



POLLARD PEN

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◆◆August 30, 2005◆◆

principal thoughts



Dear Pollard Families:

Welcome to a new school year at Pollard School! I am so excited to be your new principal. It has been an absolutely wonderful summer getting to know the community and staff and I hope that you will introduce yourself to me when you see me around!

Thanks to all of our new Pollard Penguins who attended our Open House (grades 1, 2 and new students); parking was limited, and I think everyone handled the shortage very well.

I'm sure you are curious about my background and experiences, and I am anxious to let you know more about me. Hampstead has been my home for all but 2 years of my life. The 2005-06 school year will be my 20th year as an educator. I served as Assistant Principal at Thorntons Ferry Elementary School in the Merrimack School District for the past four years and prior to that I worked in the Hampstead School district for 14 years as a 5th grade teacher and then later as the Technology Integration Teacher. I also spent my first year teaching at the Danville Elementary School as a 4/5 Multi-age teacher. Throughout my career, I've attempted to build partnerships among students, staff, parents, and community members in order to provide a safe learning environment in which every child has the opportunity to become the best he or she can be. As a building principal, I act as a catalyst for sustaining continuous renewal. It is an honor to have been selected as principal of Pollard Elementary School and I look forward to being a part of this wonderful community.

As you know by now, Pollard not only has a new Principal, but also a new Assistant Principal, Mr. Ryan Quinn. Please check out his message on the following pages. Once again, I welcome you to the 2005-06 school year and I look forward to working with all of you in the year ahead. If you have ideas or suggestions that you would like to share, please feel free to contact me. Together we will make a positive difference in the lives of our children!

Your child's principal,
Michelle S. Auger
mauger@pollardschool.com

Important Dates to Remember

September 2nd (Friday)
and Sept 5th
(Monday) - **No School**
Labor Day Break

September 13th - OPEN
HOUSE

**See Program details in
newsletter**

October 3rd - School Pic-
tures

October 14th - Pollard
Star Party (PTA)

October 18th - Family
Math Night

A B C_s
Of Student Success

A is for ATTENDANCE.

Attendance is a critical factor in any child's school success. Children should attend school every day, except in cases of illness or emergency. It is impossible to replace the learning that happens on any school day with make-up work. Regular attendance and promptness are good habits that are expected and appreciated at all levels of schooling and in the workplace. This year, make school a priority in your household. Commit to excellence in attendance. Your child's future depends on it!

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Hello from Mr. Quinn, our Assistant Principal

Dear Parents,

I just want to let you know how excited I am to be a new member of the Pollard School Community, and how much I am looking forward to working with your children.

The classrooms look great and I know your children will be lucky to learn about, and experience, all of the wonderful things the teachers have planned for them. In spite of the fact that I will have a lot to learn myself in this new position, I will try to learn everyone's names as fast as I can !!!

A native of Maine, I grew up in Skowhegan, a small town in the central part of the state on the Kennebec River. I still visit there about once a month, as I have parents, grandparents (both sides), and many other relatives, as well as friends from high school and grade school who live there. I went to the University of Maine in Orono, graduating in 1992 with a degree in History and Government, and was a student teacher and substitute teacher in the Bangor area and on the Penobscot Native American reservation. My first teaching position was in Farmington Maine where I taught sixth and eighth grade and also received a Master's degree in Education. For the last seven years I have taught fourth grade in Kennebunkport where I have continued graduate work at the University of Southern Maine in Gorham. I also lead a Summer Teen Extreme Outdoor Adventure program through Kennebunkport Parks and Recreation. Biking, hiking, and kayaking are among the many of my personal interests which I incorporate in that programming. And now I am at Pollard !!!

I am very excited and optimistic for this year...I love the building, the town is beautiful, and the people have been so warm and friendly, and again, I am truly thrilled to be part of the Pollard School Community. Please stop in and introduce yourselves when you have a minute... I look forward meeting you all at open house, if not before that...until then...

Sincerely,
Ryan Quinn



Communicating With The School Year-Round

- ▶ Stay attuned to your child's academic accomplishments on a weekly basis. Praise those accomplishments appropriately.
- ▶ Communicate with the school regularly. When you have a concern or question, write a note, or email or phone the teacher. *We need you on our team!*
- ▶ Think ahead: at the end of the school year, schedule a meeting to discuss with the teacher your child's successes and challenges.

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OPEN HOUSE Format Changes!

Please join us at Open House on Tuesday, September 13th. We will be organizing it a bit differently so we will be needing everyone's cooperation. Grade 1, 2 and Mrs. Comeau's class will hold their open house from 5:30-6:30 PM. We ask that families leave promptly at 6:30 so that we have parking available for the Grade 3-5 open house which will run from 7-8:00 PM.

