs. Lincoln and Mrs. Nelson for all the hard work you do to get our musicians ready for the concert.



### Important Dates

Dec. 22—Jan. 1  
Holiday Break

January 9  
PTA Popcorn Day

January 11  
PTA Dance  
TLC through Grade 2

January 16  
PTA Meeting 7:00

January 18  
Early Release  
1:10 Dismissal

January 21



**Report cards go home today so please sit down with your child and discuss 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 improvements in student performance already. Have a super holiday season and thank you for partnering with the Pollard staff in educating your child.**

**Michelle Gaydos**

**[michelle.gaydos@timberlane.net](mailto:michelle.gaydos@timberlane.net)**

**Hello from Mrs. Vance, Our Assistant Principal**



Happy Holidays to all! The students and staff have been extremely busy completing many activities before the holiday break. It is truly a wonderful time of year with concerts and performances. One activity keeping the staff busy is an ongoing activity comparing our current instructional activities and state standards with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). As mentioned before, we are in transition to the usage of the Common Core Standards that the majority of states have chosen to adopt. We are examining the standards and making notations when our practices and the CCSS appear to differ. The CCSS generally maintain higher standards and are stated in a manner that helps to direct how the standard could be assessed. It is good work that will continue throughout the school year. Some of the information developed will guide our usage of certain materials and determine if our chosen programs meet the CCSS expectations. Emphasis is being given to the reading, writing and math pilot programs currently in use. Much of the professional development being planned for this school year will focus on CCSS and the student expectations teachers should establish in their practices.

Enjoy family and friends during this festive season.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Vance

## Curriculum Corner

Providing time for writing is as important as making time for reading. Here are a few tips about ways to include writing at home:

Make writing fun by getting your child a special pen and notebook, or by dedicating time on the computer just for writing;

If your child likes photographs or magazines, urge him/her to make a book using these and to add captions, or write a short story that connects the pictures;

Encourage your child to write letters or email relatives;

Take the opportunity to have your child write about his/her drawings/ paintings, creating a story or simply labeling the picture;

Have your child participate in sending out Holiday cards;

Model writing... demonstrate sitting in a quiet place and simply 'journal';

Have your child develop 'to do' lists or grocery lists;

Start a 'shared story', whereby you each write a page and develop the story as you like!

Ask your child to write a 'how to' informational piece, and then, practice taking the steps

(how to bake, how to assemble a toy, how to recognize animal footprints in the snow, how to drive home...)

Finally, offer ongoing praise to your children when they write. Display their written work on the refrigerator or bulletin board. Have them share their writing with family and friends. It is a wonderful experience for all children to express their ideas, knowledge, and creativity through the essential life skill of writing.

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**Today, December 21, is the**



## Greetings from the Art Room!



First grade students just finished dinosaur city collages inspired by the book, "If the Dinosaurs Came Back". This week they made ginger bread house collages with "snow". Second graders printed colored and frosty leaves and combined them with their adorable brown bears. The artwork was inspired by the book we read called, "Old Bear", which explores seasons and hibernation. The third graders just finished gorgeous snow globe collages, which are the talk of Pollard! This week, they are printing cards. The fourth grade did a wonderful job on their abstract Miro bedrooms. They are now learning about tints and shades and using what they know to create a fabulous winter scene. Fifth graders learned how to make tessellations, and they are pretty amazing. They are now illustrating in chalk pastel inspired by the book, "Snowmen at night". They are having a lot of fun with this project, but also learning about shadows and one point perspective. When we return from vacation the fifth graders will be starting their inventor puppet projects. I could use donations of buttons and cloth ribbons for this project.

I entered 25 incredible pieces of artwork in a contest sponsored by the company CelebratingArt.com. It was really difficult to narrow down the artwork to 25, there were so many great examples to pick from. The company selected 10 pieces of artwork to be published in their book! I am so proud of all 25 students, and they should all be very proud of this recognition! For their Picasso Witches, \*Tegan Beaulieu, \*Ellie Kennedy, \*Ethan Nickerson, Nick Swanney, Brady Sola, and Trysta Winkowski were chosen to enter. For their Anime self-portraits, Zach Eldred, Alexandra Sargent, \*Maggie Smith, Averie Bowman, Aryana Anthony, Gage Thellen, \*Lily Cahoon, \*Kailyn Byron, Evan Caron, Riley Donovan, Emily Query, Evan Sapienza, \*Ashley Lane, \*Emily Eaton, John Leavitt, \*Sarah Hailson, Ryan Sciacca, \*Lauren Savina, and Nathan Prak were chosen to enter. The names with stars were chosen by the company to be published. Congratulations to all of these hard working artists!

