



# EXPLORATIONS

## Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

December 8, 2011

No School Tomorrow, December 10.

### We Live and Learn

I have heard from several parents and teachers that they have missed having the September goal setting conferences that had been done in the past. Most likely, they will return next year. The intentions to not have them this year were reasonable and included the following points:

- There would be less calendar disruption during the early, critical school days of September.
- Teachers had limited completed pieces of student work in September to help set goals.
- There were plans in place to meet at the big Open House event.
- We offered group parent meetings regarding a variety of programs.
- Some teachers offered goal-setting meetings in August before school started.
- A student profile was distributed to gather information needed to better understand students and their needs.

What I have heard, however, is that the stretch from the first week of school until the first week of December is just too long, and there is a loss of communication when the individual conferences are not held. The initial meeting during the third week of September gave a real opportunity to connect faces and to share thoughts and ideas about the children we share. I hope the conferences this week have provided a good chance to share the successes and needs of your children. Next year, however, we will provide that one-on-one conference experience initially in September and then again in December and March. And, of course, you can always call for a meeting at any time. Not to worry, we will always have our popular Open House Picnic. Thank you for your input as we have worked through this. We live and learn.

~Mrs. Martin

### Grade 6 Visits the Boston Museum of Fine Arts on Monday.

A Guided Tour of Ancient Egyptian Artifacts, one of the best in the world! Monday, Dec. 12, leaving

BHCS at 4 AM to catch the train in Portland.  
Returning around 10:30 PM.

### Don't Miss Our Winter Concerts!

Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 7 PM for 5-8.

Thursday, Dec. 15 at 6:30 PM for K-4.

### Good Luck, Lego Robotics Team!

Have fun on Saturday at the First Lego League competition in Augusta.

### Library

Thanks for your support of the book fair. It helps to get books in the hands of children, holiday shopping done, and more materials for our library.

### PTF

\*The Go Local discount cards will be here next week, so get your orders in! The cards can be used repeatedly over the year at the participating businesses, so it is a great deal, and makes a great gift as well as having one for yourself! Help spread the word -- tell your neighbors and coworkers about the card too! BREAKING NEWS: THE CLASSROOM THAT SELLS THE MOST DISCOUNT CARDS BY CHRISTMAS VACATION WILL EARN A PIZZA PARTY IN JANUARY!

\*Samples of the Bobcat gear (hats, sweatshirts, shopping bags, duffel bags, t-shirts, fleece, etc.) are in the library, and the order forms will hopefully come home today. Any orders received by Friday, Dec. 16 are guaranteed ready before vacation.

\*Remember to save Sat., Dec. 17 from 10 AM-noon for the Holiday Craft Making Workshop for kids.

\*A letter is coming home today about the annual Helping Hands Holiday Ham dinner project that the PTF organizes each Christmas, with the help of students, staff and families, to help BHCS families in need.

### PEE-WEE Basketball

December 10, 10-11:30 AM at GSA.

Grades 1-4. \$10.00 per child.

Contact: Dennis Rackliffe, 374-2297.

### Free Hockey Gear

For someone who is involved in a hockey team, we have full gear for a youth teen. Skates size 9.

Contact Donna Gray at 374-5751.

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](http://www.bhcs.org)

### **3 & 4 YMCA Recreational Basketball League**

**Update:** We will be holding an open tryout this Friday the 9th from 4-5:30 PM at BHCS for all interested students in grades 3 and 4. We will be holding two practices weekly, one of which will be on every Sunday from 12 noon - 1:30 PM @ BHCS, the others will vary depending on available gym time and location. The YMCA game schedule will begin in January and all games will be played on Saturdays. The team roster will consist of players chosen from Friday's tryout. Please feel free to contact me at (207) 266-9242 with questions and concerns. We looking forward to a fun and successful season.

Best Regards,  
Jeffrey Allen, Coach  
John Mullen, (Assistant)

### **PMAL's Arts Playhouse is now taking registrations for the January/February session!**

#### **Mondays:** Arts Studio Workshop

Budding artist? Ready to expand your artistic scope? Join us in gently guided studio time that will give plenty of room to explore our own styles while delving into new media and techniques. A range of local artists will visit.

#### **Tuesdays:** Star Struck

Let's take advantage of the early dark! We'll learn constellations and their stories from all over the world, make up our own, play with images of stars, and create our very own planetarium in the center to take home.

#### **Wednesdays:** Winter Olympics

Winter sports are the best! Indoors and out we'll channel the traditions of sportsmanship to get out there and give it all we've got. No sports experience required, we'll make up our own events (most unique snowman, perhaps or bizarre team uniforms?) as well as enjoy traditional winter fun.

#### **Thursdays:** Theatre Wiggly

Come one, come all, the theatre calls! Lions and tigers and bears, oh my! Anything to let our minds let fly. The time is here to give a cheer for theatre and the play (we're going to make our own).

Contact Chris at 374-5255 or [chris@pmalcenter.com](mailto:chris@pmalcenter.com) to register. **Do you know a child who would enjoy an Arts Playhouse experience? Do relatives from away want to give your child something unique?**

We are thrilled to offer gift tuition for that someone special. Tuition for Arts Playhouse makes a wonderful present! Gifts are available in \$15 increments (the cost of an afternoon at Arts Playhouse). Your gift will include a personalized note that will be sent to the child. Contact us for more information.

### **Dates to Remember:**

Sat., Dec. 10	Lego Robotics Team in Augusta
Sun., Dec. 11	Grade 2 to the Grand for the Nutcracker, leaving BHCS at 1:15 PM
Mon., Dec. 12	Grade 6 to Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Tues., Dec. 13	Winter Concert – Gr. 5-8, 7 PM
Wed., Dec. 14	School Board Meeting, 5 PM
Thurs., Dec. 15	Winter Concert - Gr. K-4, 6:30 PM
Sat., Dec. 17	Kids' Holiday Workshop, 10 AM-Noon
Fri., Dec. 23	First day of vacation
Mon., Jan. 2	First day back in 2012!