

# Pollard Pen



February 21, 2020

Dear Pollard Families:

It's hard to believe that February vacation is already here! I hope you all enjoy the time off and get some much-needed rest. It's been a warm winter and I hope when we return from vacation it will be even warmer. Of course, New England weather is always unpredictable so please remember to have your child bring their boots and winter gear for recess!

As always Pollard is an active place with many events going on. The Bingo for Books night was fantastic again this year! It was well attended, and many students left with bags of books. This year's Spelling Bee was exciting as always. Congratulations to this year's winner Lillian Farnell. Please check the school calendar, we have many concerts and events scheduled in the coming months.

We are currently working on incoming Pre-K and Kindergarten student registration. The Pre-K/K information night is scheduled for March 3rd, from 6:00-7:00 PM in the café. The online registration is currently open, please make sure that you are registering for the 2020-2021 school year. We are excited to be meeting our new Pollard Penguins!

Have a safe and enjoyable winter break!

Doug Blay  
Pollard School Principal

## Pollard Penguins S.W.I.M.

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<http://www.pollardschool.com>

## Important Dates

### February 24-28

Winter Break

### March 2 –20

Pennies for Patients  
Fundraising

### March 3

PreK/Kindergarten Parent  
Info Night @ 6pm Pollard  
Café (Snow Date-March 4)

### March 5

School Board Meeting—  
SAU Board Rm @ 7pm

### March 10

Town/School Elections  
Polls open 7am-8pm  
Pollard School Book Fair—  
Library 3:30pm-8pm  
PTA Meeting—6pm

### March 11

Pollard School Book Fair—  
Library -3:30-8pm

### March 12

French Club-3:10-4:30pm  
Prior Registration  
Required

### March 13

5th Grade Parent  
Committee –5th Grade  
Bingo & Ice Cream Social-  
6pm-8pm

### March 19

School Board Meeting—  
SAU Board Rm @ 7pm

### March 19

Spanish Club-3:10-4:30pm  
Prior Registration  
Required

### March 26

Title One Literacy Night –  
5:30pm-7pm

## Pelletier's Perspective

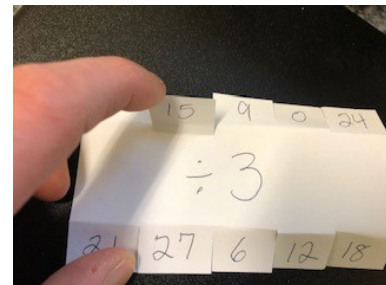
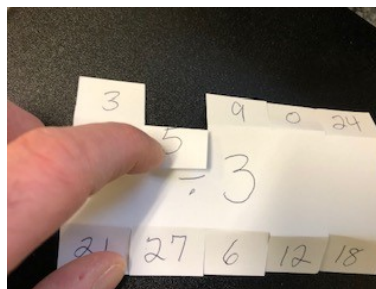
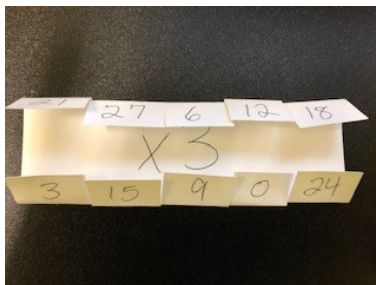
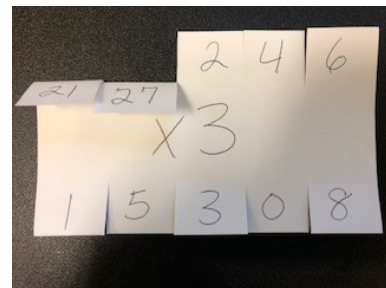
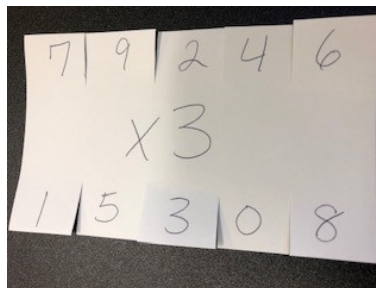
### How To Make Math Fact Practice More Manageable

#### **Importance of basic math fact automaticity**

One of the main things that teachers cite as a way to boost students' ability to take on progressively harder math concepts is through security with their basic math facts. Whether this is addition facts in the early grades or multiplication facts in grades three through five, automaticity can significantly improve success with concepts from multi-digit addition to comparative fractions. When engaged in a more difficult algorithm, the need to stop and determine the result of smaller elements within the problem can cause students to lose track of where they are within the process to solve. Worse, a student can spend 10-15 minutes doing wonderful work, showing great understanding only to get a problem wrong because of a small misstep when they provide the wrong number on an early step. Shoring up math facts not only increases success, it makes for more a more confident student.

