



EXPLORATIONS

Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

October 27, 2011

What Does "Monitor" in AYP Really Mean?

Those of you who attended the last Board meeting, probably have a fairly clear picture of why BHCS was placed on "monitor" status for Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) related to the New England Common Assessment Program's tests that were taken in October of 2010. Both local newspapers reporting on the meeting that evening had bits of the information, but not enough to make clear the reasons for our "monitor" status of AYP in math on these tests.

Let me first explain that for statistical data, Measured Progress (the group that administers NECAP testing) needs to measure at least 10 students in any target area of the population in order to have valid and reliable data. The target area we are talking about in this instance was Target E, the Title IA population. There are other target areas related to gender, race, ethnicity, migrant status, etc. One paper reported that three classes caused this blip. It was really just one. This class is an exceptional class with some really capable students who actually outscored many of the students in the rest of the school, and some struggling students who scored 13 points lower than the others in the class who were not considered to be in that target area. This happened for two years in a row, so that is why we are on monitor.

Many factors can contribute to lower scores beyond academic capabilities, including attendance, tardiness, nutrition, and so forth. There were only two other classes that could be looked at for this target area because these three classes were the only ones that had the population of more than 10 students to be examined. One of the classes had 11 in the target area, one had 12, and the other had 13 students (not a big difference from 10). In one of those classes the economically disadvantaged students performed better than the others by 1 point, and in another class they scored 3 points lower. But, the 13-point difference in the class mentioned previously was significant.

So, my opinion on the "monitor" status is that it is not realistic. I do not say that to be defensive, but the principals of other schools in the area with much lower populations commented

that they just don't have the numbers that we have in order to get evaluated. We also have to realize that more than 70% of the schools in Maine seem to be in the same boat as us. Working with statistics can be daunting, and you can see many things in the numbers depending on how you target groups.

That said, do we need to improve our students' performances in math? Yes. We have already committed to this at BHCS. Since last spring, we have been focusing on improving math skills through supplementations and by looking at the possibilities and offerings of new programs. Previous newsletters have addressed this and the work continues. Do we need to specifically change how we teach students in a target area? The answer to this can be found in our school's philosophy. We need to reach EVERY student at BHCS and to make each as successful as possible.
~~Della Martin

Barry Dana, Former Penobscot Nation Chief, Visits BHCS....

It was such a great Go Local day on Tuesday! Barry Dana was amazing at fielding tough questions that our students had for him. The kids were very good listeners and enjoyed getting to see all his cool and authentic artifacts. He felt really good about the day, saying that the school had great energy. Check our website for a photo. And thanks to BEEM for funding this great local speaker, sharing a different view of this area!
~~Penny Ricker

Original Works orders due!!

We will be mailing the orders in on Monday (10/31), so please get any orders in Friday, or by Monday morning at the latest. Thanks for your orders that will benefit BHCS arts activities, and provide special personal keepsakes for family and friends.

PTF (Parent, Teacher, Friend) News

•**Save those Halloween Costumes!** There will be a collection box in the lobby next week for any costumes that you would like to pass on. We have a safe place to store them until next October, when the PTF will have a Halloween Costume Exchange where folks can come to find new-to-them costumes.
•The PTF is sponsoring an **Internet Safety Night for parents and students in grades 3-6 on Thursday, November 3rd at 6 PM.** While students are

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

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welcome, parents are also welcome to attend alone. BHCS counselor Megan Granger and Nina Milliken from Downeast Health will be presenting. They welcome discussion questions from parents and/or students. Snacks will be provided, and Miss Nelson will provide childcare in her classroom if younger students need a place to be during the meeting.

•**PTF Discount Card in the works!** The PTF will be offering a discount card featuring a number of local businesses as a PTF fundraiser. If you would like to have your business included, or have ideas of places that you would like to see included, contact Shawna Pasternack (723-1240), Deb Kingston(460-4928) or Melissa Emerton(479-2763).

•PTF Webmaster Deb Kingston is adding things all the time to the **PTF website**, so check it often to see upcoming activities, how you can help, and pictures from past activities. Find it in the Public Links on the BHCS homepage.

