



EXPLORATIONS

Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

September 29, 2011

Education in America

I've been keeping my eyes and ears tuned to current news about education in America. There are several movements underfoot aimed at improving the conditions of schools across our nation. It is becoming obvious to the wide-ranging public and to our political leaders that the true purpose of education is to improve the human condition, and that we cannot ignore the basic need to educate all of our citizens and to do that well. While we know we have a great school, we also know that there are always things that we can improve. As an example, by looking at data from last year, our faculty decided that they would like to focus on writing and math this year. There have been many meetings already where our professional staff has developed strategies to improve student learning, but the research continues. We welcome your impressions of how you think our school is doing and any thoughts you have about education in general.

~Della Martin

Siblings Group

Some parents at BHCS have expressed interest in developing an in-school supportive friendship group for siblings of special needs students. If you have a child who would benefit from this type of group, please contact school counselor, Megan Granger at 374-2202, ext.104. If there is enough interest in this group we will start this fall.

Garden Club News by Fiona Larkin

We grew carrots - rainbow carrots. We found a big cucumber, and we picked tomatoes that we are going to make into pizza sauce. We cleaned out half of the greenhouse, and we found three watermelons and we ate them. They were delicious. We also made pesto from the basil and garlic we grew, and then we ate it on spaghetti. We harvested squash to display at the Common Ground Fair, and we harvested Swiss chard to take to the Food Pantry. We also harvested potatoes, and we will use them for snacks in a couple of weeks. *On October 1st we are opening the greenhouse for tours. Hope you can come.*

Go Local News

Monday was Johnny Appleseed's birthday! Our classes observed this event with a quick visit to "their" apple trees, those that were planted several years ago with the help of Mr. Phil Norris, as a way of recognizing the importance of trees for our planet. Each class has been following one specific tree through the years. Kindergarten kids inherit the trees from last year's 8th

graders. During their visits the students observe details about each tree's growth and general health. All trees seem to be doing well. There was a surprise for them when they arrived at their tree on Johnny's birthday... a bag of fresh Macintosh apples for them to enjoy!

Lunches this week have featured yummy Go Local rainbow carrots, onions, tomatoes, broccoli, cucumbers, and lettuce. Friday's lunch will be all local Maine products to celebrate Maine Harvest Lunch week!

Sports News

Cross Country - The Parker Pruett meet at Sumner High School on Monday was HUGE! Over 300 runners and 13 schools participated. Our girls' team placed 3rd! If you look on YouTube under the title "Girls race at Parker Pruett Middle School XC meet: September 26, 2011" you can watch the finish for the girls' race. Susanna Jakub was the fastest BHCS runner for the girls' team. Joseph Norwood was the fastest runner for the boys' team.

The first **Palooza** went so well that the coaches would like to invite all of the 5th grade players to all of the Paloozas. Thank you to Deb Kingston for making the announcements so much fun. Thank you also to Quinn Stabler, the Palooza DJ. The B teams played well - and danced well, too. Soccer Paloozas are fun!

A-Team Soccer - We visited Castine last Friday and Brooklin on Tuesday for two more wins! One highlight from the Castine game was the goalie from Castine kicking the soccer ball from one goal into the other! Now that's a small field! In Brooklin, our players impressed their coach with lots of good passing. The team is working well together, looking great on the field.

Funds for Sports - **Tradewinds** store donated \$1000 toward the new score clock in the gym. This generous donation is the last of the funds needed to pay for the clock. Thank you, Chuck and Belinda Lawrence.

The Williamson family earned \$250 selling concessions at our Home XC Meet and the Palooza. The XC team plans to use some of the money to purchase a fancy timer to use at the next home race. The soccer coaches are hoping for more cones. Thank you, Williamson family for supporting our teams with funds for new equipment.

Dates to Remember:

Sat., Oct. 1: Making Strides Run/Walk
Open Greenhouse Day, 10 AM - Noon
Fri., Oct. 7: Teacher In-Service Day - no school
Mon., Oct. 10: Columbus Day Observed - no school

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