



EXPLORATIONS

Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

January 26, 2012

Spelling Bee Champs!

Congratulations to 7th grader, Isaac Webb and 5th grader, Michaela White, who will be representing BHCS at the Hancock County Spelling Bee at the Ellsworth Middle School on Tuesday, January 31 at 6:30 PM. At our BHCS Spelling Bee, Isaac placed first, Michaela placed second, and Kessler Parrott in 6th grade placed 3rd and will be our alternate. Good job, good spellers!

We need some input!

We are considering providing an **activity bus for students who stay after school** for study hall, clubs, music practices, intramurals, etc. Our hope would be to provide transportation for children whose parents work and cannot get them to and from after school activities. We want to make sure all kids get to take advantage of all our programs. We really need to find out from you before we make this financial commitment, if your child would use this bus. It would be a bus that would leave BHCS at 3:30 PM and deliver children home to different sections of town. It could mean a long ride for the child who lives a long distance from school when the bus starts a route at the other end of town. We do not know which route the bus would go until we know who will ride the bus on different occasions. But, we want to hear from you if you think this is a good idea. Please email me (delmar@bhcs.org) when you get your online Exploration newsletter, or detach the slip at the bottom of your paper Exploration.

Garden Club News

by Ben Snow

Today we cut open milk jugs and we filled the bottom with dirt and seeds. The whole group planted the same kind of seed. Then we put in the dirt and the seeds. We took pieces of tape and put it around the jug. We took them outside and watered them, and left them out there (this is called winter sowing) and came inside for another activity. In milk boxes we put dirt and on the dirt we put seeds and then we had to put them on a blue tray. The seeds were called cat grass (really wheat grass). These will stay inside on Miss Nelson's window sill. The last thing we did was that we looked in a seed magazine with seeds and tools, too. We all got our own Johnny Seed Catalog. We came back together and shared what we thought we should plant in the garden.

PTF News

*Family Movie Night will be Friday, Feb. 3. The movie will be announced in the next newsletter, following a poll of the students. It will be suitable for all ages. Pizza and snacks will be for sale starting at 5:30 PM; the movie will start at 6 PM. All students should be with an adult. Free popcorn! (Healthy food donations welcome!)

*The next PTF meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 6 PM in the library.

*Mark your calendars for BEAR Night on Friday, March 2 -- Be Enthusiastic About Reading! More info to come.

*Check the PTF website for available Bobcat spirit wear.

Library News

Monday, Jan. 23, was a special day in the library world -- the announcement of this year's book awards from the American Library Association. In an interesting turn of events, Sylvia Burns donated *Balloons Over Broadway* by Maine author/illustrator Melissa Sweet in honor of her birthday just minutes before it was announced as this year's Siebert Award winner given to the best informational book for children! Thanks, Sylvia, for remembering the library for your birthday. It is even autographed to BHCS! Thanks also to Lou Wilson for donating some American Girl books!

Our February Lobby Display Case

For a trip down Memory Lane, check out the antique Valentines in our lobby display case brought in by Kathie Koontz.

Reminder – Students need to be dressed appropriately for the winter weather.

We realize that temperatures have varied this winter, but as the old saying goes, "If you don't like the weather in Maine, just wait a minute."

Temperatures can vary greatly from morning to night, so please suit your child up for cold weather. Thank you.

PeeWee Basketball

January 28, 10 AM

Penobscot @ Blue Hill

Tournament scheduled for March 10

@ GSA

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

Ongoing Youth Programs at the Blue Hill Public Library

Mondays, 3-5 PM - Reading With the Big Kids! Teens and early teens read to young children. We are always looking for big kid volunteers to read.

Tuesdays, 3:10 PM-5:10 PM - Reader Dog Program- Children ages 6 and older read for twenty minute periods with Bri or Gracie, trained Italian greyhounds. Sign-up is required.

Fridays, 3- 3:45 PM - Chess Club! Open to all kids ages 7 and up; this is an opportunity to learn the game or practice your skills. We provide the chess boards and snacks.

Saturdays, 12:30 - 1:30 PM – Young Writers Group! For students age 9-13; this meets every other Saturday from 12:30 - 1:30 PM at the Blue Hill Public Library. This is an opportunity for casual and creative writing outside of the school setting. Next meeting is Feb. 4th.

Call Pat at 374-5515 for more info.

First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, Cabin Fever Reliever Potluck and Variety Show.

This is a fund raiser for Youth Group & Tree of Life Food Pantry. Friday, February 3, 6:00 PM. Donation: \$6, for children \$3, and age 6 and under - free. Bring a can of food or pet food to get \$1 off price. For info call 374-2891 or email bhcongo@yahoo.com.

A Viennese Tea and Concert

Saturday, January 28, 2012
“Music from the Inside Out II” with Triple Helix. Come hear lively examples and fascinating insights about the music that will be performed Sunday afternoon. The Blue Hill Concert Association sponsors this. The presentation and Viennese Tea will be held downstairs at the Blue Hill Congregational Church at 3:00 PM. It’s free to season subscribers and a \$10 suggested donation for adult non-subscribers. As always, students under 18 are admitted free of charge!

Sunday, January 29, 2012
Triple Helix performs the final set of the Beethoven Piano Trios at the Blue Hill Congregational Church at 3:00 PM. Tickets for the concert may be purchased at the door for \$30. Students 18 and under are admitted free of charge.

For details about each concert and its musicians as well as to subscribe online, please check out our website:

www.bluehillconcerts.org.

In case of inclement weather, please call 374-5196.

Stay tuned...next week in Explorations!

The Fate of Handwriting in American Schools. This week I attended a national conference in Washington, DC related to handwriting in schools. Good information will be coming to you next week.

~Mrs. Martin

Dates to Remember

- Tues., Jan. 31 Hancock County Spelling Bee, 6:30 PM, Ellsworth Middle School
- Fri., Feb. 3 Family Movie Night, 5:30 PM; the movie will start at 6 PM.
- Sat., Feb. 4 8th Grade Dinner and Talent Event.
- Tues., Feb. 7 PTF meeting will be at 6 PM in café.
- Wed., Feb. 8 School Board meeting, 5 PM in café.
- Fri., Mar. 2 BEAR Night (Be Enthusiastic About Reading!) More info coming!

Please tear off this portion and return it to the office to indicate whether you would use an After School Activity Bus if it was provided next year. See more information in this newsletter.

ACTIVITY BUS SURVEY

Parent’s Name: _____

Student: _____

Current Grade: _____ Telephone: _____

Do you think having an activity bus is a good idea?

How might you use an activity bus?

Thank you!