#### **Better, easier flash cards**

The days of needing to carry around hundreds of flash cards are over. You can now include 20 facts on just one flashcard in an easy, fun way that also helps reinforce basic properties of mathematics.



**\*These work the exact same way with addition and subtraction facts.**

Practice does not need to be exhaustive. Set a timer for 3-5 minutes a night and in no time you little mathematician will be on their way to math fact security and confidence.

## Kindness Week

This month Pollard celebrated their annual Kindness Week.

Each day students and staff participated in activities that promote empathy, respect, and consideration for others. Teachers used a PowerPoint of activities and videos that coincide with the theme of that day. Thank you to families that reinforced the home-school connection by talking with your child(ren) about what kindness looks like and sounds like as they encounter various situations in their life.

Also, this month our fourth and fifth grade students had the opportunity to work with engineering students from UNH. The program *STEMBassadors* is led by Brooks Payette, the engineering integrator at UNH. This project based learning opportunity allowed students to have a first-hand experience with the engineering design process. Fourth grade students were charged with building a theme park ride. Fifth grade students were asked to build a drone that could safely deliver a fragile package.

Students identified the problem given to them by the *STEMBassadors*, researched, brainstormed, and created a solution to the given problem. They were able to share and analyze their solutions before redesigning and improving their design. The feedback from students and teachers was that these UNH students were phenomenal, engaging, and able to hit those higher-thinking areas of pedagogy. What a fun experience for our fifth and fourth grade learners!

Finally, it has been very exciting to work with the first grade students during their PLC time on an activity called, ***Picture Perfect STEM***. During this time students listen to a story that focuses on one STEM area and then are challenged to complete a STEM activity. Students find it exciting as they are able to use their creativity to communicate how they would solve a problem or improve on an idea.





On Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, Pollard School held its annual **National Spelling Bee Competition!** Congratulations to the following students who were the top spellers in their classroom contests:

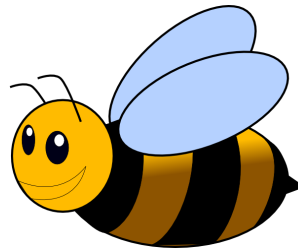
Noah	Connolly	Molly	Moore
Ben	Coveney	James	Moran
Gavin	Cudmore	Dagny	Ouellette
Wyatt	Dupris	Michael	Peloquin
Lillian	Farnell	Haley	Philbrook
Ayla	Hill	Brandon	Roy
Josh	Maranian	Aylsa	Shanahan
Cailey	McDaniel	Max	Theodore
Abigail	McGonagle	Olivia	Triani
Olivia	Miller	Macie	Tyler
		Laila	Vierow

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

First Place: Lillian Farnell

Second Place: Dagny Ouellette

Third Place: Olivia Miller



The winning word was:

**caroling**

part of speech: noun

the activity of singing Christmas carols.

"A night of **Christmas caroling** was traditional"

Pollard School wishes to congratulate these students, and good luck to Lillian when she competes at the State Spelling Bee on Saturday, March 7th!

A fun springtime opportunity recently came home in students' Pollard Express:



### *NH Fisher Cats Reading Challenge*

The Fisher Cats Reading Challenge, presented by Eversource, challenges students to read five books outside of the normal curriculum during the school year. The students who complete the challenge will earn two FREE tickets to a 2020 New Hampshire Fisher Cats "Reading Challenge" baseball game at Delta Dental Stadium in Manchester, NH. At the game, students can bring their own ball and glove to play catch on the field!

