

# POLLARD POST

WELCOME TO THE  
POLLARD POST

In this edition you  
will find:  
An interview with a  
new teacher at  
Pollard,  
DC Pictures  
An eighth grader's  
telling of her trip to  
DC  
Pictures from  
around Pollard and  
of  
Pollard Cross  
country stars

December 1, 2017

Issue 1



## POLLARD EIGHTH GRADERS TRAVEL TO DC





# The 8th grade trip to DC

By Hannah Keselman

This past week, the majority of the eighth grade travelled to our nation's capital, Washington D.C. The trip lasted four days, and students got to visit many museums and monuments, all while learning about our country's history and hanging out with friends. The trip started and ended with a nine hour bus ride, taking the four hundred students, a total of ten buses, from Needham to D.C. Once there, we met with our tour guides and enjoyed some time on the mall green between the Capital building and Washington Monument. Students enjoyed dinner at the mall and had the opportunity to do a little bit of shopping. Groups went to several monuments, including the Lincoln memorial. We then returned to the hotel and settled into our rooms for the night.

With a bright and early wake up, we were off to Arlington Cemetery and the 9/11 memorial at the Pentagon. Four of the students participated in the wreath ceremony after the changing of the guard at Arlington. It was freezing that day, and everyone got caught in the pouring rain. The rest of the day consisted of the Newseum, a highly interactive museum about freedom of speech, and the Holocaust museum. Later, we enjoyed a on-bus ghost tour of Alexandria. We listened to ghost stories while seated on our buses. Most people were not scared, but that may have been because many students fell asleep.

The next day was another early start. We had a chance to take photos at the Capitol building and the White House. Students and teachers took an all grade photo in front of the building before getting a chance to talk with one of our representative, Joe Kennedy. Students got to ask Kennedy questions about himself and his very important job. This was a highlight of the trip, although it was a cold thirty minutes. Some clusters got the chance to go to any Smithsonian museum and have lunch with their friends. The Natural History Museum was a favorite among students, and they had a great gift shop too. We spent the most time at the museum of African American History and Culture. It is one of the newer museums, and we were lucky enough to get tickets. They had everything from African Americans in pop culture to leading how to step dance. After that, we had a few quick stops at a few last monuments and then it was back to the hotel to get ready for the dance.

The whole trip enjoyed an Italian dinner and then a DJ dance on our final night. It was a chance to dance, socialize, and talk with students from across the clusters. For students who were not in the mood to dance, they could sit with friends in the main hall and talk.

On our last day, we packed up and headed to Mount Vernon. It was a great place to get some pictures, and had beautiful views. Many students headed to the gift shop to grab some last minute souvenirs.

The bus ride home was very long. One bus got a flat tire. Most buses arrived around ten o'clock at night, stopping for lunch and dinner along the way. One bus arrived much earlier than the others, but it was not an enjoyable bus ride for passengers.

Overall, D. C. was a blast and everyone loved it. I would highly recommend it to seventh graders next year.



Pictures of some of the clusters at Arlington National Cemetery. Taken by Dhruv Padmanabhan



# Our One School One Book:

The Seventh Most Important Thing

## The Throne of the Third Heaven of the Nation's Millennium General Assembly

Smithsonian American Art Museum

Photo by Mr. Dussault



*Paul Braverman-* It was an amazing sight. From afar it looks like it was a throne of some ancient civilization. The man who made it, James Hampton, wanted to make heaven and with what he had, the trash he found on the street, he made one of the most beautiful pieces of art I have ever seen.

student in cluster 8-1



Each race had over 200 runners.

*The Ninth Annual  
Massachusetts State Middle  
School Cross Country  
Championship*

Devens-Willard Field  
November 4, 2017

8th grade girls:	8th grade boys:	7th grade girls:	7th grade boys:
Anika Singh, 14:53, 85th	Kyler McNatt -12:15, 42nd Arman Sharma-12:46, 61st Jacob Shulman-13:09, 85th Andrew Daley-13:54, 126th	Christine Mittaz, 13:58, 46th Leyna Blume, 15:21, 103rd Abby McLeod, 15:24, 108th Hope Galovski, 15:47, 127th	Jack Burns, 12:34, 31st Roger Blake, 13:34, 84th Peter Powers, 14:15, 133rd Chris MacNeil, 14:20, 140th

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Mr. Steven Heldt

Interview by Henry Dirks



Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament

This fall the Pollard community was excited to welcome our new band teacher, Mr. Heldt. During our wide-ranging interview, we discovered that not only is Mr. Heldt an accomplished musical educator but also an avid performer for both shows and concerts. He performed for the Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament, with the Temptations in Aspen, (where Mr. Heldt has recently been teaching) and numerous rock and funk bands around the country.

Mr. Heldt grew up in the suburbs of Chicago Illinois, he started playing the trumpet at age 9 and he hasn't looked back since. After graduating high school he went to college at Northern Illinois University. His first teaching job came at Butler junior high school, and most recently in Aspen, Colorado at Aspen Middle School and Aspen High School. After learning of the band program here in Needham, Mr. Heldt moved here over the summer with his wife, two dogs, and two cats.

Mr. Heldt was introduced to band by his older sister, and always knew he wanted to be a musician but he chose to teach because, as he stated in our interview, "I fell in love with idea of giving these skills to kids." Mr. Heldt has many hobbies such as photography, woodworking, and coding. We asked how continuing his hobbies has differed from his old home in Colorado but all he said was, "I would say that there is no boring landscape or boring setting there is only boring photographers."

Mr. Heldt was excited to experience the Boston culture, so far he has gone on a tall ship cruise, went apple picking, visited a cranberry bog, and went on a Boston cream pie taste testing tour. He is enjoying living and working in the Boston area and commented that, "the biggest change has been the level of decorum with the kids, the students here are very conscientious."

Band Concert  
Thursday Dec. 7 at 7pm

Wind Ensemble Concert  
Thursday Dec. 14 at 7pm



Welcome Mr. Heldt