



EXPLORATIONS

Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

December 20, 2012



Children First

During the 2008 Presidential Election, I got a call from a pollster who wanted me to answer a few questions. I don't always say yes, but this time I did. She continued on with some questions, and then finally asked me, "So what do you think is the most important issue at this time in our country?"

I replied, "The children."

She paused and then said, "Well, that is not one of the categories that I have listed here, do you mean education?"

I responded, "Well, education's part of it, but I really mean *the children*, and the fact that you do not have any reference to them on hand, makes my point even stronger."

When I was a child, I felt like there was a huge focus on the welfare of children for the sake of prosperity and for securing the well being of all citizens. I think that individual families, especially in Blue Hill, still do put their children first because I see it here at school every day. But, sometimes I see families fighting a lonely battle to ensure that their kids are put first; too many struggle to provide a good clean home, proper nutrition, good health, emotional security, and a quality education for their children. The debates in Congress over the fiscal cliff, corporate rights, and such, are important *in perspective*, but when it comes to the big picture of nurturing our society and ensuring the welfare, safety, and the futures of our children, the conversations are often skewed to other issues deemed more

important. Our children need to come first in everyone's minds, and it should not take a tragedy like that of Sandy Hook Elementary to make us realize this. Innocence has been lost in recent times, and it's been replaced with confusion and chaos for a lot of families and kids. We need to rejuvenate society's message to kids that assures them, "You are important, and I will put you first no matter what."

In our area people "get it." We are very fortunate to have a dedicated coalition through **Healthy Peninsula** that has provided the **Early Childhood Conferences** in the last two years, and we encourage you to join with them in their efforts to ensure good health and more successes for all children from birth to school. To expand their efforts, we can pick up the balance throughout high school (and maybe even beyond). Some of us at BHCS feel it's time for a new Task Force on Kids and the Future. Let us know if you are interested in this, too.

Finally, I know I am blessed to be here with the BHCS family that I have loved for 25 years. Thank you for everything you do for your kids, and thank you for supporting our school in such a way that we, too, can do the very best for them. Have a joyous holiday and I will see you in a New Year filled with hope!

~~Della

Library News

We have added two special books to the library this month -- Wherever You Are, My Love Will Find You by Nancy Tillman in memory of Mary Astbury, mother of Patty Clapp and grandmother of Shelly Schildroth; and The Art of Francis Hamabe by Carl Little, in memory of Caren McCartney, a dedicated library volunteer for many years. Stop by to check them out.

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

PTF News

Mobile Ice Cream Vending Trailer for Sale

\$5,000.00

Loaded and ready to go with everything you need from ice cream scoopers to multiple refrigerators, ice cream “double wide” freezer, electric cash register, double sink, hot dog steamer, A/C, electrical, running water (with tank), trailer hitch. All in excellent condition. Please call Lesley at 374-5709 if interested in viewing. All proceeds to benefit the school playground.

Don't forget to get your **Discount Cards** for great savings with many local businesses. \$10 each.

Peewee Basketball

There will be no Peewee basketball on December 22nd. The next practice will be the 29th.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wed., Jan. 2 Return to School

Community News

New Year's Eve - Please join the Festivities of Last Night in Blue Hill! Look in your local papers for a grand schedule of events happening all over town.

New Year's Eve Chili Supper at the Simmering Pot. The Simmering Pot is a Community created supper, providing a free, delicious meal on Mondays from 2:30 to 6:00 PM at the First Congregational Church, Blue Hill. The Simmering Pot will be closed December 24th, and will reopen December 31st on New Year's Eve for the chili supper. You can enjoy a hearty meal at The Simmering Pot to start your New Year's Eve – which may include attending the free Last Night Celebration in Blue Hill. Eat in or take out at the Simmering Pot. No charge, donations accepted. In case of winter storms, follow school closing schedule. For more information call 374-2891.

Christmas Eve at the First Congregational Church in Blue Hill.

Monday, December 24th at 7:00 PM. Family Christmas Eve Service
10:00 PM Candlelight Service
For more information call 374-2891, 374-2892