



EXPLORATIONS

Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

October 2, 2014

Request of Parents

Please do not join your children on the playground in the mornings. While it is lovely to see you, there is a lot going on out there, and it's best for duty teachers to give their FULL attention to the kids who are their responsibility. Thanks for helping with this.

Conferences

The week of October 20 – 24 is set for conferences at BHCS. They take place in the afternoons and evenings. This is the best time to see your child's progress. In most cases, we expect the student to lead the conferences by talking about the work that has been collected. For PreK-2 students, your children's teachers will let you know what the expectation is about your children attending the conferences. In either case, we are hoping that students are able to talk about their progress, their learning styles, and their greatest successes and challenges. Your child's teacher will be in touch with you about scheduling this very important meeting. See you that week!

Teacher News

Welcome to 3rd Grade, **Mr. Lescord!** Bryan Lescord has assumed the teaching role vacated by **Shelly Schildroth** when she accepted the position as Curriculum Coordinator for Union 93. Shelly was with us for 10 years as a $\frac{3}{4}$ teacher (*she was actually with us from the time she was in kindergarten until 8th grade back in the 90's, too*). We wish her well in her new position and look forward to her expertise as a curriculum specialist. Bryan Lescord has worked as an ed tech at BHCS for the last two years and has been instrumental in helping us develop PBIS. He is a welcome new member to our faculty.

Tara McKechnie has just returned from Washington, D.C. where she accompanied Erika Allison, Project Director for the Maine Physical Science Partnership & Maine Elementary

Sciences Partnership, to talk about the work that was done with K-5 science teachers last year. Erika presented the program to stakeholders, and Tara fielded questions. Tara offered TalkScience last year to BHCS teachers and ed techs. Her group was well attended and is considered a model for how this training and implementation should work in other schools across the country. Great job, Tara!

PTF News

Please join us this Saturday for the Fall Clean Up. We will be working on a variety of projects around the school from 9 AM – Noon. Clippers, weed whackers, and tarps are always needed. If you would like to donate some breakfast goodies or juice, you may drop them off Friday in the library or bring them with you Saturday morning. Contact Heather Nelson (hnelson@bhcs.org) if you have any questions.

Our next PTF meeting is Thursday, October 9 at 2:45 PM. Childcare will be provided. If you can't make it to the meeting, check us out on FaceBook and the school website.

Library News

Our fall Book Fair is right around the corner! From October 20 - 23 the library will be transformed into **Sir Readalot's Castle** where you will be able to enter the "Kingdom of Reading" and find some wonderful books to add to your home library. If you would like to volunteer to help at the fair, please contact Tracy Gandy at tgandy@bhcs.org. More information and a preview flier will be coming home soon.

Library volunteers are needed! Let me know if you have some extra time to offer.
~~ Tracy Gandy, School Librarian

Concerns of Parents

Any time a student or parent feels that there is a problem at school, there is an accepted route for filing a complaint. First, the student or parent must speak with the teacher or staff persons involved. If not satisfied, the student or parent needs to speak with the principal. We hope that

Della L. Martin, Principal

the issue is resolved by that point, but please refer to the Student Handbook if not (p. 14).

Health Update: Enterovirus-D68 Fact Sheet Attached

There has been a confirmed case of Enterovirus-D68 (EV-D68) in Maine. This was confirmed by the Maine CDC on Wednesday, October 1. A fact sheet about this virus is attached to the newsletter. Please take a few minutes to read this information. There have not been any confirmed cases of EV-D68 on the Blue Hill Peninsula, but there has been viral illness in the school. We have been seeing symptoms of fever, sore throats, minor coughing, and some nausea and vomiting. I highly encourage parents to **remind children to wash their hands frequently with soap & water (at least 5-6 times a day), cough and sneeze into their sleeves, and stay home when feeling sick and/or running a fever. These are the specific recommendations from the CDC regarding the prevention of EV-D68, as well as many other types of illnesses, such as colds and flu.** Students with asthma, particularly, are the high risk students for developing complications from EV-D68. Please monitor your children for the signs and symptoms of EV-D68 and other illnesses. If your child is sick or running a fever, they need to stay home. Any child with these symptoms or a fever of 100 degrees or greater will be sent home. It is important to note that the CDC has informed us that **hand sanitizers are not killing the EV-D68 virus. Good old-fashioned SOAP AND WATER ARE THE BEST HANDWASHING OPTION!!**

Medication Policy and Cough Drops

Please do not send cough drops or any other medications to school with your child. Cough drops are available in the nurse's office. Students are not allowed to bring their own as this presents a safety risk to others and is against the School Medication Policy. When a student has a persistent cough and/or sore throat, they are sent to the nurse's office for an evaluation and, if needed, provided with a cough drop. It is very important that all children be evaluated in this manner to identify illness and to prevent the spread of illness in school. Any other medication administration in school does require a doctor's

order and completion of a medication request form. Please do not hesitate to contact the school nurse with any questions regarding the medication policy and our procedures for administering medications at school.

Strep Throat: There has been a confirmed case of strep throat in the school. Please read the attached Strep Throat Information Sheet.

School Flu Vaccine Clinics: School Union 93 schools will be conducting flu vaccine clinics the week of October 27. Flu Vaccine Information Packets will be coming home with the students on Friday, October 3. The deadline for returning the flu vaccine consent form is Friday, October 17. Please return these as soon as possible, as there is a limited supply at this time. More can be ordered in time for the clinics if we have that information sooner rather than later.

Thank you for your attention to these important health updates. As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns.
~Debbie Candage, RN, BSN/School Nurse

Information of G/T Programs

Gifted and talented programming will be starting soon. My name is Shelly Schildroth and I am the new Curriculum Coordinator for Union 93, and the coordinator for the Gifted and Talented program. This program was officially started last year, and we will continue to use the same format for testing, identifying, and serving this group of students. Students that were identified last year as needing G/T services will continue to receive those services this year. Parents of those students will get a copy of their current Individualized Learning Plan in the mail shortly. The only change to be made at this time is that we are adding a mechanism for parent referrals. If you believe that your child should be tested, please contact me so that we may begin the process (sschildroth@schoolunion93.org).
~Shelly Schildroth, Union 93 Curriculum Coordinator

Castine Pumpkin Fest

Saturday, October 18 from 10 AM – 5 PM. Students at Blue Hill Consolidated School are invited to the various festivities of Castine's Pumpkin Fest, and specifically the Pumpkin

Hoops Competition. Students can field a team of 5 and shoot pumpkin free throws. It should be fun and messy and appealing to the 11-14 years old age group! They will award trophies for several events. The rest of the day is filled with a pancake breakfast, cooking contests, hayrides, golf hole-in-one, vendors, Olympics, pumpkin races, and MORE! For more information, go to www.castine.me.us. Get your pumpkin on!

Dance for 6-8 in Castine, Friday, 10/3, 6-9 PM

Dates to Remember

Sat., Oct. 4	Fall Clean Up Day 9 AM – Noon
Wed., Oct. 8	School Board, 5 PM
Thurs., Oct. 9	PTF Meeting 2:45 PM BHCS Library
Fri., Oct. 10	No School, Teacher In-service
Mon., Oct. 13	No School, Columbus Day
Tues., Oct. 14	Grade 6 to Schoodic Conferences
Oct. 20-24	Book Fair 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM, BHCS Library 7 th Grade at Camp Kieve
Thurs., Oct. 23	8 th Grade, Roaring 20's Dessert Theater,
Fri., Oct. 24	No School, In-service

Attachments

October Menu
Fall Clean Up Flier
Health Alert: Enterovirus D68
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