



POLLARD OPEN

Dear Pollard Families: Welcome to another great school year! Our first few weeks have gone very smoothly! I would like to thank everyone that attended our Meet the Teacher Night on August 29th. Although I was unable to attend this year, I heard that the night was a great success. We are now back in full swing here at Pollard and off to an amazing school year. I welcome all of you to make this the year that you volunteer either directly at Pollard or during one of our PTA events. If you would like to help out but not sure how, give me a call or contact Jacki Freeman, PTA President.

Speaking of PTA, we could not operate to the level that we do without our wonderful PTA officers and parent volunteers. On Friday, October 26, 2018 Pollard School will be receiving the Blue Ribbon Award as part of the NHPIE (NH Partners in Education). During the NHPIE state-wide event, we will also recognize our Gold Circle Partner, The Exchange Club of Plaistow (Bob Harb). The Plaistow Exchange Club supplies trees to our first graders as part of the Trees for Tots program to help celebrate and learn about Arbor Day, dictionaries to our third graders and they worked with our third grade, partnering with the Plaistow Police Department to deputize students as Junior Police. This year the Exchange club donated a Freedom Shrine to our school. Our Art teacher, Becky Lightizer, painted an American Flag in the background and the display looks fantastic. I hope you come in and check out the Freedom Shrine, located in our cafeteria. This partnership has 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.

I am pleased to inform you that there have been some exciting staff changes here over the summer. "Mr. Bruce" Bicknell joins the Pollard custodial team as our new day custodian. Jacob Piedra will be joining our Kindergarten Team as the 1/2 day AM/

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

- October 3 Cross Country Meet - Sawyer Park, Kensington
October 4 School Board Meeting - 7:30pm SAU Boardroom
October 8 Columbus Day- No School
October 9 5th Grade Parent Committee Meeting - 6:30pm
October 10 Cross Country Meet- Stratham Hill Park
October 12 5th Grade Field Trip
October 18 Spanish Club
October 23 PTA Meeting-6:30pm
October 25 Early Release Day - 1:10pm Picture Retake Day Parent/Teacher Conferences
October 31 Halloween Parade & Classroom Parties- 1:30pm
November 1 School Board Meeting - 7:30pm SAU Boardroom



PM Teacher and **Jessica Webster-Jones** moves over to Full Day K. **Colleen Ferrante** joins the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade team, looping with her class from 1<sup>st</sup> grade. **Julie Hazelton** moved to fifth grade (also looping with her 4<sup>th</sup> grade class) and **Jessica Winter** returned to Pollard as a fifth grade teacher. Also new to Pollard is Para Educator **Lori Lavin**, joining our Special Ed team. Please make sure you say hi and introduce yourself if you see a new face!

This school year Pollard Staff will continue to work on Action Plan Goals. We will remain focused on reading but our action plan goal will be specifically around math. We have also added a goal that will help us work on our school culture and climate and one around student social emotional health. These goals will include activities such as our Cleaner Greener days, professional development, the creation of our new Motor Lab, as well as monitoring student behaviors. Staff will also be using the Tripod data we will be administering to all students to help focus on instructional techniques that will engage our students in the learning process. I know all of their hard work will make teaching and learning here at Pollard the best that it can be!

Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, is our Halloween Parade, which will be starting from Pollard at 1:30. Immediately after the parade classrooms will be having a short Halloween party. Unfortunately we don't have room for everyone to join us in the classrooms for the parties, so only room mothers will be able to come in. I will send a memo home in early October outlining the do's and don'ts of costumes and make-up but please make sure you make sure 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 Media Gallery/Photos Pollard, you will see all of the wonderful pictures and the video.

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)

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### Parents Right to Know

In response to regulations set by the New Hampshire Department of Education and the United States Department of Education, we are required to notify you of our staff's highly qualified status. All teachers, Title I teachers, and support staff at Pollard School meet these requirements and are highly qualified to teach. We are also required to inform you that parents have the right to request information regarding their child's performance level in the classroom or from Title I. Any parent of an English language proficient student has the right to withdraw his/ her child from English language instruction. If you have any questions about the above regulations, please contact Doug Blay.



## Shawley's Corner

Dear Pollard Families,

It has been an exciting start of the school year. The students have settled in nicely and we are happy to see all the smiling faces each day. Below are some friendly reminders about safety and tips about your child's backpack.



