



EXPLORATIONS

Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

October 16, 2014

October is Breast Health Awareness Month!

Back By Popular Demand! Explorations Returns to Weekly Publications

Starting in November, the BHCS newsletter, *Explorations*, will again be published weekly as it has been for the last several years. It is heartwarming to think that folks appreciate the newsletter so much. I had considered publishing less frequently in order to have the extra half-day to spend in the classrooms, but it appears that both needs are equally important. It is always important to connect with families, so it is my pleasure. I am reminded of this old proverb:

“Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished.” ~ Lao Tzu

Roaring Twenties Dessert Theatre

It's a Speakeasy! Dancing! Student Projects! All That JAZZ!!!

Blue Hill Consolidated School Café

Thursday, October 23, 7-9 PM

\$10 Adults and \$5 Students

Age 5 and Under – Free

Proceeds to benefit the 8th grade class trip.

Winter Sports

Winter Sports meeting will be in the gym on November 3rd at 5 PM.

School Pictures

Student photos should come home today. Picture retakes will be November 7th. Anyone can have his or her picture done again. If you purchased a package and want it done over, just send the package back on retake day. Please make sure your children know if you want them to have their picture done again.

Thank You, Spruce Up Day Helpers!

We got a lot accomplished with just a few helpers, despite the ever-constant threat of rain

on Saturday, October 4th. Ben and Olivia Snow, Sam Page, William Kaiser, Lauren and Sarah Pelletier, Anna Breus, and Aubrey and Hannah King, along with their parents, deserve special thanks for their hard work. And, thank you, staff members Heather Nelson, Cate Reuter, and Kyle Snow. Things look a bit spiffier!

Library News

Next week will be the BHCS Book Fair. We will be open every day, October 20-23, from 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM. Please stop by with your children before or after school and see the wonderful books that will be for sale. Students will also visit the book fair during library classes, but I really encourage families to shop together since it gives you an opportunity to help your students find “just right” books. *Scholastic* has even launched an App this year so you can scan the barcode of the book and learn more about the reading level and even a summary.

For more information, you can visit www.scholastic.com/apps/bookfairs, and if you are not able to visit the book fair in person, you can also shop online at this address:

<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/bhcs>.

Volunteers! There is still plenty of time to help out at the book fair. Right now I am looking for volunteers to help with the after school crowd. If you're available for an hour or two after school, it would be great to have some extra hands to run the register and help people find books.

Other Library News - If you get a chance to pop into the library this month, take a moment to read the book reviews generated by students in PK - grade 5. We are “Growing Great Readers” in PK through grade 1, and they decorated pumpkins to show their favorite books. Students in grades 2 and 3 are going “Batty for Books” and have made bats that are mini book recommendations. Finally, the students in grades 4 and 5 picked books that “Spin a Good Tale” and put information about their favorite books on spiders. It is wonderful to be surrounded by so many enthusiastic readers!

~~Tracy Gandy

Della L. Martin, Principal

PTF News

Our most recent PTF meeting brought some new faces, but we are still working to increase participation. We meet the second Thursday of every month right after school in the library; childcare is provided. At the last meeting we discussed improving communication so that even those of you who are not able to attend meetings will be able to know what is going on. Thank you for your patience as we try some new things and figure out best methods. The PTF Facebook page is being updated by parent volunteers, so that is an excellent place to get information.

Right now there is a costume exchange set up in the lobby. Feel free to pick up a costume and/or drop off those that have been outgrown in your home.

We are just around the corner from our first submission of **Box Tops for Education**. This is an excellent opportunity to help raise money for our school. Use the attached collection sheet to send them in or just put them in a Ziploc baggie with your child's name and teacher's name. There are collection envelopes in each classroom and a large one in the library. With your help we hope to raise over \$1,000 for BHCS.

Mark your calendars now for the first Family Movie Night of the year. November 14 we will be showing *The Lego Movie*. Pizza is available for sale at 5:30 and the movie and free popcorn start at 6:00. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah King at 374-9294.

Science in Blue Hill Bay

Is your middle-schooler interested in environmental science and helping **Friends of Blue Hill Bay** with an important study about ocean acidification and Blue Hill Bay? If so, please join Martha Bell at 1:00 PM on Saturday, October 18 to volunteer with collecting and measuring clam shell data at the South Blue Hill Landing (weather permitting). Please contact Susan Hipsky if you would like to sign up, at 374-7015 or sfhipsky@gmail.com.

Original Works Packets

Here is some additional information on the packets that students brought home this week.

You do not need to use the artwork included in the packet. Any artwork is okay as long as it fits the 8-1/2" by 11" format. I can mat smaller work for you or trim a larger one. The proceeds from this program directly benefit the art program and I truly appreciate the support. The date of October 20 is extended to October 23, and that is final. We get free shipping for the first order and we extend that to all participants. This is a great individual and group savings. We will not be making additional orders. I have found this company very reliable and I have been pleased with their product line.

~~Penny Ricker

Band Boosters

Dear Parents,

Please let us know if you are interested in helping organize a Band Boosters parent group. We need parents to help our middle school bands with fundraising and organizational matters. The band room is undergoing a renovation in order to add cubbies for instruments and a small rehearsal room. The cubbies will get the instruments off the stage and the floor of the cafeteria. Most schools in our area have a small room devoted to instrument storage. Please let us know if you are interested in fundraising to pay for a finish crew, or if you have skills or materials that you would like to donate. We also need help with a snack rotation for 7th and 8th grade after school practices that will be starting soon. Additionally, we need help with the 8th grade special band events. Please let me know if you would like your email address removed from the Band Boosters distribution list.