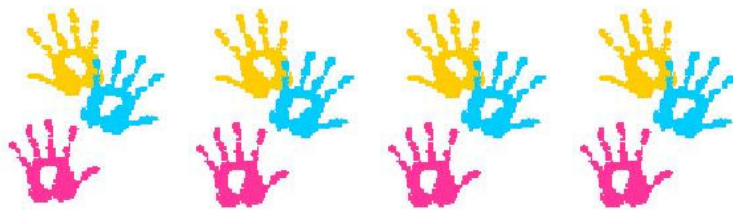
Thank you all for your continued support.

I hope you have a wonderful and safe vacation with your loved ones,

Becky Lightizer

## From Miss Ferrante's Second Grade Class

The students have been creating wonderful works of art in the classroom and during art class. These pieces have been posted to a web museum called Artsonia. Each child has his/her own exhibit featuring their artwork and a brief description of how it was created. Students are able to go on and write artist statements, visitors can write comments and can even purchase products with the artwork on them! (Pollard earns 15% of every purchase). If you have a chance, please go to [www.artsonia.com](http://www.artsonia.com) and check out the art work that is on exhibit by typing in Pollard in the school search bar. You will be amazed by the wonderful works of art!



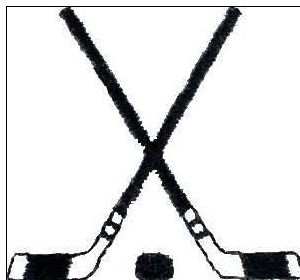
## From the Desk of Mrs. Silva, the Physical Education Teacher

During the month of November, grades 1-5 played cooperative games. They even played many new warm-up games that pertained to Fitness and Health.

Now being the month of December we are working on the skills of hockey. They are working on dribbling, and passing with many lead up games that follow those skills.

This week before the holiday break, the students have been playing a holiday game. I hope everyone has a happy, healthy, and safe holiday week off. See everyone next Year!

Mrs Silva



## **Macy's Make-a-wish Foundation**

**In the spirit of the season, Mrs Hamilton, one of our kindergarten teachers, asked kindergarten and first grade students to write letters to Santa and bring them, stamped to her. She delivered 105 of them to Macy's last Sunday. Macy's will donate \$1 for every stamped letter to the Make-a-Wish Foundation. This means that Pollard students helped raise \$105 ! Thanks to all that participated!!**



## **Pollard has HEART**

**Over the last 3 weeks your child has been participating in a school wide program to promote positive behaviors throughout the school. Children have the opportunity to earn tickets for showing one of the 5 positive behaviors determined by our Bullying Prevention Committee. When a child earns a ticket they give it to their classroom teacher and then the ticket is posted on a grade level bucket. The goal is for each grade level to completely fill their bucket with tickets to earn a reward. Students are very excited as the buckets are filling quickly! We encourage families to also promote these behaviors at home as well as the Bucket Filling program implemented last year.**



**Helping others  
Encouraging others  
Accepting others  
Respecting others  
Thinking of others**

## **Hello from Pollard PTA**

Thank you to all who sent their children to the Parents Night Out last week. All of the children had a wonderful time, and they were all so well behaved!! Thank you for sharing them with us!

Please see your Pollard Express for some upcoming PTA events. We are excited to introduce our very first Apple of my Eye Dance. This will be for TLC through second graders. The other children will get a chance to put on their dancing shoes a little bit later in the year. We are excited for this event, and hope that everyone has a great time!!

Also, there is a committee forming to help raise money for a new playground!! After the new year we will be sending an email around for a meeting date. Please watch for that, and if you are interested in joining please don't hesitate to contact Jacki Freeman at:

[jayfree9603@comcast.net](mailto:jayfree9603@comcast.net)

Our next PTA meeting will be held on Wednesday January 16th at 7pm. We hope to see you all there!!

### **PTA Silent Auction & Family Fun Night Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> 6pm-8:30pm Pollard Café & Gym**

We are actively seeking **donated items** for this event. If you have any items, gift certificates, event tickets or product to donate, please contact

Colleen Ferrante at  
[colleen.ferrante@timberlane.net](mailto:colleen.ferrante@timberlane.net)

**or**

Kelly Flibotte at  
[kflib74@yahoo.com](mailto:kflib74@yahoo.com)