



EXPLORATIONS

Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

June 18, 2015

Thank You and Farewell!

What a wonderful retirement party on Friday night! Thanks to all of you who planned, organized, cooked, and attended. I am in awe of this community, as always, and so lucky to have been a teacher and principal here for the last three decades. It was really fun to reminisce.

I so much love the children of this school; they are magical and so very unique. They are smart and sophisticated, yet innocent and sincere. They are loving, talented, creative, and adventurous. I am so proud of all of them, and I have been ever since I started teaching here. I've been truly blessed to be surrounded by these children. They have kept me healthy and whole.

We also have an amazing staff at BHCS, and over the years I have seen a quality of teaching and dedication that is truly impressive. Past and present, they have huge hearts and superior pedagogical skills. The support staff, one and all, is also essential to our programs, and they are equally as dedicated. I thank them all.

As I said in my brochure in 2010, "*Wrapped in the arms of a village that celebrates education, Blue Hill Consolidated School represents one of the finest K-8 public school experiences a family will find in Maine or elsewhere.*" I love this school that finds itself nestled between the mountain and the sea. Thank you, parents and community members, for your enduring support of me – and the children and staff at BHCS.

Some have asked me for words of wisdom as I reflect on my years in education. I have no sage words other than one – *LISTEN!* I recently saw an interview with Senator George Mitchell and was struck by how true his words were and how closely aligned they were with my own philosophies. He was talking about the dysfunction in Congress these days and how "money has washed trust out to sea, but that's a whole other story."

These were his other words: "The most important political lesson I ever learned, that served me well later in business and diplomacy,

was the ability to listen. The less I talked the more effective I was. It's counterintuitive. You think that you persuade people by what you say, and that means that the more you say, you think you're more persuasive. But the reality is just the opposite. To completely and totally immerse yourself in listening to the other person, especially people who you don't like or agree with, that's really hard, and I came to learn how to do that." If we look outside ourselves, and truly listen to the ideas of others, we will learn so much, and there will be more harmony.

I would only add one thing to what George Mitchell said, and it's something from my own heart. *Listen to the children.* Within them you will find what is truly important. Kids need us to teach and guide them, as we are the experienced and wise ones, but they are the insightful and expressive ones. If we listen to the children... we will learn so much.

I will leave you with one last line, and most of you have seen it every week when the electronic newsletter was sent. Always remember to think... "**What's best for kids?**" That will always be your true North.

With much love and thanks,

Della

Thank You, Kathie Koontz!

Kathie Koontz has been with us in the kitchen for ten years. This year she is retiring, and BHCS is really going to miss her. Kathie knows how to cook! She is also well versed in nutrition, so the meals that have come out of the kitchen have been delicious and healthy. Kathie has helped make many a quilt over the years, too. For babies, for weddings, for retirements... she has made some beautiful pieces of art. Thank you, Kathie, for your dedication and service. Enjoy the days ahead.

Notice: Due to rain, we will NOT climb the mountain tomorrow.

Wed., Sept. 2

First day of school

Della L. Martin, Principal