



EXPLORATIONS

Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

October 30, 2014
HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

BHCS Soccer Team Wins Coastal Tournament! Congratulation Team!

Be sure to read all about it in the Sports News section of this newsletter!

Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF! Your child may have brought home an orange UNICEF box, as Halloween is a time when we can help children around the world. Just think...if we raise \$220 that would pay for a school-in-a-box that lets kids learn anywhere. At BHCS that would mean collecting less than \$1 per student. BUT even better, \$500 (\$2 per student) would provide a pump for clean water for a village or a school. Thanks so much for any help you can provide. Please have the kids return their boxes to school on Monday! We hope they all have a safe and fun Halloween! I must admit, however, that teachers are particularly excited that Halloween is on a Friday this year!

Daylight Saving Time! Remember to turn your clocks BACK an hour on Saturday night!

Dear BHCS Families,

Many of you may have already heard this news, but as administrative planning for next year approaches, I must fill everyone in on my upcoming retirement at the end of this school year. I will be retiring after 37 years in education! I did not start my career in Blue Hill, but I have been here for 27 of those years, and my heart will forever be with this community and with this school that was also home to my own two children.

This upcoming year is going to be fantastic, and I have a lot of excitement for what is in store in the next few months at BHCS. This will be an interesting transition in my life as I move on to enjoy four very young grandchildren who live up and down the eastern seaboard and as I help

care for my mother in Maine. What is said about the "Sandwich Generation" is very true.

I am very fortunate to have taught at BHCS with an amazing staff, a dedicated and very skilled team. I have also been fortunate to work with a school board that truly understands what our youth need to be educated and responsible citizens. As a teacher and as a principal, I must say that such a staff and board should not be taken for granted. The decisions they have made over the years consistently had the students as the obvious focus.

I must conclude with saying that I genuinely salute YOU, the parents and children of Blue Hill, who have made my years at BHCS the very best! I truly appreciate ALL the support I have gotten from all of you. It's been a wonderful relationship, and I hope to stay in touch as much as possible. To say that I enjoyed the gifts of teaching Blue Hill children is really an understatement! I was deeply blessed, and I loved every day with the kids here. Blue Hill kids are like no others in the world. They are sweet, giving, smart, and adventurous.

The Board will have time this winter and spring to look for an outstanding principal, and if you have ideas of what they should look for in a new principal please let them know. Things are in a really good place right now at BHCS, but new ideas and fresh thinking will be welcomed, too. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

~~Della

School Pictures

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.

"READ FOR SAFETY" READ-A-THON

Be sure to read the letter that is coming home with kids this week about our fundraising efforts to purchase a mass-notification system for the school. The system would allow school

Della L. Martin, Principal

administrators to send phone, email, and text notifications to every parent simultaneously in the event of a snow day, school closing, or school emergency. We hope everyone can enjoy some reading and the comfort of this safety measure. Thanks for helping us make this possible.

BHCS Chess Team Parent Meeting

There will be an informational meeting at 7 PM on Thursday (tonight) in Ms. Herrmann's room. Parents of students interested in being part of the BHCS Chess Team should plan to attend. Practices, expectations, and fundraisers will be discussed. The chess team is open to students in grades 5-8 who already enjoy playing chess and also to those who would like to learn!

We are exploring a chess program for younger students. If you are interested, please contact Kim Parrott directly: 266-0172 or at kimberlyhparrott@gmail.com.

After School Plans

Because each day at school is busy, please try to make play dates and after school plans in advance, and let your child know of them before school. It is very important that we make secure and safe plans for children, and last minute information can be risky.

Teachers in the News

Mr. McCormick - On Tuesday, October 21, we were visited by Colonel Frederick Benson, III (ret.) of the U.S. Army who came to compliment Mr. McCormick and his students for the work they have done with the PACER and toward leading a healthy lifestyle. In particular, he applauded them in the areas of cardiovascular fitness and fighting obesity in youth. Mr. Benson read a letter to the students that praised their efforts. Mr. McCormick's program has attracted the interest of some high-ranking officials in Washington, DC including the former Surgeon General of the United States and the Executive Director of the American Association of School Administrators. Congratulations and thank you, Mr. McCormick and PACER students!!!

