



# EXPLORATIONS

## Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

September 13, 2012

*Thank you for making our annual Open House and Picnic a huge success and for singing Happy Birthday to BEEM! There was a tremendous turnout and a joyous spirit in the air. What a positive way to start a new year!*

### **BEEM Bucks**

The following students won the drawings for the BEEM Bucks as part of the celebration of BEEM's 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday and will work with their friends and teachers to plan something innovative and exciting to benefit the school community in some way. Winning the \$250 prize was Grayson Eaton in Mrs. Nightingale's class; Keira Stearns in Mrs. Norwood's class won the \$500 prize; and the \$1000 BEEM Bucks prize went to Lillie Maier in Mrs. Lewandowski's class. There have been several ideas floating around about how to best use this grant money, but nothing firm yet. These students and their teachers and friends have a lot of brainstorming to do. Thank you BEEM for not only giving our school BEEM Bucks, but for encouraging students to think in creative and productive ways!

### **Wednesday's Board Meeting**

Educational paradigms seem to be coming to many crossroads these days as we seek to improve our schools to meet the needs of the ever-changing society in which we live. At last night's board meeting there were several discussions that I would like to share with the entire school community, and I hope that if you have ideas and input, you will connect with us. We are also establishing various committees to start some fact finding work, trying to ensure a well thought out plan for our school in the years ahead. You may be interested in some of them.

**Pre-School** - The pre-school discussion came up last year and the year before, so this is obviously a concept that needs further consideration. The questions for BHCS are not around whether or not we value pre-school, but more around the logistics of where to place a pre-school program in our school due to our large population and very limited space. We also have questions about which entity would oversee such a program.

**After-School Child Care** - The after-school child care concept is being examined. We are fortunate to have Peninsula Metamorphic and Arts Learning (PMAL) as a resource for students after school.

Please look at their message included in this newsletter regarding the exciting opportunities for kids after school this fall. Additionally, the YMCA is interested in helping us make sure there are enough after-school child care opportunities and they are investigating the possibility of organizing a program at our school. Perhaps you might want to weigh in on your needs for after school child care; just let me know.

**Security Cameras** - Finally, we are continuing discussions at the Board meetings regarding security cameras at school. After last year's break-in, we began this conversation and had at first thought that the installation of security cameras inside and outside the school might be a good idea. Some, however, have expressed concern regarding privacy; others have expressed concerns for the safety of children while school is in session; and then others are concerned for the security of the school's property.

All are serious concerns, so we would like to hear your ideas and opinions regarding security cameras at BHCS. Please email me at [dmartin@bhcs.org](mailto:dmartin@bhcs.org) or call 374-2202. Help us make the best possible decisions for our school for the future. The School Board meets once a month on the second Wednesday at 5:00 PM and appreciates your input.

### **Fifth Grade Egg Drop**



And the winners were..... Chloe, Tom, Wade, Gage, Sam, and Courtney!

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

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**Urgent Request – Please do not block fire lanes near the school during school hours, and especially during bus times.**

### **Summer Reading in the Middle School**

BHCS middle school students kicked off a new tradition of reading the Maine Student Book Award nominees over the summer and did it in spectacular fashion! Students read and reviewed just over 100 books! The two top reviewers were Emma McKechnie (6th grade) and Ellie Gellerson (7th grade). This year, there are 40 books nominated for the Maine Student Book Award, and these two students read nearly all the nominees. Great Job!

### **BHCS Sports News**

#### **New - Clinic Soccer!**

Our soccer clinic kicked off their season on Monday this week! There are lots of soccer players out there on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 2:45-3:45 PM. If you missed the parent sports meeting, be sure to get a permission slip from Coach Nightingale, fill it out and return it to school. Also, please let your coach know about any medical conditions: allergies, asthma, or physical limitations that may impact your child's participation, so that she can be prepared. Grade 3-5 students should really wear cleats and shin guards. There are a few free ones available in the wagon outside Mrs. McKechnie's room. Feel free to leave a pair or rummage for a pair. Players are given a mouth guard to wear.

#### **Cross Country**

The cross country team will be running in their first meet at the Bay School, tonight at 4:00 PM. Next week is our home meet. Many parent volunteers are needed to put on a successful home meet. If you are able to assist with timing, scoring, setting up/cleaning up, or concessions, let Coach Kim Williamson know. If you can't be at the meet, we are also looking for families to donate bags of apples. It has been our tradition to give an apple to each of the runners during the scoring and awards, which will be 120 apples or so. We are also looking for a parent volunteer to take photos for the yearbook. Please let your coach know about any medical conditions: allergies, asthma, or physical limitations that may impact your child's participation, so that she can be prepared. Please remember to get your child's sports participation health form to the office before October 1st.

#### **Peninsula and Coastal Soccer – Our Fearless A Teams**

Peninsula players, please notice the change in

practice time on October 23. Coach Baxter requested an earlier practice for his team for that day.

The Fun-o-Rama is scheduled for next Saturday, September 22, from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM at the Maine Maritime Academy football field. Our teams will play all of the peninsula area schools, just for fun, in 22 minute running time games. Each of the teams pitches in to donate food items for all of the teams to share. Castine provides free hotdogs; some schools will send drinks, etc. Our responsibility is to send snacks. If each of the athletes on our teams brings one of the following type of snacks, we will easily have plenty: bag of pretzels or potato chips, bag of oranges or apples, box of granola bars or goldfish, cookies or brownies....picnic fare. It is a fun day and a great cheering and photo opportunity. Both teams need a parent volunteer to take photos for the yearbook. Please remember to get your child's sports participation health form to the office before October 1st.

