



EXPLORATIONS

Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

March 8, 2012

**This Weekend – Change your clocks!
Spring ahead one hour on Saturday
night!**

The Importance of Lunch

It has come to my attention that some students are not eating lunch during the day. Teachers who have cafeteria duty and the kitchen staff have brought this to my attention. At BHCS we value good nutritional habits and encourage kids to refuel at lunchtime. We will emphasize this with students and let parents know if their child is not eating lunch. If you prefer that your child not eat lunch, please send us a note for clarification.

Math League News

Congratulations to the Math League students and their advisor, Ilona Rankin, for their participation in the New England Math League Contest on February 28th. Our “mathletes” include Jackson Billings, Lanie Billings, Cameron Gordon, Tyler Ray, Arlo Stabler, Yevgeniya Vinayeva, Katrina Walls, and Isaac Webb. The top scorers for our team were Isaac Webb in first place, Lanie Billings in second place, and Cameron Gordon in third place. The Math League is one of the choices that 7th and 8th grade students have for their Choice-Based Specials this year, and we are very grateful to Ilona Rankin for dedicating her time to help them focus on math, a subject these kids really enjoy.

Notice to Parents of 8th Graders

Registering for GSA - It would be helpful for parents with Internet access to complete the online registration for GSA before Wednesday, March 14. It can be found on the GSA website under "Admissions" and "Local Admissions":

<http://www.georgestevensacademy.org/120510810131642450/site/default.asp>. The link is near the top of the page and the form should only take about 10 minutes to complete. If parents can do it ahead of time, that's great, but if not, the GSA staff can get the information during the meeting.

Thank you,
Libby Rosemeier, GSA

Congratulations JAZZERS

Once again this year.....Mr. Schubeck's jazz band kids earned themselves a trip to the State Middle School Jazz Band Competition on March 24! The Senior Jazz Band received a 1 rating, the best you can get. Thank you Mr. Schulbeck, all involved parents and friends, and all jazz musicians! You make us very proud!

PROJECT CITIZEN

This year will be the 1st year that our 8th grade class will be participating in *Project Citizen* - a program in civic education. This program helps students to better understand how they can work to make a change in their communities. In order for this program to be successful however, we need help from our community - specifically you. Students have formed groups on problems in their state and community already, and in the next several weeks will research alternative solutions and propose a public policy of their own to solve these problems. Their ideas will be presented in a Portfolio Showcase on the evening of April 12th.

Community volunteers would be people who have knowledge or expertise in one or more of the topics listed below. They should be willing to be interviewed on a topic or give advice for possible proposed policies.

We also need members of the community who are familiar with the public policy process to help judge the projects on the day of the Portfolio Showcase event (attorneys, judges, lobbyists, congressmen, professors, etc.). The topics include:

- Dangerous Intersections in Blue Hill
- Texting While Driving
- School Energy Conservation
- Animal Cruelty
- Safe Places to Walk in Blue Hill

BHCS Teacher to Volunteer in Honduras Over April Vacation

Vicki Davis, our 8th grade math and science teacher, is a busy person doing charitable work with a team in the Sula Region of Honduras. Each day, her team visits a different school. They deliver a suitcase(s) full of school supplies. They spend time with the children. Sometimes they prepare a skit for them; last year they did a reading (two of the girls read the book in Spanish) of "Where the Wild Things Are" and performed a skit of the story. In the afternoons,

the team visits different villages. They take food, medicine, and clothing to them, walking from home to home visiting each family. There is also a medical clinic where some of the team members work. Some have even assisted in surgery! (Mrs. Davis says that is not for her, she tends to stick with schools and homes!) If any families are interested in helping out with some of the needs of Honduras, this is a list of some of the items they would like to take down to them:

Blunt Scissors
Rulers
Pencils
Erasers
Pens
Glue
Washable Markers
Notebook Paper
Composition Notebooks
Folders with Pockets
Zippered Pencil Cases
Toothbrushes and Toothpaste (small tubes)

In Mrs. Davis' words, "This is one of the things that I do with my family that makes us feel great - the opportunity to help those who are truly in need." She is excited for the students who might want to get involved. She'll take pictures and bring them back. Thank you so much for being supportive of the schools and children of Honduras!