### Reminder about morning car drop off

- Car drop off starts at 8:15am and school begins promptly at 8:30am.
- The safety of all students is our number one concern.
- Please beware of the teachers and staff giving directions while in the car drop off/pick up line.
- Law requires kids under the age of 18 to wear safety belts.

Thank you for your support!

Morning Arrivals- Please remember that students can be dropped off at the school at 8:15 am. Students that arrive past 8:30 am are considered tardy.



School success starts  
with attendance

It is important to remember that consistent attendance will greatly improve the chances your child has of being successful in an academic environment. However, we are aware that from time to time it will be necessary to keep your child home from school. Should the need occur, please take time to call the school to let us know that your student will be late or absent.

Dear Families,

Next week you will be receiving parent reports with information about how your children have performed on STAR testing. Below is information that may help with understanding what the STAR testing is, how it is used, and how to better understand the report.

**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.

**How long does it take to complete a STAR assessment?**

STAR tests are designed to be as efficient as possible. On average, students will complete the STAR Math test in about 20 minutes, the STAR Reading test in about 15 minutes, the STAR Early Literacy test in 15-20 minutes, and the STAR Reading Spanish test in about 10 minutes. However, some students may require more time.

**What are STAR assessments used for?**

The STAR assessments are often used to screen students for their reading and math achievement levels. STAR Reading and STAR Math™ assessments help determine reading and math achievement levels in order to offer students appropriate learning opportunities. STAR Early Literacy assessments help educators monitor students' growing literacy skills and students' progress toward becoming independent readers.

**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 scaled scores range from 300-900. STAR offers educators a variety of scores and reports. Some STAR scores compare your child's performance to a specific criteria or to a standard (criterion-referenced scores). STAR 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 norm-referenced 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.

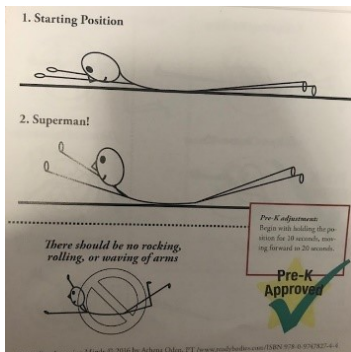
If you have any other questions about STAR or any other curriculum/instruction questions please feel free to contact me.

Together in Learning!

Doug Blay  
Assistant Principal/Curriculum Coordinator

*It is impossible to educate the mind without involving the body.  
Learning is thinking and movement integrated...source unknown*

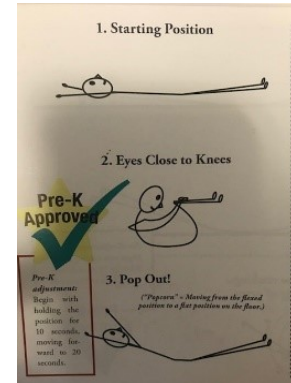
We are excited to share with you the creation of our new Motor Lab for the 2018-2019 school year. The Motor Lab is a space that is open to all classrooms at Pollard school. Teachers are using the room a few times a week for 15 minute blocks. The Motor Lab consists of six different stations that include activities that focus on postural strength, bilateral coordination, ocular motor skills, eye-hand coordination, spatial planning, balance and motor-planning. The activities at 5 of these stations will change every month, while the 6th station (postural strength) will remain the same all year. The design of the room is based on a research based curriculum called Ready Bodies, Learning Minds. The activities that are chosen help develop the skills mentioned above (i.e. postural strength, ocular motor skills, eye-hand coordination, etc.) all of which are needed to be able to sit upright in a chair, read without losing one's place, have a clear hand dominance, form letters and numbers, write within the lines, understanding math concepts, etc. Unfortunately, due to the introduction to technology at such a young age, our country as a whole is seeing a decline in motor skills as our young children enter school. Kids are entering school struggling to sit upright for extended periods of time. They also struggle with holding crayons, pencils and scissors. Here is a sample of some of the activities that the kids are doing in the motor lab. They can easily be done at home...ask your children to show you!



