



EXPLORATIONS

Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

April 13, 2011

Next Week is April Vacation! Enjoy the Spring!

“Oliver!”

Congratulations to all cast members who gave us two fun-filled shows last weekend. I continue to hear the songs in the hallways! Thank you Deborah and Makaela Reinke and all the parents, teachers, musicians, and community members who volunteered! It was a SMASH!

Kindergarten Registration will be held on May 5 & 6. If you have, or know of, a student who will be 5 on or before October 15th, please call the office at 374-2202 for an appointment. Students in the current kindergarten classes will not be attending school on those days.

After School on the Playground Revisited (Week 2)

As mentioned last week in the newsletter, there have been several instances of rough play and unkind words on the playground after school. Students are well aware of the rule of “hands off” and being kind to all during the school recesses, but after school there is NO supervision on the playground. You are welcome to bring your child to play after school, as it is a great and fun facility, but please stay to supervise them, especially if they are in grades *below fifth grade*. Our goal is to prevent instances of physical harm or teasing and bullying. Please do not ask an older child to watch them, and please be visible on the playground. At no time should the students be inside the building (unless there is an emergency) or on the emergency stairs outside the school after school. If students are not being appropriate and we get complaints from other parents, then we will have to ask your child not to use the playground after school. Hopefully, a fun and safe play time will be the experience for kids after school.

Coming Soon: Student Garden Club!

If you know anyone who likes getting his or her hands dirty and helping with gardening, tell them to save Wednesday afternoons in May! As a pilot project leading to what will hopefully be an ongoing offering next year, from 2:45-4:00 PM, for all four Wednesdays in May, students in grades 3-8 can help with the BHCS greenhouse and gardens around the school. Watch for the sign-up form after vacation. Direct your questions to Cate Reuter, Heather Nelson, or Sharon Scheff.

Family Spring Fling, April 28th

Reserve Thursday, April 28th from 5-7:30 PM for this family event that will highlight the many aspects of the 5-2-1-0 message in lots of fun ways. Come to the Cafeteria at 5 to enjoy the film "Recess Stories" created by Shelly Latham and Kenton Jakub (Beeswax Productions) and featuring many BHCS kids telling their recess stories. The Potluck starts at 5:30 and will feature two delicious soups provided by Healthy Peninsula and the Simmering Pot. Families are encouraged to bring something yummy to share, along with the recipe that we can scan and upload to the BHCS website. At 6 PM, the action moves to the Gym where there will be information and sampling tables provided by our Kitchen Staff, Healthy Peninsula, Blue Hill Memorial Hospital Dietary Department, the Farm to School Program, tours of Casa Verde, our greenhouse, and more. There will also be active demonstrations and instruction of circle dancing, hula hooping and zumba! So come hungry and ready to move, learn and enjoy! Added bonus -- the first 100 students in the gym will get a 5-2-1-0 water bottle!

Lobby Display

If you like Lego figures, check out the display case in the lobby. Third grader Thomas Marsh is sharing his extensive collection for the month of April. Contact Becky Richardson or Beth Jackson if you (kids, parents or staff) have a collection you would be willing to share for May.

To the origami rescue!

Thanks to Karen Larken, Lesley Litwiller and Donna Tomacki for adding to our supply of origami paper for this Thursday's Theme Team Time, where students will have a little Japanese "Give and Take" -- they will make origami paper cranes to send to earthquake and tsunami victims in Japan to boost their spirits and enable clothing donations through Oshkosh B'Gosh, and they will make and sample fresh spring rolls which come from Japan and East Asia (and are favorites of Mrs. Granger and Mrs. Ricker, among others!). Note: there will be a fresh spring roll demo and sampling table at the 5-2-1-0 Family Spring Fling on April 28, if you want to learn how to make them!

Next PTF Meeting....

The April PTF meeting is tonight (4/13) at 6:30 PM in the library (then in Mr. Baxter's room if the school board meeting isn't over).