Here are some facts about Honduras:

- Honduras is the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.**
- For every 25,000 people, over 15,000 live in extreme poverty.**
- Malnutrition is 42%**
- There is no public assistance no matter how dire the need.**
- The unemployment rate is 65% for the country; however, much higher in the area I will be visiting.**
- Many men work harvesting sugar cane and coffee.**
- Many homes survive on less than \$1 a day.**
- Almost half of the population is under 15.**
- 47% have no water in their homes.**
- Most water is taken from contaminated rivers.**

Recycle/Reuse

Mrs. Means is looking for unwanted, old (but still in good condition) baskets for storing classroom instruments. Any shape, but on the medium to big size. Thanks.

Pee Wee Basketball

Tournament, March 10 @ GSA, 10 AM – Noon.
Pizza and awards after the Round Robin!

PTF

*The next PTF meeting will be Tuesday, April 3 at 6:30 PM in the library.

*BEAR Night was lots of fun for the students and their adults who came to enjoy reading, book-ish activities and great book snacks such as green egg cookies and green hard boiled eggs (from Green Eggs and Ham), lots of yummy berries (from Jamberry), popcorn (from If You Take a Mouse to the Movies), oranges (from The Sun Egg), cookies (from If You Give a Mouse a Cookie), and many more. Check out the favorite character mural outside the office, and plan to join us next year!

*Easter egg stuffers needed. We are planning an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 31, and are looking for small, fun things we can put in the plastic eggs. You can drop any donations off in the library.

*We are looking to see if there are people interested in coordinating and/or helping with several possible projects this spring. If you are willing to help, please indicate that on the form coming home this week, and return it to school so that we can offer this wide range of activities and support to the school. We are also looking for a parent who would be willing to be co-president next year with Heather Nelson, as Melissa Emerton will be stepping down after 3 years as co-president.

*The PTF will again be providing a basket for the BEEM Silent Auction that will be held the last week in March, in conjunction with the BEEM Bash. This year's PTF basket theme will be "Go Local," so if you have something that you are willing to donate that fits the Go Local theme, drop it off in the library by March 23. As always, the PTF is happy to support other branches of the "Team BHCS!"

Library

*BHCS participated in the third annual World Read Aloud Day on Wednesday, joining hopefully more than 1 million readers and listeners around the world recognizing the importance of literacy for all. Take a few minutes this weekend to enjoy reading aloud with your family!

*The Spring Book Fair is coming the week of March 19, during the week of parent conferences.

BHCS Commits to Hancock County Food Drive - February 28 through March 30, 2012

Donate healthy, non-perishable food items for individuals and families in need. All proceeds go

directly to food pantries in Hancock County. Each food item is matched with an additional \$1.00 donation, up to \$12,000! Help collect 12,000 food items! What do pantries need? Canned vegetables, whole grain rice & pastas, healthy soups, tuna & canned meats, peanut butter & jelly, and low sugar cereals are all welcomed. We are hoping to fill the lobby with precious food items!

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Everyone is invited to the ninth annual St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner at the First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, Saturday, March 17, 5:30 PM. Enjoy a great corned beef and cabbage supper (or a vegetarian dinner--please request as you enter). The feast is followed by Irish entertainment in the church's Jonathan Fisher Hall. There will be delicious food and fun for all ages. Child care is provided. Space is limited, so first come first served. Suggested donation adults \$7, kids \$4. For information and reservations, call 374-2891 or email bhcongo@yahoo.com.

GSA Residential Program - Have you ever thought of hosting a high school student in your home? "One of the most rewarding & enriching experiences for our family has been hosting students from overseas" - Prudy Heilner. Please consider participating in this amazing opportunity for the 2012-2013 academic year. For more information contact Kathy Pelletier at k.pelletier@georgestevens.info or 374-2808.

Dates to Remember

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Wed., Mar. 14 | School Board Mtg., 5 PM |
| Mar. 19-23 | Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences |
| Fri., Mar. 23 | Teacher In-Service – no school |
| Sat., Mar. 24 | State Middle School Jazz Competition |
| Sat., April 7 | TOWN MEETING |
| April 10 and 11 | Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory performances |