



EXPLORATIONS

Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

December 10, 2015

From the Principal - Attendance Matters

The end of the first trimester is a good time of year for reflection about those things that will make a positive difference for our students. You all have hope for a bright future for your children and every day you try to make sure that they are on the right track. We share that hope, and work to do everything that we can to help your child succeed. Some of the information I'm sharing in this letter may surprise you! I know it surprised me!

In schools, we are always talking about how to increase student achievement and we spend a lot of time working on this. Recently, Anita Black attended a very powerful conference where the presenter shared some pretty compelling information that she brought back to our staff. I wanted to pass this along to you, because I know that if you knew a simple way to make a positive difference for your child, you would!

Research shows that without question children who repeatedly miss school fall behind. ALL absences matter, not just days in a row.

- When your child is late, he or she has to scurry to catch up. The teacher has to slow down or interrupt instruction to bring your child up to speed, so others are affected and the quality of instruction in a quick make-up session will not be equal to the instruction that the other students had.
- When your child is absent, learning is missed that can't easily be reproduced. Students miss the richness of the classroom instruction and guided practice.
- When your child leaves early, he or she misses one of the most important parts of the day: review, guided practice, and directions for homework assignments.

Nationwide, as many as 10% to 15% of students miss one month of school every year. So far this year we have 13% of students here at BHCS that have been chronically absent. That means they've missed 10% of the school days, around six days in the first trimester.

Of course, some absences are unavoidable, but high absences like these are a RED alert! If your child has a high rate of absence (check the top-right corner of the report card), please help us turn this around for him or her by making sure he/she is at school every day possible. It really matters.

Warmly,
Shelly

Kudos

Kudos this week go to Jessica Hutchins-Conrad and Meredith Townsend, our Pre-K queens! They both work so hard all day every day to keep these lively (and lovely!) 4-year-olds on track and learning. The classroom is well designed, maintained, and stocked with age-appropriate activities. Miss Jess starts her day with students at 7:30 and has fewer planning periods than other teachers, but still manages to offer love and encouragement until the last little one leaves for the day.

PTF News

See you at the Holiday Craft Workshop this Saturday, 10:00 - 12:00. This is an excellent opportunity to make some gifts to give this holiday season.

Needed — 4 dozen sugar cookies for the movie night, December 18th. Please contact Tracy Gandy if you are able to make some festive sugar cookies for the kids to decorate.

We are putting together the last-minute details for the winter clubs that will run after Christmas break. A sign-up sheet will be coming home tomorrow, December 10th.

The next PTF meeting is scheduled for December 17th. We meet in the BHCS Library after school. Childcare is provided. Please join us.

PTF will host a holiday Movie Night on Friday, December 18th in the BHCS Cafeteria. Cookie decorating will start at 5:30 PM and the movie will start at 6:00 PM.

School News

The report cards for grades 7 and 8 did not include grades for Music class. New report cards have been printed and will be distributed.

A huge thank-you to everyone who helped to make the fundraiser dinner for Travis Astbury and his family such a success. Everyone from the people who cooked the spaghetti to the people who kept bidding on the auction items and those who danced the night away at the Farmhouse Inn worked together to raise over \$8,000. It truly was an exceptional night.

Dates to Remember...

- Fri., Dec. 11 Gr. 6-8 Dance at Brooklin, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- Sat., Dec. 12 Chess Team to Aurora 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM
- Sat., Dec. 12 PTF Holiday Workshop for Kids, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- Sat., Dec 12 Gr. 6-8 Christmas Formal Dance at Sedgwick, 6:00 PM- 9:00 PM
- Sun., Dec. 13 Gr. 2 to the Nutcracker, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
- Mon., Dec. 14 5-8 Holiday Concert 7:00 PM
- Tue., Dec. 15 K-4 Holiday Concert 6:30 PM
- Thu., Dec. 17 Gr. 7-8 to Penobscot Theater
- Thu., Dec 17 PTF Mtg, 2:45 PM BHCS Library, Childcare provided
- Fri., Dec 18 Movie Night & Cookie Decorating, 5:30 PM



On Saturday, December 19, stop by the Blue Hill Public Library will be hosting a Holiday Party from 2:30 - 5:30. There will be music, stories, and magic.

We here at the Family Redemption Center want to help our good friend Travis Astbury. As many of you know, Travis is fighting stage 4 cancer, and with the holidays upon us, we wanted to do something for him and his family. If anyone wants to drop off bottles in his name, the redemption center will add on an extra cent on every bottle. So, for every can, six cents will be paid, and liquor bottles, sixteen cents. All you have to do is be sure to say "These are for Travis"we will take care of the rest, and send the money to the family for the holidays. Thanks to everyone for helping us, help them.

From,
The Damon Family at
The Family Redemption Center