



EXPLORATIONS

Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

December 15, 2010

Classrooms are busy places.....

Two of the most bustling times during the school day happen at the beginning when children are excited to communicate news to teachers and at the end when teachers have to make sure that students are ready to go home with all the materials they need. Teachers need to ensure that children head off in the right direction - whether it is to catch the bus, to attend a sports practice, to walk to the town library, or to be picked up in the lobby. Sandwiched between these critical times of the day students have precious time for learning, and “time on task” is a known key to student achievement.

I was amazed early in my career to learn that each day teachers can have over a thousand interactions with students and fellow staff members. Given that information, you can imagine how hectic it can be at school during the course of a day, and that it is distracting to students when there is an unplanned interruption, no matter how brief. Potentially, with an average of 15 students in a classroom, that could mean a lot of interruptions in instructional time.

It is for these reasons that we request that parents not go to classrooms unless an appointment with a teacher has been made. Please try to help your child organize his/her day before coming to school and to make sure he/she has all that is needed for the day. We know that plans change now and then, but if there is such a change of plans and you have a message to give or something to drop off we gladly will deliver it from the office. Thank you for understanding.

*Best Regards,
Della*

PTF NEWS

*Don't miss the KIDS' HOLIDAY WORKSHOP THIS SATURDAY from 10 AM-noon! The cafeteria will be transformed into Santa's Workshop with many gift-creation stations for all skill levels and everyone on your gift list. Supplies, instructions, help and snacks will be provided. Thanks to Heather Nelson, Deb Kingston and Annie Rice for organizing this fun annual event, and to everyone who will be helping at the tables, donating snacks and supplies, and coming to the event! (A donation jar at the door will help support this and future PTF activities.)

*Please bring in any Hannaford School Dollar Certificates -- we must turn them in at Tradewinds this Friday in order to count towards our total! And we continue to collect Boxtops for Education and Labels for Education, and used cell phones and printer cartridges for recycling.

Library News

Thanks to the Richardson Family for some great holiday gifts to the Library: The Golden Rule by Ilene Cooper, Dark Emperor & Other Poems of the Night by Joyce Sidman, and The First Chinook by David Pagel. The latter two were illustrated with lovely woodcuts by Rick Allen. Thanks also to library volunteer extraordinaire, Betty Avery (age 80+!), for donating two books from the Book Fair: My Uncle Martin's Big Heart: A Story About Martin Luther King, Jr., Through the Eyes of His Niece, and Tales of Famous Heroes by Peter and Connie Roop. And lastly, thanks to everyone who supported the Book Fair! The library will benefit with 25% of the proceeds.

'Tis the Season....

It's hard to believe that Christmas is less than two weeks away and your kids will soon be enjoying the holidays and a vacation. I'm sure

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

all of you, as parents, are busy preparing for the holiday, as well as going to and from your everyday jobs and responsibilities. I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you and your kids a wonderful holiday season. As you rush to and fro in your daily endeavors and in all the preparations for the holidays and family gatherings, please take a few minutes to relax as well. As parents and caregivers, we often forget to take care of ourselves. Enjoy your families and your kids. Take care, and stay healthy.

~~Debbie Candage, RN, BSN
Union 93 School Nurse

DATES TO REMEMBER:

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

Sat., Dec. 18, PTF Kids' Holiday 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)

Mon., January 3, 2011 – Return to school for a New Year!