The program will **NOT** include a general meeting this year, you are invited to go directly to the classroom to meet with your child's teacher who will share information about what will be happening in your child's class this year.

There will **NOT** be an opportunity for individual parent/teacher conferences during the evening. However, if you wish a conference with any teacher, please contact them at a later date to request an appointment.



Curriculum Corner with Mrs. Pereira

This September, all elementary classrooms in the Timberlane Regional School District will begin implementing the *Everyday Mathematics (EDM)* program.

Everyday Mathematics is a comprehensive program that follows the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and the New England Grade Level Equivalency standards. It provides a balanced approach to mathematics and incorporates a variety of approaches that will encourage students to develop critical math skills.

Mathematical units are not taught in isolation, but spiral so that topics introduced at one point of the school year, will be revisited several times over a three-year period. In the primary grades, student understanding of the concepts behind basic facts and procedures is equally as important as mastering the basic facts. As students progress to the intermediate grades, they are encouraged to discover solutions to problems by developing a variety of algorithms, using calculators, and explaining their mathematical thinking.

Parents play a big role in helping their children reach full mathematical potential. At the beginning of each unit, you will receive a parent letter explaining the concepts that will be covered in class. Included in the letter will be answers to the homework (called *Home Link* or *Study Link* by EDM) for that unit. Some homework assignments may be very challenging for students, and providing you with the answers can help you to support your child at home.

“Parents play a big role in helping their children reach full mathematical potential. “

Home/Study Links may be in the form of a game to play, a paper to do, or another assignment that will reinforce classroom learning. They will require students to take initiative and responsibility for completing their assignments independently, although some *Links* may require the student to interact with you or someone else at home. Ask your child to “teach” you the math lesson (s)he is learning, and accept his/her teaching strategy as a valid approach to problem-solving. When sharing your approach to solving an equation, never suggest that one methodology is better than any another, or that mathematical equations can only be solved in one way.

Everyday Mathematics believes that frequent practice is imperative for students to attain mastery of a skill. Unfortunately, drills tend to become monotonous and gradually lose their effectiveness over time. Games however, relieve the tedium of rote repetition and reduce the use of worksheets. Games are an integral part of the *EDM* program - both at school and at home.

Pollard will be holding a math information night sometime in the next few weeks. This will be a time for you to come and learn more about *Everyday Mathematics*. In the meantime, please feel free to contact us if any questions should arise.

ATTENTION PARENTS/GUARDIANS: Each school year your child MUST have a new written dismissal note on file in the office if your child plans on doing anything other than taking his/her regular bus home.



Parent Handbook Coming LATE!

Our Pollard Student/ Parent Handbook has not been finished yet. We had a lot of changes to make and it will be going to the printers shortly. You will be receiving your copy as soon as it is completed.

Say Cheese!

School picture day are coming!
All Grades 1-5: Monday, October 3, 2005.

Please contact your child's teacher if you don't receive a picture order envelope the last week in September .



Traffic Flow Reminder...

Starting this year in January, a new traffic flow was started. This new "flow" worked, so we will be continuing it. The **only** way that you can enter the Pollard School driveway is by coming North and taking a left hand turn into the school driveway (on the left side of the school). Once the driveway is full, you will be able to park on Main Street in the northward direction. No cars will be allowed to park on Main Street going South. No Right hand turns will be allowed onto the driveway from Main Street. If you line up on Main Street, please don't block driveways of businesses and houses. We are always trying to maintain a good relationship with our neighbors. The Plaistow Police Department will be working closely with the Crossing Guards to make sure that this procedure continues to work smoothly.



Timberlane School District provides bus service for every child at our school.

Thank you for your continuous support as we try to make Main Street a safe place for everyone. Again, remember that the Timberlane School District provides bus service for every child at our school.

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A "First Day" Poem

This is a special day in the life of your child,
So please be happy and put on a smile.
As you send them to school you're both happy and sad.
This is a new challenge and it's not really bad.
The day is filled with both joy and fears.
Celebrate it with gladness, please dry your tears.
This day will soon pass as we move into fall
Along with the work, we are going to have a ball.
Welcome to Pollard!

A B C's Of Student Success

B is for BEDTIME.

Awwww Mom! Already? Sound familiar? On average, children need 8 to 10 hours of sleep each night. Sleep is important for many reasons. Lack of sleep can cause kids to be hypersensitive, impatient, or cranky. It is more difficult for children to concentrate and learn when they are tired. (Some doctors even believe that during sleep the brain "files away" what is learned during the day.) Encouraging quiet activities -- such as reading -- just prior to bedtime offers a transition that helps children relax. *Sweet dreams!*

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