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

Library News

As promised, the state-wide results for the Chickadee Award are: 1st-Circus Ship by Chris van Dusen; 2nd-Lousy, Rotten, Stinkin' Grapes by Margie Palatini and Barry Moser, and 3rd-Tsunami by Kimiko Kajikawa and Ed Young. The Maine Student Book Award state winners were: 1st-Nubs: the True Story of a Mutt, a Marine & and a Miracle by Major Brian Dennis, 2nd-Catching Fire by Suzanne Collins, and 3rd-11 Birthdays by Wendy Mass. The BHCS winner, Killer Pizza by Greg Taylor, came in 4th. They are all great reads, so come in and check them out!

2011 Yearbook! Looking for advertisers!

Promote your business or your child. Take out an ad in this year's yearbook. Please contact Kathy Soper at 374-2703 for details.

Note From the Band Room

Congratulations to everyone involved in the musical "Oliver"! It was truly a special experience and great fun to be a part of it. A special thanks to Deborah Reinke who suggested live music for the play, and to Audrey Means and Rachel Nightingale for the fine clarinet and flute work! Also, thanks to community members Steve Rappaport and Cameron O'Brian who played bass and drums, respectively.

Morning Riff Club Starting! Since the jazz festival, the kids have come to school really fired up, so we have been working on some new tunes for the spring. There isn't time after school with baseball/ softball starting, but I will meet before school at 7:15 starting after April break. This would be on Tuesdays (4/26, 5/3, 5/10, and 5/17) for the Senior Jazzband and Thursdays for the Junior Jazzband (4/28, 5/5, and 5/12) kids. This is totally optional, but would be a great opportunity to play.

Summer Music Opportunities:

GSA Jazz Camp...June 20 to June 24 (for those entering 7-9 grades next year)

U Maine MSYM...Junior, July 10 - 16th, and Senior July 17 - 23rd

Maine Jazz Camp...July, Farmington, ME, (Google Maine Jazz Camp)

Future Performances include the Spring Concert...Tuesday, June 7 @ 7:00 and Graduation, where next year's Jazzband performs...Thursday, June 16.

Sports news!

The sports calendar is on the BHCS website! Click on Athletics/Sports to access.

A team baseball and softball athletes were sent home with April calendars and written expectations from the coaches. Please read these carefully. You can see the coach or Mrs. McKechnie with any questions. A few A team parents were not able to make the sports meeting. Please see Mrs. McKechnie after school by chance or make an appointment to get all the information you need to make spring sports a success for your child.

We are building 5th and 6th grade intramural

teams. The 5/6 Baseball Intramural team will start on April 25th. The 5/6 Intramural Softball team will start on May 2nd. The time is always 4:30-5:30 PM. The practices are to practice skills and scrimmage for some real game time.

For Both A team and the 5/6 Intramural teams: Baseball is at the Blue Hill AA field (The field on the left past the tennis courts on Union Street). Softball is at the BHCS school field.

The 3/4 Intramurals will be held in the gym for the first couple of weeks, then move to the BHCS school field as weather allows.

Thank you to Brooke Clapp and Alma Mote for donating old baseball gloves and cleats. We have a bucket started for the 3/4 intramural team to use. Any additional old gloves or cleats that might work for a 3/4 grade student are welcome. Drop them in Mrs. McKechnie's room. Happy Spring!

Apple Trees

Phil Norris will visit us again on April 29 to check on our apple trees. Each grade will join him for 10 minutes to discuss the progress and plans for keeping the trees healthy. He will arrive at 8:30 AM and spend 10 minutes with each grade and their tree.

5-2-1-0 Tidbit ~~~~"2 HOURS OR LESS OF RECREATIONAL SCREEN TIME EVERY DAY"

Hello again, everyone!! April is here, and with warmer weather comes the desire to "get outside" and enjoy the many outdoor activities we wait for all winter. So, it's almost automatic that the amount of time spent playing video and computer games and watching TV will become less with the warmer weather. April includes Screen Time Awareness Week from April 25th - April 29th, so we are highlighting this aspect of the 5-2-1-0 message this month. Please send in your screen time record sheets that were attached to last week's newsletter, and try to be a bit more aware of screen time during that week after vacation.