Please email or call us.

*Dawn Stewart (dawnbstewart@gmail.com - 348-9980)

*Tina Allen (office@downeastporproperties.com - 374-2321)

~~Thanks, Dawn Stewart

Health Update: Flu Vaccine Clinics, Eastern Equine Encephalitis and Lyme Disease

Blue Hill Consolidated School will conduct our Flu Vaccine Clinic on Wednesday, October 29 from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. The flu

vaccine packets with the consent forms went home on October 3 with all the students. If you'd like to have your child vaccinated here at school, the consent forms need to be submitted no later than this Friday, October 17. If you need another vaccine packet and/or another consent form, please stop by the school and ask at the front desk. Please strongly consider having your children and families vaccinated this year. The most common types of respiratory illnesses in children are vaccine preventable. These are flu and pertussis (whooping cough). Please also follow CDC recommendations to prevent these and other illnesses with frequent hand washing with soap and water, coughing and sneezing in sleeves or tissues, frequently cleaning high touch surfaces, and staying home when sick. Students will be sent home with symptoms of an illness, including fever of 100 degrees or greater. **Please keep you child home until he/she has been fever free for 24 hours without the use of Advil or Tylenol to keep it down.**

The Maine CDC has reported the very first human case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in Maine. EEE is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. It is not passed from person to person. Following CDC measures to avoid being bitten by mosquitos can prevent this. Since we've been experiencing the warmer temperatures, mosquitos may still be active. Preventative measures are included in the attached fact sheet from the Maine CDC.

Lyme disease, which is caused by the bite of an infected deer tic, is also prevalent in Maine. There are deer tics in Maine and in this community. Tics have been found and removed from several students over the past couple of weeks. The nurse will call you if she removes a tic from your child. Please be sure to check your children at home for the presence of tics. If a tic has attached itself to the skin, it is very important to remove it properly and report it to your child's doctor for advise on what to do. A Lyme disease fact sheet is also attached to this newsletter. It provides specific information and guidance about Lyme disease, prevention measures and disease treatment. Students will also be bringing home tic and Lyme disease bookmarks this week with lots of valuable information and guidance. The University of Maine Cooperative Extension has provided the

bookmarks. It is always better to prevent the disease from occurring than having to treat Lyme disease later. Please take the time to read these handouts. And as always, call if you have any questions or concerns.

~~Deborah Candage, RN, BSN/School Nurse
dcandage@bhcs.org

School Bus Driver Appreciation Week

October 20-24

Driving a school bus is really hard work and requires special skills to keep our children safe. Please join us in thanking our bus drivers for their dedication to our kids' safety.

Trick-or-Treat

ATTENTION Sixth Graders and Under...

You are invited to

Parker Ridge Retirement Community
on Halloween from 4 – 6 PM
for a Trick or a Treat!

Hot chocolate and donuts will be available for the parents.

Kids must be accompanied by an adult.

Hancock County Drug-free Communities and Healthy Acadia

Educational Community Forum Concerning
Trends in Tobacco and Marijuana
Tuesday, October 21, 6-7:30 PM
Elks Lodge 317 High Street, Ellsworth

See you next week for conferences!

Specialists' Office Hours Next Week

Kristin Burch - Speech/Language Pathologist

Monday - Thursday: 3:00 - 4:45

or by appointment

RtI - Katie Danielson

Monday: 3:00 - 5:00

Tuesday - Friday: 3:00 - 4:15

Library - Tracy Gandy

Monday - Thursday: 3:00 - 6:00 (Book Fair)

Counseling - Megan Granger

By appointment

Spanish - Greg Holman

Monday - Thursday: 3:00 - 5:00

Technology - Matt Jurick

Monday - Thursday: 3:00 - 5:00

Phys. Ed. - Bob McCormick

Monday: 3:00 - 6:00

Tuesday: 4:00 - 5:30

Wednesday: 3:00 - 5:00

General Music - Audrey Means

Monday: 2:45 - 3:45

Tuesday: 2:45 - 4:00

Wednesday: 3:45 - 5:45

Thursday: 2:45 - 5:00

or by appointment

Visual Art - Penny Ricker

Monday: 2:45 - 5:15

Tuesday: 2:45 - 5:15

Wednesday: 2:45 - 5:15

Instrumental Music - Bill Schubeck

(week of Oct. 13-17)

Tuesday - Thursday: 3:00 - 6:00

(week of Oct. 20-24)

Monday - Thursday: 3:00 - 6:00

Dates to Remember

Oct. 20-24

Conferences
7th Grade at Camp

Kieve

Thurs., Oct. 23

8th Grade, Roaring 20's

Dessert Theater,

Fri., Oct. 24

No School, In-service

Sun., Nov. 2

Daylight Saving Ends

Tues., Nov. 11

Veterans' Day, no

school

Wed., Nov. 12

School Board, 5 PM

Thurs., Nov. 12

PTF Mtg., 2:45 PM

Attachments:

Book Fair

Box Top Sheet

Health Alerts (2)

Healthy Acadia Drug Free Communities Forum