**Last sports notice: There are no study halls offered after school.**

### **PTF News**

PTF Co-chairs Heather Nelson, Melissa Emerton (outgoing) and Nancy White (incoming) invite you to the Fall PTF Meeting TONIGHT (Thursday, Sept. 13) at 6:30 PM in the library. This will be the first of four meetings for the year, and will include voting in the new officers, planning for the 2012-13 school year, signing up for any projects or activities you would like to help with, and setting the next meeting date and time. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come and help with making BHCS the best school that it can be. We need your help and input!

### **StarLab**

Ask your children what they learned in the StarLab when they visited today, shared with us by staff from Acadia National Park. This portable planetarium will be at the YMCA in Bar Harbor this weekend as part of the 2nd annual Maine Starlight Festival this weekend, if you want to get a chance to see it as well. Thanks to Acadia National Park for making this available to our school! You can check [AcadiaNightSkyFestival.org](http://AcadiaNightSkyFestival.org) for more information on the schedule.

### **Looking for Library Volunteers**

If you are looking for a way to help out at school, consider volunteering in the library. We can use people who come in for a regular slot at the desk each week, helping to check books in and out and put them back on the shelves, as well as people who are interested in helping out as needed on a less regular

basis. Check with Beth Jackson in the library if you might be interested ([bjackson@bhcs.org](mailto:bjackson@bhcs.org), 374-2202x106).

**Arts Playhouse** - After school fun and more fun - has started its fourth season and would love to have you and your kiddos join us! From now through November we will be exploring Art on Mondays, Science on Tuesdays, Tree Forts on Wednesdays, and Super Heroes on Thursdays! A bus can easily get your child from BHCS to the PMAL Center where a healthy snack, homework help, and some serious fun awaits! Call us or check out our website for more information! 374-5255 or [www.pmalcenter.com](http://www.pmalcenter.com).

### **Blue Hill Public Library**

This Saturday, September 15 at 11:00 AM: "Around the World in 59 1/2 Minutes (or Less) with Filibert Binkleby & the Travelers" -- A Music Show for Families!

The following Blue Hill Public Library programs will be starting back up for the new school year:

\*Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3:10 PM to 5:10 PM -**The Reader Dog Program**. Children ages 6 and older may read for twenty minute periods with Bri or Gracie, trained Italian greyhounds. R.E.A.D. (Reading Education Assistance Dog) is a program designed to improve children's reading and communications skills by reading to a dog. Weekly sign-up sheets are in the Larchwood Children's Room at the Library.

\*Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> - 3:00 PM to 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.

### **Ongoing programs:**

\*Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>-10:30 AM to Noon -**Lego Club**- Lego enthusiasts are invited to come to the library and share ideas and creative energy during this monthly meeting. Each month there will be a theme. This is a program for ages 7-12.

\*Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>-12:30 PM- to 1:30 PM -**Young Writers Group**- This group enables young people aged 9 to 13 to share their writing, listen to the work of others, and be part of a group of passionate young writers. The group is very informal and is intended to provide a non-judgmental atmosphere for creative expression outside of school. Writers can bring lunch or snacks to eat during the meeting. This group will meet every other Saturday and meets during school vacations when the Library is open.

*Note : The after-school programs do not happen on scheduled days off or when school is cancelled due to bad weather.*

Call Pat at 374-5515, ext. 11, for more information.

**Rhythm Rockets Steel Band** for Elementary School kids starts September 11<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday and Thursday each week from 3:00 to 4:00 PM at George Stevens Academy in Blue Hill. The next session will start November 6<sup>th</sup> and will go until Christmas vacation. For more information call Nigel Chase, Instructor, at 326-8684. The cost is \$90 for 8 weeks.

**Beginning Adult Steel Band Classes** will be on Wednesdays starting September 26<sup>th</sup> until November 28<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 7:30 PM at GSA in Blue Hill. Call Nigel Chase for more information at 326-8684. The cost is \$90.

**Thomas School of Dance** is offering dance classes at the Maine Grind in Ellsworth on Fridays and Saturdays. Classical ballet is taught on Fridays by Ivy Clear-Forrest who performed in New York City with two of the premiere ballet companies of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Saturday classes are taught by Cassie Pillsbury who has years of dance experience and teaches in Bangor and Unity, as well as Ellsworth. Saturday class options include preschool dance, tap/ballet combination for elementary school students, hip-hop, tap, and Irish step for students ages 9 through adult. Thomas School of Dance has been providing quality dance training in the greater Bangor area for over 85 years. For more information contact Thomas School of Dance by phone at 945-3457 or by email at [thomasschoolofdance@gmail.com](mailto:thomasschoolofdance@gmail.com). Web site address is [www.thomasschoolofdance.com](http://www.thomasschoolofdance.com).

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Thurs., Sept. 13	PTF Mtg, 6:30 PM, BHCS library
Fri., Sept 28	School Picture Day
Sat., Sept. 29	Making Strides 5 K Run-Walk
Oct. 1-23	NECAP Testing Window