



# EXPLORATIONS

## Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

December 18, 2014

### Happy Holidays, Everyone!



#### Winter Concerts Were a Joyous Hit!

Once again, we were honored with the gifts of music at our two holiday concerts this year. As I said on the first night, we are so fortunate to live in a town that embraces the arts and recognizes the influence that music has on students and their learning. Brain research has shown that when a child is involved with music, all areas of the brain are impacted. And, as the adult spectators, it comforts our world, too. Thank you, student musicians, Mr. Schubeck, and Mrs. Means, for these gifts.

#### Special Thanks!

Thank you, to all those who have made donations for Christmas gifts by filling request from the tree in our lobby. People have been truly generous, and it is heart-warming to think that some families will have a brighter Christmas because of you. Thanks, Loretta, for once again overseeing this kind and generous outreach that means so much to others.

#### After School Activity Bus...Available in the New Year!

With generous contributions from BEEM and dedicated members of our community, and in collaboration with the Washington-Hancock Community Agency, BHCS is going to pilot a program to provide an after school activity bus (leaving around 4 PM) for students who cannot find transportation to and from the various opportunities offered at school in the afternoon. These opportunities might include Garden Club and PTF Winter Clubs, early sports practices like clinic and B level, homework help, extra

help for RTI, and so forth. Because safety is always our first priority, WHCA provides dependable buses and drivers who have thorough background checks.

I need to know very soon if your child is likely to take this bus home (even if it's just once in a while). We have more details to work out, and plans are being made, so we need an idea of how many might use the bus and how often. Please take advantage of this great opportunity, especially if you have found that your child cannot attend programs because of lack of transportation. Email me at [dmartin@bhcs.org](mailto:dmartin@bhcs.org) or call me at 374-2202 (ext. 102).

#### Community Forum for Principal Search

If you are interested in giving input for the search for next year's principal, please attend the next school board meeting, January 14 at 5 PM.

#### PTF News

The Craft Making Workshop was a huge success thanks to many helping hands. Over 75 students and their families joined us for a day of glitter, glue, and fun. This remarkable event would not be possible without the scores of volunteers who prepare the crafts ahead of time and then guide the children through the creation of gifts. A special thank you to Heather Nelson for organizing this event.

The PTF is currently looking for community members to serve on the **Principal Search Committee**. Sarah King is coordinating this effort. Please see the attached form for more information.

**Bobcat Gear** should be here by Friday for pick up and distribution. We will be running another order in the spring.

**Winter Clubs** will be offered when we come back from break and we are delighted to have something available for all age groups. Please see the attached form to sign up for Winter Clubs. Completed forms are due back no later than January 7<sup>th</sup>. There are some limits on club sizes, so the sooner the better. Contact Tracy Gandy with any questions, [tgandy@bhcs.org](mailto:tgandy@bhcs.org).

Della L. Martin, Principal

It is not too late to help out with the **Holiday Helping Hands Ham** baskets. Please contact Tera Gellerson, [teraandtoddg@gmail.com](mailto:teraandtoddg@gmail.com), if you would like to donate something towards this wonderful community service project.

**Movie Night** this Friday, December 19. Pizza and cookie decorating at 5:30 with the double feature, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* and *Mickey's Christmas Carol*, to begin at 6:00. Popcorn and cookie decorating are free. Please remember that this is a family event and students need to remain in the cafeteria. As always, appropriate school behavior is expected to make sure that everyone can enjoy the movies.

### **IDEA Center Message**

In May of this year we started the ball rolling on our new IDEA Center and by the end of June we had raised almost all of the \$25,000 necessary through grants and donations. With that funding we renovated the upstairs tech room into a truly revolutionary 21st-century K-8 “shop” space and formed a new media center downstairs in the library. It’s been a huge success; students are loving the new hands-on program and we’ve been getting phone calls, emails, and in-person visits from schools across the state who have heard about our new space and program and are looking to emulate it. Just last week we hosted a visit from school administrators from Windham who drove three hours here just to meet with us for an hour and then drove three hours back! It’s truly been a hit and we couldn’t be happier with this first year’s roll-out. We’re not resting on our initial successes, though!

With the first few months being so successful, we are ready to start implementing the next phase of the program: an enhanced robotics curriculum for grades 5-6, which has us very excited! Our primary grantors—Dave and Sandy Perloff of the Perloff Family Foundation—are funding six new robotics kits (at a cost of about \$450 apiece), and we’ve committed to funding two.

We are asking for donations in any amount to help come up with \$900 in the next few weeks. All donations are greatly appreciated and will go directly toward enhancing the Grades 5-6 robotics curriculum set to pilot in January.

Thanks so much for your support and enthusiasm as we continue to move forward with

our exciting new STEAM program! Once again, Blue Hill is setting the gold standard in the state and others are quickly following our lead—very exciting times!

Our best,  
Matt Jurick & Tracy Gandy

### **Peninsula Metamorphic Arts and Learning Offers Vacation Activities and Plans for the New Year**

PMAL will be offering a couple of Discovery Days this December. These days are spent exploring the themes of the workshops through arts, crafts and cooking! If weather permits, students will be able to take in outdoor activities on the beautiful grounds around our center.

Students should bring a snack and lunch each day as well as outdoor clothing.

- Monday, 12/29/14 - Treasure Day
- Tuesday, 12/30/14 - Fortunes and Wishes
- Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
- Before and after care available
- Cost: \$50 / Day
- Register at: 374-5255 or [chris@pmaalcenter.com](mailto:chris@pmaalcenter.com)

### **PMAL Themes for January and February 2015:**

- Monday: Star Gazing
- Tuesday: Mystery Travels
- Wednesday: Create a Book
- Thursday: Gadget Day

Looking ahead to the New Year, we will have a Discovery Day in mid-January on the teacher in-service day, though the theme is still to be decided. And, we will have a four-day February Break Camp called Fantastic Beast Week! We are SUPER excited about this one, as it is a throw-back to old-school PMAL camps, sets and costumes galore!

Thank you all so very much for such an amazing fall and early winter at PMAL! Please contact us if you have any questions about the sessions or workshops.

~~Chris and Amy (374-5255)

**Lost And Found Bins Are Overflowing!**

Last Call! Please check out the items in the lobby for your child's clothing. There are some really valuable items there, and I am sure they need to be returned to their owners. Also, remember to label your child's clothing, if possible. *The bins are emptied and clothes are taken to the Tree of Life over the December break.*

**Look for the January Menu next Tuesday. There will be no Thursday Explorations.**

**Dates to Remember**

Fri., Dec. 19	Movie Night, 5:30 Pizza, 6:00 Movie
Mon., Jan. 5	Return to school
Thurs., Jan. 8	PTF Meeting, 2:45 PM
Wed., Jan 14	Board Meeting, 5 PM
Thurs., Jan. 15	Midterm for Trimester 2
Fri., Jan 16	No school, teacher in-service
Mon., Jan. 19	No school, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan. 20-23	T2 Conferences
Wed., Jan. 28	NAEP (Nation's Report Card) Testing, Grade 8

**Important Dates at GSA**

Jan. 7	Open house 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> graders
Jan. 14	Pizza and a game for 8 <sup>th</sup> graders
Feb. 27	8 <sup>th</sup> grade registration

**Attachments:**

- Winter Clubs Sign-Up
- Principal Search Information
- Healthy Eating for the Holidays
- Holiday Concert at the Blue Hill Public Library