



EXPLORATIONS

Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

December 17, 2015

From the Principal - Music Matters

It was fabulous to see so many families come out to our concerts earlier this week! Mr. Schubeck and Mrs. Means described the preparation as “party planning for 250!” So, it certainly is a big task, but we are so glad that they do it! It couldn’t happen without the support of homeroom teachers who help keep students in check during rehearsals and the concert itself.

Monday, at our 5-8 winter concert, the talent of our middle school was extremely impressive. Mr. Schubeck featured solo artists as well as each grade level in a band. We had a mix of holiday, jazz, and pop music. It is always particularly unbelievable to see the fifth graders play in a band when they only started practicing two months ago! Mrs. Means supported the bands throughout the concert and led the 5th and 6th graders in several carols. They are such a fantastic team!

On Tuesday, the K-4 concert was very sweet. Those kiddos with their bright, happy faces and holiday outfits singing their hearts out are absolutely precious. Mrs. Means has spent a lot of time working with them during her general music classes and provides CDs with the songs on them for classroom teachers to play when convenient.

This week seemed like a perfect opportunity to write a little bit about just how important we feel music is to our students. Research has found that learning music, both vocal and instrumental, improves the skills that students use in other areas of school and life. One reason is that learning music forces children to tap into multiple skill sets, often simultaneously. Reading music and watching the conductor with your eyes, listening to the others

around you with your ears, while also using your fingers to tap out the notes or your mouth to sing them is a great challenge for your brain. Students learning music like this learn better focus, which could be why studies have shown that elementary schools with excellent music programs like ours scored around 22 percent higher in English and 20 percent higher in math on standardized tests, compared to schools with a low-quality music program.

Thank you all for your continued support of our school and programs. There will be no newsletter next week as we begin our break on Thursday, so let me extend to you now my wishes for your family to have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Warmly,
Shelly

Kudos

Kudos this week go to Karen Larkin and Kathy Hally. In addition to being stellar teachers to our second graders, they have also taken in some of our 8th grade students as well as a George Stevens Academy student to be mentors in their classrooms. Working with younger students is great experience for them and takes instruction and guidance from these two teachers. Thank you!

Reminder

Be sure to check the lost and found tables in the lobby. There are tons of sweatshirts, jackets, and hats that may be needed if we ever get some cold weather! All of the items will be sent to the Turn Style if they are not claimed.

PTF News

The PTF meeting that was scheduled for today, December 17th, is cancelled. We will see everyone after the break!

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.

The response to the winter clubs has been amazing. There are over fifty students signed up for various activities. At this time, all clubs are filled except for Relaxation Club and Garden Club.

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped on Saturday to make the craft workshop such a success. There were over 75 children creating wonderful gifts — everything from earrings to ornaments and even a few sewing projects! Then the 8th grade elves helped with the wrapping so the gifts could remain a pleasant surprise. The Craft Workshop for Kids is always one of the most anticipated events of the year and the PTF is very grateful for Heather Nelson and Jessi Torrey who organize this fun family event.

School News

The Coastal boys basketball team has played three games all of which they won by over 10 points. The team is coached by Jim Dow and the starting five are Caden Mattson, Andrew Szwez, Austin Snow, Quinn Stabler, and Aidan Stearns.

The girls basketball team is coached by Katie Danielson. Mrs. Danielson has brought the team a long way so far this season. As an 8th grader I'd like to say I am proud of the kids that are new to basketball this year because they have been doing great!

Dates to Remember...

Thu., Dec. 17	Gr. 7-8 to Penobscot Theater
Fri., Dec 18	Movie Night & Cookie Decorating, 5:30 PM
Dec. 24 - Jan. 1	Holiday Break
Sat., Jan. 9	Gr. 6-8 Snowflake Ball semi-formal, Ellsworth Elementary Middle School, 6 PM - 9PM, \$7/person or \$12/couple



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.

Looking for something fun for the kids after the holidays but before school starts? Peninsula Metamorphic Arts and Learning has three brand new Discovery Days set for late December! On Monday, December 28th, the sled dogs of Four Leaf Huskies will be joining us again for Sled Dog Day 2 from 8 am till noon (for ages 8-13). From 8am till 3pm on Tuesday December 29th we will be "Saving Memories" of 2015 in handmade scrapbooks! From 8am till 3pm on Wednesday December 30th, join us for "Out With the Old & In With the New," a celebration of the new year at PMAL with arts, crafts, and food! For more information please contact Chris Muise at 374-5255, or email chris@pmaalcenter.com.

Please join us for hot chocolate and caroling with the residents at Parker Ridge. Wednesday, December 23 at 3:30.