Nell Herrmann has been invited to present at the American Geophysical Union Conference in San Francisco, CA in December. Her presentation will be part of the "GIFT" Workshop - Geophysical Information for Teachers. Specifically, she will present about lesson plans she implemented with BHCS students last year; the lessons were focused on climate change. All her expenses are being paid by the Arctic Consortium of the United States. This is a huge honor for Nell and for us!

Sports News

Coastal Soccer team won the Coastal League Tournament on Wednesday! The Coastal Soccer team won the quarterfinal game against Tremont on October 21 in the rain with the support of the 6th grade soccer players. Then the team won the semifinal game against Lamoine on October 27. On Wednesday the final game was played at MDI High School. Our Coastal Soccer team had lost only one game all season -- to MDI. We expected the final game would be a close one, and in the end BHCS Coastal took the trophy with a 3-1 game. ***Coastal Soccer players please return uniforms, as soon as possible.***

The winter sports meeting for athletes and families is scheduled for November 3, at 5 PM in the gym. Like the fall meeting, the information will be quick and delivered right at 5 PM. After that, families can gather information about specific teams. Information will be spread around the gym open house style. Denise Black will also be there with a table set up to share information about Drug Free Communities.

If you have outgrown, but usable basketball sneakers...bring them to the parent meeting to trade. We will set up a table for sneakers. Coastal Soccer players could pass in uniforms that night, as well.

Cross country awards and Coastal soccer team awards will follow the meeting.

The November sports schedule is posted at this time.

PTF News

What a wonderful surprise we received the other day! Abel, Audria and Anthony Nevell's biological grandmother won a contest at a local

grocery store in Missouri and has donated the prize to BHCS. As the winner of the contest, she received 7,500 Box Tops for Education, which will bring \$750 to BHCS. We are so thankful for this gift.

The BHCS Family Directory should be making its way to your homes this week with the youngest member of your family -- so check those backpacks. A huge thank you to Lesley Litwiller for her skills in putting all the information together for us each year, as this is such a valuable resources for our families.

Thanks to everybody who participated in the Hannaford Gift Card Program this October. This month we earned \$130.00 to benefit our school! The next order date is November 13th. If you have any questions or would like to participate, please contact Sarah King at 374-9294 or online at sarahwjking@outlook.com. Order forms are available in the school lobby.

The days are getting shorter, so that means family movie nights must be just around the corner. Mark your calendars now for the first Family Movie Night of the year. On 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.

Library News

The BHCS book fair was a huge success this year... thanks to you! In addition to all the wonderful books that went home with our families, over \$800 worth of books have been donated to BHCS classrooms and the library. We also will be able to use the funds we raised to fund other library programs and support the literacy needs of the school. Thank you all so much for joining us in the Kingdom of Reading and for making reading fun and important in your homes.

Coastal Christmas Benefit Dinner

November 8th, 5 PM, Sedgwick School
Join the Coastal Christmas for Kids
Wade Dow and Friends,
and special guest Gary Mitchell
Baked beans and casseroles

Admission is \$10 for dinner or \$16 for the dinner and music.

Christmas Angels

The Christmas Angels Program provides gifts of warm clothing to children in need living on the Blue Hill Peninsula and in Deer Isle/Stonington. To learn how you can help the program, contact Kim Williamson by December 1st at 374-2092 or at peony13@me.com. To receive assistance from the program, contact Wendy Ritger, bhcongo@yahoo.com, 374-2891.

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.

Pumpkin Pancake Breakfast at First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, Saturday, November 8th, 7:00 to 10:30 AM, everyone invited. Enjoy pumpkin and plain pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon, baked apples, coffee, tea and apple cider. Adults \$8, children 11 and under, \$4. For more information call 374-2891, or email bhcongo@yahoo.com.

Union 93 Event for Grades 7 and 8

Project Acceptance 2014-2015:

Words to Live By

Featuring 365 Days of Wonder: Mr. Browne's Book of Precepts by R. J. Palacio & Jim Trick, Musician and Life Coach

Thursday, November 6, 2014

@Blue Hill Consolidated School

Dates to Remember

Tues., Nov. 11	Veterans' Day, no school
Wed., Nov. 12	School Board, 5 PM
Thurs., Nov. 13	PTF meeting 2:45
Mon., Dec. 15	5-8 Winter Concert
Tues., Dec. 16	K-4 Winter Concert

Attachments:

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