Playground Spruce-Up

Thanks goes to all those who helped with the Playground Spruce-Up last weekend. It wasn't a big crowd, but A LOT got done, and the sausages by Foster Smith were great!

Rec Night for Grades 5-8 on Friday, Nov. 4!

BHCS students in grades 5-8 are invited to a Rec Night on Friday, Nov. 4 from 7-9 PM. The cafeteria and library will be set up with active and not so active games, including board games, Wii, and Dance Dance Revolution, and healthy snacks will be provided. Organized by the 5210 Committee, this is a pilot night to see if there is interest in such an offering on a more regular basis. Contact Denise Black for more information (374-5973).

Silent Auction to benefit Family Assistance

As cold weather approaches, fuel and other needs will be increasing. The Family Assistance Fund, maintained by the office to quietly help families with short-term challenges, needs a monetary boost so Loretta Smith is organizing a silent auction before Thanksgiving to benefit the fund. If you have something you would be willing to donate to the auction (services, food, meals, artwork, jewelry, gift baskets, gift items, clothing – in other words, anything folks are likely to bid on!), talk to Loretta (374-2202) or Rena Flores (374-9930). The auction will be up the week of Nov. 14th.

Garden News from Ana Scheff

We made popcorn. We popped it on the cob. We ate the popcorn. We put the wheat in bags and jumped on them and hit them on the walls to make the seeds

come out. Outside we planted daffodils. We planted baby strawberries. In the greenhouse we planted romaine lettuce. And, we planted some carrots. We all picked a pumpkin to take home.

Sports News: Mark your calendars for these end of the season fun nights!

•The Cross Country team is going to Marlintoni's for dinner and passing out certificates on Nov. 1st at 6 PM. Please RSVP to Kim Williamson if you are attending. We are trying to get a head count for the restaurant ahead of time. *And please, please, please turn in uniforms to Mrs. McKechnie ASAP!*

•Both B soccer teams are having a fun game at 2:45, then passing out certificates at 3:30 on Nov. 2nd right at BHCS. Following the game, pizza will be served! Please send in \$6 for your child to Mrs. McKechnie before Nov. 2nd, so we can order ahead of time.

•The A soccer team is having a fun game at 2:45 and then passing out certificates at 3:30 on Nov. 4th right at BHCS. A team will have a pizza party ON THE FIELD at the end! Let's hope it doesn't rain - that could get messy. Please send in \$6 by Nov. 4th to Mrs. McKechnie, so we can order pizza!

•**B team game changes:**

As requested by coaches, the game scheduled for Oct. 31st is canceled. Happy Halloween, B team!

•**Tournament News!** The first game of the A soccer tournament is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 28th. Blue Hill travel to MDES. The game starts at 4 PM. Blue Hill is seeded 7th and MDES is seeded 2nd.

Thinking of Jake.....

We are collecting items and donations of cash to put together a Care Package to send to Jake Fox, a former student of BHCS who was seriously injured in Afghanistan at the end of the summer. He is still in treatment and would probably love a "thought" from home. If you would like to contribute, please contact Della Martin or Loretta Smith in the office by Thurs., Nov. 10.

FLU VACCINES AT SCHOOL

Flu vaccinations will be administered to the students of Blue Hill Consolidated School on Thursday, November 17th, 2011. If you want your child to receive this vaccination, please send in the permission slip as soon as possible (November 17th at the latest). We will not be accepting any late permission forms. Please contact the school if you need another permission form or have any questions or concerns. Thank you. ~Debbie Candage, RN, BSN, School Nurse

Picture Retakes - Friday, Nov. 4

Bath Salts & Opiate Forum

What's happening in our local communities?
Monday, November 14th, 2011 at the Blue Hill Town Hall, 5:30-7:30 PM. Participants include Acadia Hospital, Blue Hill Memorial Hospital, Maine Drug Enforcement Agency and Open Door Recovery Center. For more info, contact Healthy Peninsula at 374-2441.

