



# EXPLORATIONS

## Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

June 19, 2014

Dear BHCS Families,  
Thank you for another great year. It seems to have been a long one, and people are still talking about the winter, but it has been a very productive one at school. Not only have students made tremendous academic growth with the guidance and expertise of the faculty, but the school is growing in its offerings for next year, as well. Pre-K will start in the fall! When we return there will be a new group of 4-year-olds to bless our days.

\*\*\*New faculty will also join us this fall. The Board has formally hired four new members of the faculty, and additional ed techs will be hired in July. We welcome Jessica Hutchins-Conrad as our new Pre-K teacher, Kat Hudson as the new 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Rachel Nightingale as the social studies/ELA 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Kristin Burch as the speech and language specialist, and Tracy Gandy as our new librarian. We are fortunate to have all of them join our faculty.

\*\*\*There are plans developing for us to have a new media center situated in the library, and a new curriculum plan for its use. Then, in the current tech lab we will reconfigure the entire set up to provide a space for exciting engineering and production – called the IDEA Center. See the article later in this issue for information from Matt Jurick about this plan.

\*\*\*Last night, at our final in-service, the staff created a list of “Things Too Good to Forget” for this school year. Within minutes, they listed 60 things that they could think of that were great successes this year. Many were praising and applauding each other and celebrating the creative and meaningful work that has happened throughout the year. Please believe me when I say that we have a dynamic and expert team of teachers in this school, and their singular goal is to provide quality teaching and learning for your children. Thank you, faculty!

\*\*\*Lastly, I would also like to say a special thanks to Loretta in the office. 245 students and 50 staff members come to her pretty regularly (including myself) with questions and requests

all day long. It is daunting to think of how much she does for us, and we all know that things around here would not function very well without her. Thank you, Loretta, for everything. \*\*\*Have a wonderful, restful, and safe summer everyone! Kids, keep reading, and look forward to another year in September.

Best Wishes to All,

~~Della

### Thanks to BEEM!

Much of the teachers’ and students’ excitement this year was made possible by BEEM’s contributions to classrooms. Visit BEEM at [www.bhcs.org/beem](http://www.bhcs.org/beem) to learn about **Blue Hill Education Enrichment Monies** and the variety of grants that have been presented to support student activities.

### A Word of Thanks

A heartfelt thank you to everyone for the fantastic retirement party last Thursday, and all the support over the years. We will miss our BHCS family but look forward to new life adventures! Go Bobcats -- reach for the stars!!  
--Ms. Jackson, Mrs. Lew and Mrs. O'Neill

### Field Day Tomorrow

Friday afternoon will be the school wide Field Day to celebrate the last day of school. Students will be participating in various activities outside. Please make sure your child is dressed to spend the afternoon outside. Hats and water bottles are recommended. Also, a few of the activities involve water, so a change of clothes is helpful so you do not have a soggy student at the end of the day.

### IDEA Center

Starting with the 2014-2015 school year, BHCS will have an entirely new technology/media program focused on project-based learning. Inspired by the growing “makerspace” and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) movements and through the generosity of BEEM, the Perloff Foundation, the

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

Maine Space Grant Consortium, the Blue Hill school committee, and Maryanne Lewandowski, the current lab will be renovated this summer to become the new IDEA Center (Imagine + Design + Explore + Achieve). The new program will be tailored to meet the needs of every student in our school PK-8 and introduce vocational education and industrial arts components to the curriculum. Our focus will be on developing critical thinking, problem-solving, inquiry-based, and test-hypothesis skills. The IDEA Center will be a hands-on learning space with technical and non-technical tools where students can learn through exploration and trial-and-error. We are very excited about this new program and can't wait to show it to you this fall—stay tuned!

### **PTF News**

Congratulations to Ms. Nelson's Kindergarten class for bringing in 382 BoxTops and to Mrs. Nightingale's 5th grade for bringing in 256. The entire school did an outstanding job this year and we earned over \$700. Keep clipping over the summer

\*\*\*A huge thank you for everyone who has supported the PTF all year long. We have launched some amazing new programs like the Hannaford card program and the winter clubs. In addition, your support and dedication has revived some of the traditional programs that the PTF has offered. We will hit the ground running next year and can always use some helping hands. Feel free to email us over the summer if you have any questions or comments about the PTF. [PTF@bhcs.org](mailto:PTF@bhcs.org)

\*\*\*The PTF would not even exist if it were not for the vision of Beth Jackson and Linsley Simmons. At the retirement gala, the PTF presented Beth with a token of our gratitude - handmade earrings featuring a photo of the stained glass window in the library, a framed photo of the rock sculpture by the harbor and a set of notecards with images from around the Blue Hill area. **All of these were created by Kathy Hally, artist and second grade teacher. Thank you Kathy!**

### **Peninsula Metamorphic Arts and Learning**

PMAL is launching a new program titled "Out & About." They have 3 adventures planned to

Acadia National Park for this summer! Go to the website for details. [chris@pmaalcenter.com](mailto:chris@pmaalcenter.com).

### **Summer Meals at The Simmering Pot - Mondays 2:30-6:00 PM**

The Simmering Pot—A Community Created Supper will provide free meals throughout the summer on Mondays from 2:30 to 6:00 PM at the First Congregational Church, Blue Hill. During the summer we often serve delicious salad-centered meals (with grains, pasta, potato salad, etc.) using lots of local ingredients. No charge, donations accepted. For information call 374-2891.

### **Acting Workshops for Kids (grades 4-8)**

Theatre Games, Improvisation, Character Development, Stage Presence  
Skit Writing, and most of all, Fun

July 21-25

Thrift Shop Medieval: *Kings, Queens, Knights, Jesters, Oh My!*

August 4-8

*A Mysterious Muddle: Create your own Clue Characters*  
(Monday – Friday 10am-2pm \$175)

August 18-21

How to Tell a Joke: *Stand-Up, Slapstick, Deadpan — learn how to make 'em laugh*  
(Monday – Thursday 10am-2pm \$150)

Instructor: Shelley Latham, *Director of Cookie Court & Recess Stories*

For more information & to register:  
374-5906 or [info@beeswaxproductions.com](mailto:info@beeswaxproductions.com).

### **Dates to Remember**

Friday, June 20      Field Day Activities,  
12:30 – 2:00 PM

LAST DAY OF  
SCHOOL