



EXPLORATIONS

Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

September 22, 2011

A Time to Talk by Robert Frost

When a friend calls to me from the road
And slows his horse to a meaning walk,
I don't stand still and look around
On all the hills I haven't hoed,
And shout from where I am, 'What is it?'
No, not as there is a time talk.
I thrust my hoe in the mellow ground,
Blade-end up and five feet tall,
And plod: I go up to the stone wall
For a friendly visit.

This poem by Robert Frost is one of my all time favorites. Perhaps it is because of my rural Maine roots, but most likely, and very simply, it's because I like to talk to people. I hope that parents feel comfortable coming in to talk to teachers and myself about their children. There is no more precious conversation than the one that goes on about the well being of a child. Talking is also a way to make sure that everyone is on the same page. Communication is key to providing the very best opportunities for a child. I hope you all feel welcome to come in and talk at BHCS.

~ Della Martin, Principal

School Photos

School photos will be taken this Friday, Sept. 23. If you want to order photos you must return your order form with payment on Friday. Everyone will have a photo taken as they are used for class pictures, yearbook, etc. Pre-school children are welcome to come in at that time, as well. If you can't order on Friday for any reason, the retake date will be November 4th.

Library News

- Our school library is looking for volunteers to help out in the library, including someone to learn how to repair books from our "book doctor," Mariah Hughs. Stop by the library if you might be interested.
- The public library is looking for volunteer teens and nearly teens interested in reading to young children in the "Reading with the Big Kids" program on Monday afternoons from 3-5 PM starting Oct. 17. Interested volunteers are invited to a brief orientation on Monday, Sept. 26 from 3:30-4 PM, with information on how to read with young children, the sorts of books that are good to read, and how the program works. Refreshments will

be served! For more information, call Pat at 374-5515.

Go Local

Don't forget to send in the blue summer activity sheet showing all the local, active things your child did over the summer.

PTF

The notes from the September PTF meeting will be posted on the PTF link on the BHCS website. The October meeting will be Wed., Oct. 12 at 6:30 PM.

Maine Harvest Lunch Week

Next week, September 26-30, is Maine Harvest Lunch Week. All of the salad items served that week will be donated or bought from local farms. There is a menu change on Friday, September 30. Everything served that day is from a local farm. The menu will be: chicken pot pie with a biscuit on top, apple, salad, blueberry crisp and milk. We extend a huge thank you to Cate Reuter for organizing this event!

8th Grade On The Web

Did you know that 8th grade homework can be accessed online?

Did you know that Mrs. Kennedy posts a weekly blog every Friday about what happened in ELA and SS during the week?

Did you know that there are also pictures of students and their work?

You can find all of this and more from the www.bhcs.org homepage. Just click 'Middle School' and then 'Mrs. Kennedy' to see what you've been missing!

Response to Intervention (RTI)

One of the ways that BHCS provides the highest quality of education for every student is through a three-tiered approach to instruction. This process known as **RTI** provides additional support beyond the core curriculum. Students receiving supplemental interventions are monitored frequently to ensure that they are progressing. Tier 1 is differentiated classroom instruction. Students who are not progressing at a rate to meet end-of-year

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

benchmarks will be provided Tier 2 interventions in a small group or individually. Interventions occur for a minimum of 6 weeks, but may continue as needed to ensure student success in the core program. The instructional support team may make adjustments in the intervention plan based on the student's progress. The intervention may change, or the intensity and frequency of the intervention may change. The more intense level is considered Tier 3. Parents will be invited to team meetings and are encouraged to be active in their child's intervention plan.

MLTF Offers Free Dial-Up

Free dial-up home Internet access is available again this year for all 7th and 8th grade students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch cost. They have made the application and set-up procedures quick and easy in order to maximize the number of students participating in the program. This service is being provided through a cooperative agreement between Great Works Internet (GWI) and the Maine Learning Technology Foundation (MLTF), a privately funded non-profit organization that supports ancillary services associated with MLTI.

From the Band Room

Instrument Rental Night: Tues., September 27, 7:00 PM. Attention 5th Grade Parents! Representatives from the Northern Kingdom Family of Music stores will offer an instrumental "rent to buy" opportunity next Tuesday night in the BHCS cafeteria. Please let me know ahead of time if you are interested in the "rent-to-buy" option so NK will have a sense of how many instruments to bring. If you have a second hand instrument that you would like them to appraise for you, bring it to the meeting. If buying new does not work for you, I know that Misty Redman and Vicki Davis are selling their used flutes, and Judy Park is selling a used clarinet. Please contact me (or one of these people) if you are interested in a used instrument. If your child is still unsure, don't panic as we can find them an instrument in due time.

Last year the Bangor Symphony Orchestra started a new program called the Young Musicians Institute (Y.M.I.) This youth orchestra was a huge success and they are excited to tell you that they continued the program, AND have expanded it into two orchestras.

The name of the group has changed to the Bangor Symphony Youth Orchestra and is an education program of the Bangor Symphony Orchestra. Conducting duties will continue to be shared by Gina Provenzano and Lucas Richman. The BSYO gives qualified middle and high school students the opportunity to work with BSO musicians and gain performance experience in an encouraging and motivating environment. Applications and other information are now available on the Bangor Symphony Orchestra website, www.bangorsymphony.org or by calling the Bangor Symphony office at 207-942-5555.

Auditions will be held on Saturday, Sept. 24, at Bangor High School. In order to schedule an audition, musicians must complete an application and mail it to the Bangor Symphony.