- ♦ A student reads 5 books and records the titles on the form that came home in Pollard Express.
- ♦ The student's family selects one of the NH Fisher Cats baseball games listed on the form for which the student will receive 2 **free** tickets.
- ♦ Parents mail the form directly to the NH Fisher Cats at the address on the form.
- ♦ Additional tickets can be purchased as outlined on the form.
- ♦ Forms are due to the NH Fisher Cats on or before Friday, March 13, 2020

Have you misplaced the form? Check here for more info:

<https://www.milb.com/new-hampshire/community/reading-challenge>



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## NEWS FROM MS. SILVA THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER

February is almost over and March is right around the corner. Where did the time go! During the month of January every grade worked on their basketball skills. Grades K -2 participated in different stations that worked on dribbling, passing and shooting for three weeks. By the third week every student had progressed considerably.

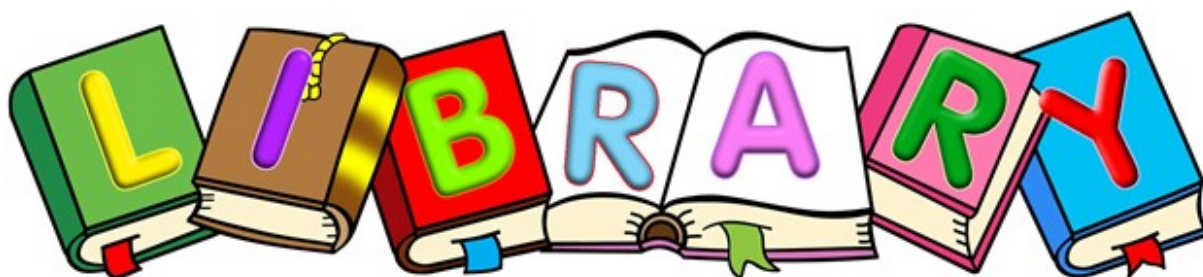
During January Grades 3 -5 also participated in dribbling, passing and shooting skills and then played lead up games that went along with each of the skills. During the spring, summer and fall take your child to a park where they have basketball courts and get any ball that bounces and work with them on the skills of dribbling, passing and shooting. This will help them become skilled at ball handling, have some fun, as well as being active, which can be healthy for everyone.

February is heart month and students in Grades K - 5 participated in jumping and hopping skills. Every class will be jumping for American Heart Association.

Forms were sent home about a week ago and if you choose to donate to American Heart Association it needs to be done online. The paper work explains how it should be done. The money should have been donated by the 21<sup>st</sup> of February. For two weeks we will have 3 stations. Station 1 has a multitude of jumping and hopping skills. From hop scotch to river jumping and hopping, to jumping into donut holes, and hopping on spots, skip its and agility ladders. Station 2 has the lower grades individually jumping rope and helicopter with the upper grades. Station 3 has the lower grades long jump roping and upper grades long and short jump roping.

Hope everyone has a wonderful February vacation!





Pollard School Library celebrated WRAD on February 5<sup>th</sup> in style. Eight classrooms connected with authors to celebrate literacy! Mrs. Coyle-Quirk's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class read the book **The Last Fifth Grade of Emerson Elementary** and author Laura Shovan talked to them about using a notebook to keep track of characters and writing using poetry structures. The fourth grade learned some amazing insect information, asked some great inquiry questions, and saw great text features in action before they "met" Heather Montgomery. She used artifacts and all of the students were engaged in observation and inquiry. Mrs. Winter's third grade class read the book **Cilla Lee Jenkins Future Author Extraordinaire**. Author Susan Tan talked about her character and read the Chinese New Year story **The Nian Monster**. Mrs. Bolduc's third grade class did an author study of Juana Martinez Neal's work and on WRAD the author/illustrator read them **Babymoon**. Finally, Ms. Ferrante and Mr. Velonis' classes explored poet Amy VanDerwater's books. Ms. Ferrante's class read **Extraordinary Birds** and did bird research & collage illustrations. Mr. Velonis' class read **With My Hands** and did painting, drawing, origami, and tie-dye maker space activities. Amy told the children some new bird info, showed them how she made stamps and then book talked some of her favorite picture books! The Youth Media Awards were awarded in late January and this year the Newbery Medal, which is given for distinguished writing, was awarded to **New Kid** by Jerry Craft. I think the honor will lend much needed credibility to the role of graphic novels in young people's lives. To read more about graphic novels click this link:

<https://pernillesripp.com/2018/10/10/why-graphic-novels-belong-in-all-of-our-libraries/>

Pollard School Book Fair is coming. Pollard School readers are invited to the "Book Fair Jungle" from March 9-13<sup>th</sup>. The book fair will be open on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> for family and community shopping. See you in the jungle!