Superman



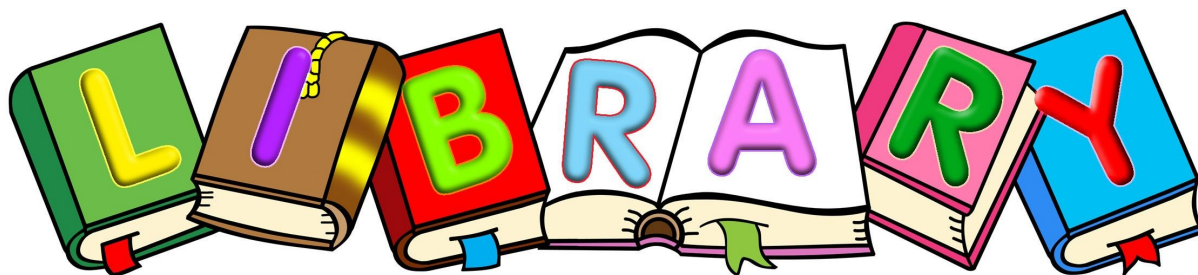
Cross Crawl



Popcorn

Looking forward to a great year in the Motor Lab!

Stacey & Danielle  
(Pollard School Occupational Therapists)



**Pollard School Library** has been a very busy place since school opened and promises to get even busier this fall. Our circulation statistics in September have been outstanding. Our readers are discovering new books and suggesting old favorites to one another daily. On Friday of last week we checked in 256 books and checked out another 210. The most popular books thus far, by a landslide, have been any and all of the titles in the Dog Man graphic novel series by Dav Pilkey.

Our students have celebrated Dot Day, Constitution Day, Talk Like A Pirate Day, and Banned Books Week. Grades 3 and 5 played Kahoot games to review library resources and procedures. Grade 4 is playing a BreakOut EDU game to unlock the library resources. Our Gingerbread Man has already gotten loose. First graders have met many of our school's VIP's as we chased him through the hallways. Kindergarten students have all earned their "listening ears" and are now ready to begin borrowing books.

October will kick off The Global Read Aloud at 3 grade levels, and will see many VIP's read aloud books on the 2018 Ladybug Picture Book Award list. Pollard School will participate in the Global Maker Day at the end of the month. This summer I joined the #KidsNeedMentors initiative. We were paired with author Emma Wunsch. She will work with 2nd grade students in Mrs. Bellmore and Mrs. Bloom's classrooms. We will meet her in late October via Skype and eventually she will give the children advice on their own writing.

In November Pollard School will host two authors. Elly Swartz the author of **Finding Perfect** and **Smart Cookie** will visit on November 14th and will meet with grades 4 and 5. She will do an identity project and talk about social emotional comprehension with the students. Victoria Coe will visit on November 15th. She is the author of the Fenway & Hattie series and her student presentations will focus on point of view and inferencing. Victoria will meet with grades 2, 3, and 4. Watch your child's Pollard Express for further information and order forms. Students will be able to purchase autographed copies of books by our visiting authors.

Our 4th Annual Timberlane Family Literacy Night will be held at the PAC on November 15th from 5:30-7:30. It will feature an author meet and greet and student performances on the main stage. Please plan to join us for a literate good time!

*Patricia Collins, LMS*



Greetings from the art room! We are off to a great start to the year! All of the artists at Pollard School are celebrating the beginning of the school year by learning about the delicious art of Wayne Thiebaud. He is an American Pop artist known for his paintings of cakes, pies, doughnuts, and gumball machines. He uses thick paint that looks like frosting, and he is known for his use of shadows. The **Kindergarten** students have been learning the rules and procedures in the art room, and concentrating on cutting with scissors. They have already painted adorable donuts on paper plates, and they cut the middles out themselves! **First grade** made wonderful gumball machine collages, and some have begun Wassily Kandinsky circle paintings. **Second graders** are finishing up oil pastel drawings of cakes, cupcakes, and doughnuts. They are already learning how to add shadows to their artwork! **Third graders** tried a new technique of layering oil pastel first, then painting and scraping some paint off to create an interesting effect. When dried, they added them to a painted background to complete some very cool doughnut collages. Some third grade classes have begun "Picasso Witch" collages. **Fourth and Fifth graders** are creating still-life paintings on matt board with tempera paint. I think you will be amazed at their beautiful paintings of desserts! I was inspired this summer by an idea, on a teaching website, called "the doughnut philosophy". The teacher explained to her students the quote by Oscar Wilde, "The optimist sees the doughnut; the pessimist the hole!" She encourages her students to think about the doughnuts, and not the hole, when they face a challenge. I loved the message, and it connects so well with one of my favorite artists. As always, if you have any questions or concerns about art, feel free to contact me. Happy fall!