YMCA Basketball

Those fifth and sixth grade students interested in playing on the Blue Hill 5th/6th grade basketball team in the YMCA Recreational Basketball League, please contact Bob Granger at bob@rbwglaw.com or 374-2529 (evenings) by November 11. The YMCA Recreational League program typically starts in late November. Two practices and one game per week are anticipated, followed by a tournament at the close of the season. Regular season games have historically been played on Saturdays, and evenly split between home and away games. Some practices may occur on weekends depending upon availability of the BHCS gym. Parents are responsible for transporting their children for "away" games (locations such as Ellsworth, Hancock, Prospect Harbor, etc.). Schedule is subject to change. Space is limited. Further selection information will be forthcoming once we determine the level of interest.

Mighty Marvels Soccer

This is the last week for Blue Hill Soccer Club and Mighty Marvels Soccer. Home games are on Thursday, grades K-2 vs. Surry at 4:00 PM & grades 3-5 grade @ 5:00 PM. Saturday games are now both in Surry. For grades 1-2 the game is at 11:30 AM and for grades 3-5 it is at 12:30 PM. The Surry field is located off the North Bend Road. Take a left onto North Bend Road in Surry village, look for Jellison Ridge Rd/Murphy Rd. on the left. The field is on the left. Call Katye or Jim Lacasse with questions at 266-5434.

8th Grade Fundraiser at the Fire House

Games to play.... Food for sale.... a haunted hayride!
Monday, October 31 from 4:30 – 7 PM. Join us for the fun at the Blue Hill Fire House!

Trick or Treaters.... Happy Halloween

- For grades K-3: an invitation to Parker Ridge for treats! Monday, October 31, 3-5 PM. For more information contact Alma Mote at 374-5789.
- Trick or Read at the Public Library between 10 AM and 6 PM on Monday, Oct. 31. Kids in costume may choose a free book! Mrs. Boo, the library's Witch-

in-Residence, will be reading not-so-scary stories from 3-6 PM.

More Public Library news...

Sam Bartlett, expert in "Stuntology," will present an entertaining after-school program for kids ages 8 and up on Thursday, Nov. 3 at 3:30 PM at the Bay School's Emlen Hall (not at the library). He will be sharing his extraordinary talent for performing outrageous and fun tricks that will tickle the funny bone of even the most serious in the audience. This free performance is made possible through the support of the Friends of the Library.

•The Young Writers' club for ages 9-12 meets every other Saturday at 12:30 PM. The next meeting will be Sat., Nov. 5. This is an opportunity to have fun with words and be creative in a non-judgmental atmosphere.

Free Community Meal

The Simmering Pot—A Community Created Supper, Mondays, 2:30 to 6:00 PM at First Congregational Church. Eat in or take out. No charge, donations accepted. Info, email thesimmeringpot@gmail.com, or call 374-2891.

Go Local ~ Help Local!

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, BHCS will be collecting food during the first two weeks of November to donate to the Tree of Life Food Pantry. Collection boxes will be in each room, and the food will be delivered on Wed., Nov. 16 in Theme Teams.

Dates to Remember:

Mon., Oct. 31	8 th Grade Fundraiser at the Fire House, 4:30 – 7 PM
Mon., Oct. 31	Original Works orders mailed
Thurs., Nov. 3	3-6 Internet Safety Night, 6 PM
Fri., Nov. 4	Picture Retakes
Fri., Nov. 4	5-8 Rec Night, BHCS Café, 7–9 PM
Wed., Nov. 9	School Board, 5 PM
Wed., Nov. 9	PTF Meeting, 6:30 PM
Thurs., Nov. 10	Project Acceptance Day, Gr. 7/8
Fri., Nov. 11	Veterans' Day, No School
Wed., Nov. 16	Food delivery to the Food Pantry
Thurs., Nov. 17	Flu Clinic
Fri., Nov. 18	BHCS Thanksgiving Meal
Sat., Nov. 19	PTF Holiday Craft Fair 10 AM-2 PM
Wed., Nov. 23-	
Fri., Nov. 25	No School, Thanksgiving Holiday