



EXPLORATIONS

Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

December 1, 2010

Conferences Next Week

One of the most valuable components of a child's educational experience is the connection that is made between the home and the school. In my early years of teaching, a mentor provided me with a metaphor that illustrates this connection. She said, "Think of education as a three-legged stool. The legs are the student, the teacher, and the parents. If one of the legs is broken, then the stool is not balanced and cannot stand." It's true. Though children can be very resilient and persevere in very difficult times, what they truly need is a team working with them and for them so that they can take advantage of the opportunity to learn. I have talked to kids about this often, especially at times when they are not doing their part on the team by completing homework, keeping track of assignments, or focusing on their work. Teachers have to keep this in mind at all times for every single student as they are balancing many at once. Parents do their part by providing space and time for children to do homework, by giving the emotional support and encouragement to help their child aspire to do well, and by attending conferences where all three "legs" can talk about what's working and what needs to happen next for the sake of the child's education.

Conferences are so very important; be sure to make your appointment so that the team can celebrate the work that has been done and evaluate what needs to come next.

~~Della Martin

The Giving Tree

Thanks to everyone who took a number from the Giving Tree in the lobby. You can return the gifts at any time, but they are due on December 13.

Specialists' Office Hours for Conferences December 6-9:

Beth Jackson (Library and Book Fair)
Monday – Thursday from 3-5 PM

Bob McCormick (PE)
Monday, 3-6
Wednesday, 3:30-5:30
Thursday, 3-5

Julie O'Neill (Speech and Language)
Monday, 3-5
Tuesday, 3-5
Thursday, 3-5

Silvana Cuello (Spanish)
Monday, 3-5
Tuesday, 3-6:30
Wednesday, 3-4:30

Penny Ricker (Art)
Monday, 3-5
Tuesday, 3-5
Wednesday, 3-6

Matt Jurick (Computer)
Monday, 3-5
Tuesday, 3-5
Wednesday, 3-5
Thursday, 3-4

Bill Schubeck (Instrumental Music)
Monday, 3-5
Tuesday, 3-6
Wednesday, 3-5

Audrey Means (Music)
Tuesday, 3-4
Wednesday, 3-7
Thursday, 3-5
- or by appointment

Della L. Martin, Principal • Loretta Smith, Secretary • Beth Jackson, Librarian • Matt Jurick, Technology Specialist

Telephone: (207) 374-2202 • Fax: (207) 374-2919 • www.bhcs.org

Orders for picture retakes are due on Friday, December 3.

From the Library

*The Book Fair will be here all next week during school and parent conferences. Check out the teacher wish lists and the great gift options while you are at school for conferences. Credit cards, checks and cash accepted. Profits benefit the library.

*The Richardson family donated Thimbleberry Stories by Cynthia Rylant, a book about neighbors, in memory of their neighbor Helen Sylvester who passed away last month.

PTF NEWS

*December's Family Movie Night is this Friday, Dec. 3, featuring *The Search for Santa Paws* (rated G, 97 minutes). Food will be available for sale starting at 5:30, along with a sing along with Mrs. Means; the movie will start at 6 PM. Food and snack donations welcomed!

Everyone bringing in a food donation will have his or her name entered into a drawing for a wreath! There will be free popcorn. Donations at the door and food proceeds will benefit the BHCS Family Assistance Fund.

*This Sunday is your last chance to earn Hannaford Helps Schools Dollar certificates while shopping at Tradewinds or other Hannaford stores. Purchase 4 participating products and earn a \$3 certificate, 8 earn a \$6 certificate, etc. You can deposit them in the tower at Tradewinds, or put them in the envelope by the office so we can turn them in by the Dec. 17 deadline. Last year we were the top collector for Tradewinds and received an extra \$1000 to help BHCS! More information available on the Hannaford website.

*Mark your calendars for the Kids' Holiday Workshop on Sat., Dec. 18 from 10 AM-noon. Supplies still needed: tuna and short pet food cans, wool sweaters that can be shrunk (like felting). Drop them off in the library.

MERI Holidays for Kids!

Free family event!

Polar Bears and Penguins.

Ocean Crafts – Live Music – Refreshments

Sunday, December 5, 2-4 PM

MERI Center for Marine Studies, Main Street,
Blue Hill

At the Grand! Gingerbread House Workshop for kids-7 & up!

Saturday, December 11 from 10 AM - 1 PM.

Get in the spirit of the holidays with this delightful workshop! Instructor, Janis Fitch from Castine, will guide participants through the process of building the gingerbread houses and decorating them. Tickets: \$15 per person. Class Size Maximum: 10! Sign up now! Feel free to call Kristie at 667-9500, or email KBillings@grandonline.org.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Fri., Dec 3: PTF Family Movie Night, *Santa Paws*, 5:30 PM

Week of Dec. 6: Conferences and Book Fair

Sat., Dec. 11: Robotics Teams to Augusta

Mon., Dec. 13: 6th Grade to Boston

Thurs., Dec. 16: K-4 Winter Concert, 6:30 PM

Sat., Dec. 18, PTF Holiday Kids' Workshop, 10 AM - Noon

Mon., Dec. 20: 5-8 Winter Concert, 7:00 PM

Thurs., Dec. 23: Christmas Vacation Begins (last student day Dec. 22)