Becky Lightizer





Greetings from the music room! It has been such a pleasure reuniting with returning students and getting to know new faces here at Pollard over the past month! In music class, students are learning to become "tuneful, beautiful, and artful" individuals through singing, dancing, and playing musical games and instruments. Ask your child to sing you a song they learned in music class! Chorus met for the first time on September 20th and we are looking forward to our Winter Concert on January 8th! If you are the parent of a 4th or 5th grade child who is interested in joining chorus and has not yet, please have them come and get a permission slip in the music room!

Musically Yours,

AnnMarie Pinard  
Pollard School General Music Teacher & Chorus Director



## **From the Physical Education Teacher, Ms. Silva**

### **September Happenings:**

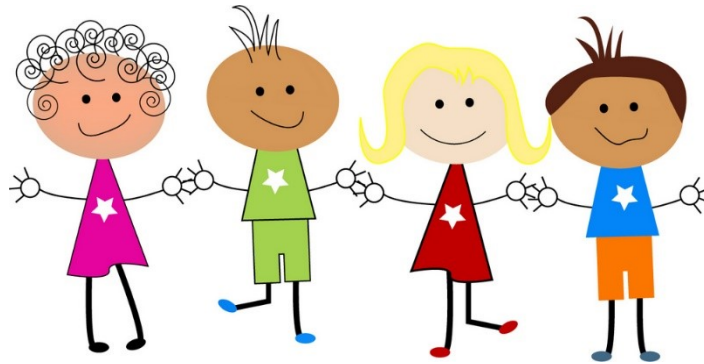
Welcome to 2018 and 2019. We have all been so busy this September. Learning protocol, space and body awareness and loco- motor skills, while playing some fun games. We are also working on jumping jacks along with fun games to go with them. We are going to starting a soccer unit working on dribbling and passing skills as well as some lead up games.

### **Pollard Schools Cross Country's Track Team**

The cross country team is off to another exciting fall. All 50 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders on this team have had quite an experience meeting runners from other schools, visiting other schools, and experiencing cross country and seeing what it actually is. Every runner from Pollard has improved on their time for the first two meets, or they are just having fun socializing and exercising. Cross Country has been fun and exciting for the year of 2018!



## COUNSELOR CORNER



Hello Pollard Families:

I'm hoping you and your children have gotten off to a smooth start to the new school year. I am sending this information, as I do every year, for those who might benefit from this great program from Comcast. It is called Internet Essentials and here are some of the highlights:

Families who have a child who qualifies for free or reduced lunch may qualify for the following:

- ◆ Internet service which includes Wifi
- ◆ No credit check
- ◆ No installation fee
- ◆ Option to purchase a computer for \$149.00 which comes with Microsoft Office, Norton Security Suite and a 90 day warranty.

**Go to [Internetessentials.com](http://Internetessentials.com) or call -1-855-8-INTERNET (1-855-846-8376).**

Marcia Blutstein  
School Counselor

## Grade 5 Students Learn How to be Good Citizens

Dolores Coyle-Quirk

Classes in Grade 5 at Pollard School had a special visitor on September 11. Our very own neighbor, Representative Norman Major came in to talk to our students about his work as a NH State Representative. He told the students what some of his responsibilities are as a “Citizen Legislature”. Representative Major shared how a bill becomes a law. Students were interested in learning that Plaistow citizens can call Representative Major with good ideas, and sometimes these ideas may even be made into laws. They were surprised to know that our legislatures do not really get a "salary" for their work. Fifth grade students were impressed that Mr. Major would spend so much time and work so hard as a “volunteer”. Election Day fell on September 11<sup>th</sup>, this year. Students in Mrs. Coyle-Quirk’s and Mrs. Robichaud’s classes learned about how good ordinary citizens become heroes by doing the right thing to help others, even when it isn’t always easy. The students voted that schools should help teach kids how to become good citizens!



Boy Scouts, Colin Guide (above) and Cam Stack (below), both 5th grade student at Pollard School read poetry at Plaistow’s Commemorative 911 Service.



# PTA<sup>®</sup>

*everychild.onevoice.*

## Pollard PTA Upcoming Events



PTA membership drive-Please send in PTA membership forms. Having a PTA membership supports the school, our students, as well as offering additional discounts on various opportunities.



Box Tops contest-Send box tops in with your students, the class that has the most box tops will win a prize! Contest runs until Oct 19th.



KidsStuff Fundraising books will be sold again this year... Details will be coming home soon.



Find us on Facebook! Please follow us on our Pollard PTA Facebook page. This page has access to upcoming PTA events and information.

Our next PTA meeting is on Tuesday, October 23rd at 6:30pm in the Pollard School library.

Hope to see you there!