*Patricia Collins*  
Library Media Specialist





Greetings from the art room! Kindergarteners and First graders just finished Valentine projects, and I have both grades learning to draw people. They are all drawing themselves making a snow angel. They are all doing a nice job combining shapes to create a person. Second graders just started learning about Vincent Van Gogh. They are using oil pastels to recreate “Starry Night”. Third graders are working on their entries for the New Hampshire Fire Safety Calendar contest. This contest is for third grade only. Thirteen drawings will be chosen to be printed in the calendar, but more importantly, the information they learn could save a life. Pollard School has had a winner every year, but one! Fourth graders are working on one of my favorite projects, Miro’ Bedrooms. There is so much learning going on in this one project. They learn about the artist Joan Miro’ and his abstract art, they draw the items in their bedroom in an abstract way, then they learn about creating space in an artwork! They are touching upon perspective, and learning three ways to make objects appear near and far. Their work is very impressive, and I noticed in their recent blizzard bag that many students are applying these concepts in their own work! Fifth graders just finished very creative clay cone figures, and they are currently drawing self-portraits in an Anime style. I have found this project really gives some students a love of drawing they have never had before. It’s pretty exciting to see kids so proud of their work! A student just told me today that he never knew he could draw this well! Great day!!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about art, feel free to contact me. Enjoy the winter break!

Becky Lightizer





## Counselor Corner February 2020



Hello Pollard Families:

In this letter we hope to impart some practical and easily implementable things you can do to help your child become a confident, problem solving person, capable of knowing they don't have to shy away from hard tasks or situations.

These suggestions are taken from an article by Lynn Lyons, Give Your Kids Autonomy: What it means and how. Lynn is a therapist whose practice is rooted firmly in the belief that teaching strategies to manage worry and impart problem solving skills can be taught to anyone in a straight forward, easy to understand way.

***"Play is the arena where children practice autonomy, where they learn to self-govern, take risks, collaborate, and develop their values. It's where they practice our parenting lessons on their own!"***

- **Let them do their own homework.** If they need help, they can certainly ask, but the routine of sitting with your child each night, initiating, monitoring and then CORRECTING the homework before it goes back to school? DON'T DO IT!!!
- **Let your kids play without direction as early as possible.** You are not a bad parent if you tell your children to entertain themselves (free of screens, optimally.) Think for a moment about the games you made up as a kid. No adults, no coaches, no uniforms.  
**That's free play and free learning.**
- **Make room for unscheduled time in your children's schedule.** Parents say to me, "She just wants to do everything! It's not us, it her!" That might be true (although what you model is key here), so your job is to model valuing free time and create room for it.  
**Childhood shouldn't be so exhausting!**
- **Teach kids to be in charge of developmentally appropriate areas of their life.** Laundry? Picking out clothes? Waking up in the morning? Here's some great grist for the "cause and effect" mill. No clean pants? Late for school? Forgot your cleats?  
**Learning, learning, learning.**
- **Stop the constant reminding.** There are important things that certainly require a reminder (it's not all or nothing, I'll say again) but is it a habit? Do you nag? Do you defend your nagging with the argument that they won't do anything if you don't nag?  
**Then decrease nagging and increase autonomy.**

***"Allow your children to experience some distress as they develop autonomy. Support them, hug them, listen to them, but don't jump in".***

Marcia Blutstein  
School Counselor  
Marcia.blutstein@timberlane.net / 382-7146 x5550

Alyson Norman,  
School Social Worker  
Alyson.Norman@timberlane.net x5502

## What's happening in **technology**?

**Kindergarteners** recently learned their usernames and passwords. Now they can log on and off the computer. Next they will be learning some computer fundamentals—symbols of technology, and input and output devices.

Over the past couple of months, **1<sup>st</sup> graders** continued to work on logging onto the computer. Most students can now login without any help! They also completed several keyboarding lessons.

Over the past couple of weeks, **2<sup>nd</sup> graders** were introduced to some word processing skills. Students practiced their keyboarding by playing TypeTastic games like *Keyboard Builder* and *Frog Pond Patrol*.