Pediatricians in the US are concerned about how much time kids are playing gameboys, play-stations, watching TV and playing computer games. On average, 22-28 hours every week are spent playing or watching a screen. This is more time than any other activity except sleeping!!! More snacking is linked to watching more TV. Too much TV is linked to attention problems and lower reading scores. And of course, kids are gaining more weight and becoming more sedentary in their everyday lives. These results for our kids today will lead to more health problems for them in the years to come.

Here are some suggestions to help your kids and families spend a little more time doing activities that will substitute for the TV or computer screen: Keep books, magazines, and board games out in plain sight; put on some music and have a fun dance with the kids; go out and throw a ball with each other; have everyone pitch in to help cook a meal and set the table for a fun family meal together; go for a walk with the family; start a family

puzzle and spend a little time working on it together. We are very fortunate in Blue Hill to have a beautiful mountain and park in town that families are welcome to use. It's also a wonderful place to go explore the beach for water treasures! There are so many things to do and places to do them right outside our back doors! *Mrs. Granger and Mrs. Ricker will lead a hike up Blue Hill Mountain on Friday, April 29th as part of Screen Time Awareness Week, so plan to go on that, and the Family Spring Fling the night before!*

STILL NEEDED: Pictures of BHCS kids and families doing fun activities that don't require a TV or screen for a bulletin board highlighting all these activities for everyone to enjoy at the "5-2-1-0 Family Spring Fling." Please send them in before vacation. Thanks very much :) ~Debbie Candage, School Nurse

8th Graders are Welcome at GSA Rec Nite, 4/29!

Public Safety Nite featuring:

**State Police K9 Dog Demos

**The Fire Department, see how fast you can put on the fire fighter's gear while getting through a maze. Learn how you can be a junior fire fighter.

**Tour the new AMBULANCE.

**Make ICE CREAM SUNDAES and enjoy other concessions.

Coach Bill Case's Girls and Boys

Basketball Camps

Summer 2011

GIRLS, June 27 through July 1 @ GSA Gym

Girls Grades 6-8, 9 AM to Noon.

Girls Grades 9-12, 1 – 4 PM.

BOYS, July 18 through July 22 @ GSA Gym

Boys Grades 6-8, 9 AM to Noon.

Boys Grades 9-12, 1 – 4 PM.

COST: \$100 per student per week.

Questions? Send Coach Case an email at

b.case@georgestevensacademy.org

or phone him at 374-2808.

More Cookies?

If you want more Girl Scout cookies, see Melissa -- Emerton or Norwood!

Jared Grindle Youth Sport Scholarship application forms can be picked up in the office, or call 326-9391 with questions or to find info on camps available.

Again, congratulations to **Logan Lord** who placed third in his division at the Marshwoods New England Wrestling Classic Competition two weekends ago. This is in addition to his previous honor!

H-O-P

Hop on down to the Ellsworth Movie Theater on Thursday afternoon (4/14) at 4:30 PM for a special showing of "Hop" at the matinee price of \$5.50. (rated PG, 1 hr. 30 min.).

Brooklin Hosts Spring Dutch Soccer Academy Camp!

May 20, 21, 22 (Fri., Sat., Sun.) for grades K-8. For more information or to register go to www.dutchsocceracademy.com or pick up a registration form at the office.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

April 13 (W) School Board Meeting, 5:00 PM
PTF Meeting, 6:30 PM

April 15 (F) Start of April Vacation, 3:00 PM

April 25-29(M-F) Screen Time Awareness Week

April 28 (TH) 5210 Family Spring Fling,
5:30-7:30 PM

May 5&6 (TH/F) Kindergarten Registration

May 6 (F) Project Acceptance Day, Grades 5-8

May 30 (M) Memorial Day – no school

June 7 (TU) 5-8 Spring Concert

June 9 (TH) K-4 Spring Concert

June 16 (TH) Graduation, 7:00 PM

June 21 (TU) Last Day of School