



# EXPLORATIONS

## Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

September 5, 2012

### **Open House Picnic and BEEM's 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party!**

Please join us on Thursday, September 6, beginning at 5:00 PM for our annual open house and picnic. The students will be taking part in a fun scavenger hunt sponsored by BEEM in celebration of their 20 years of commitment to helping us provide enriching opportunities for BHCS students. They will be looking for some of the items that BEEM has provided over the years. At 5:25 we will all gather in the gym as we did last year, to say welcome back and to share information about the PTF and our new school-wide theme. Our picnic will be served outside at 5:30 where we will be entertained by the BHCS jazz band.

### **School Theme: Reach for the Stars!**

This year's theme for our K-8 school will be "Reach for the Stars." It encompasses so many far-reaching ideas and it reminds us of what we want for our students... to always work hard and to dream big!

Next Thursday, September 13, we will be hosting several Acadia National Park staff here with the **StarLab** planetarium, sharing programs about the night sky with all our students. Acadia will be using the StarLab for their 4th annual Acadia Night Sky Festival the following weekend. This is a great way to help kick off our "Reach for the Stars" theme -- literally!

### **Important Safety Request of Parents**

With a student population of 250 this year, it is more important than ever that you send your child to school each day knowing what he/she needs to do at the end of the day. Notes to teachers are very important, and please try to stick with your original plan unless there is an emergency. For safety and supervision reasons, please avoid phone calls to school to change plans at the last minute. The volume of interactions at the end of the day makes it difficult to assure that kids are where they are supposed to be in terms of transportation. We do our absolute best, but your cooperation with this will be greatly appreciated.

### **Universal Screening**

This year, along with other Union #93 schools, we will again be using a tool to help monitor student progress. It is called AIMSweb and we will be administering it 3 times a year, in September, January, and May. These brief reading and math surveys will take less than 10 minutes each, and help our staff direct each student's instruction.

### **FALL SPORTS**

### **Parent Meeting! Monday, September 10 at 4:00 PM in BHCS Cafeteria!**

It's really important for parents to attend so that all expectations are clear to everyone.

**SOCCER** - We have two A teams for soccer this fall: a 7/8 team called Coastal, coached by Mike Astbury, and a 6-8 team called Peninsula, coached by Mark Baxter. The team configurations were determined thinking about the teams that are available to play locally and on MDI. The local teams are mostly 6-8, with the occasional 5th grade students added to the roster to field a team. The MDI area schools have 7th and 8th grade teams selected based on talent and are usually quite competitive. In keeping with our sports policy, we have placed students on one of these teams. The hope is that our 6-8 teams will find the local teams a good match, and the 7/8 teams will find the MDI teams a good match. The goal is to provide students with games that are fun and competitive.

**Clinic Soccer** - New this year...students in grades 3-5 may participate in a soccer clinic three times a week! The soccer clinic will offer soccer athletes an opportunity to build and refine soccer skills while having fun. The clinic, coached by Mrs. Nightingale, will be on the soccer field for an hour every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 2:45-3:45 PM. The plan is to be sure that our athletes have the needed skills and information before we put them in a competitive game. In keeping with our sports policy, the 5th grade players who participate in the soccer clinic will have opportunities to play in interscholastic games with the Bay School B team, and possibly other schools.

**CROSS COUNTRY** - The cross country team began practice on the second day of school, September 5th from 2:45-4:00 PM. The team would love some volunteers to help get the trail into shape for our first home meet on September 20th. Families will get a permission slip on the first day of cross country practice for their child to run on the trail off the school campus.

All of the game and practice schedules are available online. Look at the *Athletics* page on the [bhcs.org](http://bhcs.org) website.

**ULTIMATE FRISBEE** - Get ready for Frisbee at a new time this fall. Ultimate Frisbee led by John Richardson will be offered from 4-5 PM on Friday afternoons. Join the fun! **STARTS THIS WEEK** – September 7th!

### **PTF**

Hannaford Helps Schools starts next week! From Sept. 9 to Dec. 21, 2012, you can earn school dollar certificates for BHCS worth \$3 for every 4 participating products you buy at any Hannaford grocery store. There is a collection box in Tradewinds that includes a slot for BHCS, and there will also be a collection envelope on the lobby message board here at school. This is always a major source of money to help with important projects and activities at BHCS. Look for the information fliers coming home this week.

### **Making Strides 5 K Run-Walk – September 29**

Attached to this newsletter you will find information about the annual Making Strides Run-Walk, the proceeds of which go toward the advancement of opportunities for children with autism. Please consider joining us this year for this fun and worthy event.

### **Health Alert: West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis and other Insect Related**

#### **Illnesses:**

The CDC has sent a health alert advisory to warn against mosquito-borne/tick-borne diseases. West Nile Virus (WNV) has been positively identified in two testing pools in Southern Maine. No mosquitoes have yet tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). Lyme Disease, and Anaplasmosis are other bacterial infections caused by deer tick bites and are still a concern for illnesses in Maine. There have been 483 cases of Lyme disease and 38 cases of Anaplasmosis reported so far in 8 different counties, including Hancock.

Helpful hints to remember:

- 1) Use an EPA approved repellent when outdoors, especially around dusk and dawn.
- 2) Wear protective clothing when outdoors - socks, long sleeve pants and shirts.
- 3) Stay away or remove standing water sources.
- 4) Make sure all your screens are in good repair.

For more information please visit the Maine CDC website, [www.maine.gov/cdc](http://www.maine.gov/cdc), or you may call them at [1-800-821-5821](tel:1-800-821-5821).

### **Health Alert: Pertussis(Whooping Cough)**

A health alert advisory has been issued by the Maine CDC regarding the increasing number of cases of Pertussis (also known as “whooping cough”) reported already in Maine this year. Nearly 400 cases have been reported this calendar year--nearly 4 times more than this time last year. The majority of cases have been in children 7-19 years old. Twenty cases have been reported in children younger than 1 year old, the age it is most fatal. DTap is the first vaccine recommended for all infants and children. Later, the Tdap booster is needed at age of 11 and above. Protection from the vaccine fades over time and is recommended in adults as well, especially those who are around young children. For more information, go to the Maine CDC website, [www.maine.gov/cdc](http://www.maine.gov/cdc), or you may call them at [1-800-821-5821](tel:1-800-821-5821). They have all the answers you are looking for, and valuable recommendations in the event of an outbreak of pertussis.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Thurs., Sept. 6    Open House Picnic and BEEM Birthday Celebration, 5 PM

Mon., Sept. 10    Parent Sports Meeting in Café – 4:00 PM

Thurs., Sept. 13    SkyLab Planetarium at BHCS

Sat., Sept. 29    Making Strides 5 K Run-Walk