Over the past few weeks, **3<sup>rd</sup> graders** created their very own slideshow using Google Slides. Prior to this, they learned that a slideshow should progress like a story, sequentially, and with a clear purpose or plot. They learned how to enhance their slideshows by adding animation and transitions. Finally, they learned how to evaluate, enhance, and edit their slideshows. Soon students will be sharing their slideshows with their classmates.

Over the past few weeks, **4<sup>th</sup> graders** were introduced to spreadsheets. They learned how to navigate cells. They also learned how to format columns, rows, and cells. Finally, students worked in Google Sheets to create tables and graphs based on the state they researched for the state box project.

Over the past several weeks, **5<sup>th</sup> graders** reviewed Internet Usage. They learned what a browser is and how it functions. They learned what a URL is and how to use it to navigate to a web page. They learned about effective Internet search strategies. They learned to use keywords and search phrases. Finally, they learned to use critical thinking skills to determine the validity of information found online.

**Stay tuned for more 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester happenings**, which include, but aren't limited to, coding, creating drawings in Tux Paint, presentations, and keyboarding.

Email Mrs. Kennedy at [lisa.kennedy@timberlane.net](mailto:lisa.kennedy@timberlane.net) if you have any questions.

Have a great vacation!

Mrs. Kennedy



Greetings from the music room!

It has been a busy winter for Pollard School musicians in general music class! Our 4th and 5th graders have been working on being tuneful, beatful, and artful through movement to classical music, singing rounds, music literacy, instrument playing, and folk dancing. 3rd graders have been enjoying learning recorder and are working towards earning belts in Recorder Karate. 2nd graders are working hard preparing for their play on Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the PAC. The younger children have been exploring musical concepts through movement, songs, games, and stories.

Our Pollard School Chorus has its next performance at the Timberlane District Chorus Concert on Monday, March 16th at 7:00 p.m. at the PAC. We are also proud to have four 5th grade chorus members attending the 2020 N.H. Elementary Honors Choir Festival in Manchester in April.

Musically Yours,

AnnMarie Pinard  
Pollard School Music Specialist



## The ABC's of Improv Comedy

By, Dolores Coyle-Quirk

Yes, fifth graders are still learning the ABCs. Mrs. Coyle-Quirk's fifth graders find learning pretty funny when they do it *improv style*. Mr. Castano and some of his **Timberlane Regional High School Milkmen Improv Troupe** came to Pollard School to teach kids about the ABCs of Improvisational theater.

**Accept:** Always be willing to accept others and their ideas, even if you may not agree at first.

**Build:** Build upon others' ideas and keep them going.

**Chivalry:** Be kind to others and let them share your spotlight. Step back and encourage others to shine.

Students participated in many fun improv games; *Zombie, Walk-About, Switch, Don't Touch That Remote, Change That Channel, Riding the Bus* and several others. Fifth graders learned to take risks, support each other and just laugh a lot. They enjoyed learning the games and playing the activities. Mrs. Coyle-Quirk uses a lot of these games in the classroom throughout the day, especially at morning meetings and as movement breaks throughout the day. She says it is wonderful to see the kids just jump right in and try new things! Mrs. Coyle-Quirk is working with Mr. Castano to start an afterschool Improv Comedy Club here at Pollard.





The Pollard PTA has been in full swing in the new year. Thanks to those that supported us by attending the spaghetti dinner and Bingo for Books. We are now getting excited about our two big upcoming events, the Raffle Calendar that we will be creating this year and our Annual Staff Appreciation Week. We love showing our appreciation for the staff at Pollard School by celebrating them every day of the week from May 11th thru May 15th. Watch for a sign-up genius link if you'd like to volunteer your time or help with food donations! Please make sure that you like the Pollard PTA Facebook page, if you haven't already, for updates and links.

We are also looking for donations for our Raffle Calendar. The PTA is hoping to roll this out this spring, in lieu of the auction, but we need your help! If you have connections somewhere that you think would donate gift cards, or products please reach out! We are looking for anything from gas cards to hair salons, fun places to go with the kids, and cash donations. Every little bit will help our calendar be great!!

Thank you so much to our amazing volunteers, teachers, parents and students that help us year-round, we couldn't be successful without you!

**\*\*Please reach out to Jacki Freeman with any questions. [jayfree9603@comcast.net](mailto:jayfree9603@comcast.net)\*\***