Please email me (bschubeck@bhcs.org) with any instrumental music questions. ~Mr. Schubeck

Sports News - The Latest Games/Meets

The BHCS Cross Country team ran their first meet at Bay School, competing with 6 schools. All of the BHCS boys placed in the top 35 places, earning points for their team and 5th place. Richie Acampora was our fastest boy, placing 9th out of 59 runners. The girls placed 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th; this clustering of runners was a great strategy. Even though the Bay School had the top 3 places, the BHCS girls' team ran together as a team and won the meet! The A soccer team has played four games. BHCS won the Surry game, lost by one goal at Deer Isle, lost a tough game to Pemetec, and won the Bay School game. The B1 soccer team played the Bay School on Monday and won their first game. Our B2 soccer team played the A team from Sedgwick and lost a close game on Tuesday night.

Paloozas?

You may have noticed some Soccer Paloozas on the schedule. A Soccer Palooza is a fun, celebration-style soccer game with lots of teams. The teams will play 15 minute running time games with each of the other teams. Mount Desert Elementary School (MDES) and Pemetec will palooza with our two B teams at BHCS on September 27th. Our A team will loan out a couple of 7th grade students to support the B teams - as needed. Coaches will make the decision about the level of participation that is appropriate for the 5th grade players in this game and talk with players ahead of time. Our main focus is to keep the games fun and safe.

All of our 6th and 7th grade players will combine forces on October 3rd, and October 14th to field two BHCS teams to go to the two away Paloozas with MDES and Pemetec.

A concession stand during the home palooza would be a terrific opportunity to raise some soccer funds and add to the celebration. If there are any parents willing to run a concession stand or donate snacks for September 27th, please let your coaches know.

The Round Robin on Saturday was lots of fun; our A team won all 6 games and scored lots of goals! Woohoo!

Sports Calendar Changes - Always look online at our website (www.bhcs.org) (Athletics/Programs) for the latest schedule. There have been some switches on the calendar already. After playing our A Soccer team at the Round Robin, the Sedgwick School has decided to play our two B teams this year. Our B2 team played the home game with Sedgwick on Tuesday; thank you to all of

those B2 families for making a quick switch! The B1 team will play at Sedgwick on October 7th. Also, the B1 game @ Brooksville has been changed from October 14th to November 1st.

Parker Pruett Cross Country Meet

The Cross Country team will go to Sumner for the Parker Pruett meet on Monday, September 26th. The coach will not be able to go to this meet with the team, so I will be supervising the team. Any parents interested in helping our runners get to the start of the race, walking the trail with the team prior to the race, or scoring would be welcome. The hosting team does sell t-shirts at this event for \$15. Lots of teams participate in this race; it is a crowded event so takes longer than a typical meet.

Reminder - Even if it is hot during the day, the afternoons are cooling down quicker each day as the sunset gets earlier. Please send your players to practices and games with under armor and warm sweatshirts so they stay cozy. All of the coaches would like players to arrive at practice and games with a water bottle.

~~Mrs. McKechnie

Making Strides Run/Walk

Sat., October 1, 10:00 AM. Pre-register by 8:05 Monday, Sept. 26th and be entered in a raffle for a local gift certificate. Registration forms can be handed in to Loretta at the office. Additional sponsorship money can be handed in on the day of the race. Checks should be made out to "Making Strides." Volunteers are still needed. There is a sign-up sheet in the school lobby.

Audubon Thanks

We would like to thank Mrs. Shaw and Mrs. Rooney, the Audubon representatives, who visited our school this week. They helped us pound a huge pipe into the ground with a sledgehammer to raise the height of the bird feeders. Audubon also donated all of the suet we will need to feed the birds this year.

ORGAN POPS WITH GERALD WHEELER

This Saturday, September 24th at 5:00 PM, at the First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, Gerald Wheeler will play a one-hour program of 'lighter' music for organ and harpsichord.

Apart from two well-known toccatas – the "Toccatina and Fugue in D Minor" by Bach and the Toccata from Widor's 5th Symphony, there will be a few shorter selections in a 'less formal' vein.

Gerald Wheeler is the Music Director and Organist at First Congregational Church of Blue Hill. There is no charge for admission, but there will be a voluntary offering. For more information, please call the church office at 374-2891.

PMAL News

Arts Playhouse is underway AGAIN! And this time we are doing it Percy Jackson style! For any who don't know Percy, he's the child of Poseidon - yeah, the god of the ocean, Poseidon! He spends his summers at Camp Half-Blood with other children of the Greek gods! What do they do at Camp Half-Blood? Maybe they make scrapbooks of their parents' lives...or maybe they make models of Hephaestus's machines out of Legos...or maybe they learn how to use reed pipes like the satyrs...I bet they definitely write poetry like Apollo! Everyday, Monday through Thursday, September through October, PMAL students will explore the Greek Myths through the world of Percy Jackson at Arts Playhouse's newest offering - "Den of the Demigods!" Come and join us! Spaces are available Monday-Thursday 3:00 PM-5:00 PM. Sign up for one or for all! Call 374-5255 or email chris@pmalcenter.com to register.

Dates to Remember:

Fri., Sept. 23:	School Picture Day
Fri., Sept. 30:	Go Local Farm to School Lunch
Fri., Oct. 7:	Teacher In-Service Day – no school
Oct. 24-28:	7 th Grade – Camp Kieve