



Explorations

Blue Hill Consolidated School

December 22, 2016

Author Visit: Kenneth Davis

Last week we shared with you that our seventh and eighth grade social studies teacher, Kyle Snow had just attended the National Council for the Social Studies conference in Washington, D.C. One of the most exciting things to come from that trip was that Mr. Snow met a world-renowned historian and author, Kenneth Davis. After participating in Mr. Davis's session, Mr. Snow spoke with him and found out that he was visiting family in Belfast and then Mr. Davis offered to come speak at our school for free!

Kenneth Davis is the author of the bestselling Don't Know Much About History, and many other books in the Don't Know Much About series, many of which can be found right here in our library. His most recent book, In the Shadow of Liberty: The Hidden History of Slavery, Four Presidents, and Five Black Lives was



just announced as a finalist for the 2017 Award for Excellence in Young Adult Nonfiction by the American Library Association.

Mr. Davis spoke Friday to our fifth through eighth grade students about a perspective on American History that is often forgotten, or, has remained, as he has said, "in the shadows." Understanding the lives and experiences of the millions of enslaved men and women gives us a fuller, more true understanding of America's history. Mr. Davis's latest book has helped to bring a few of these men and

women out of the shadows of history and into the light. When he finished his presentation he answered the great questions from our students for another 20 minutes. Thank you to Mr. Snow for bringing this amazing opportunity to our students! I also want to thank our students for being extremely attentive and actively engaged in the presentation.

On a personal note, I hope you are able to spend some time with your amazing children over this holiday break. I am extremely grateful to have the opportunity to work with them each day.

Warmly,
Shelly



Reminder about School Notifications

With the winter weather now upon us in earnest, there may be times when we need to contact the entire school community to relay news (school cancellations, after school updates, etc.). We use a notification service called SchoolMessenger that sends out emails and phone calls to all of our 400+ parents and teachers. **If you receive a phone call from Blue Hill Consolidated School (374-2202), please listen to the entire message before calling the school.** You can imagine the office staff's scrambling when the phones start lighting up with calls asking, "Did someone just call my phone?"

So, when you receive a call from the school, please just take a quick moment and listen to the message before calling the office (if you don't pick up the phone in time the system will leave the message in your voicemail). Thanks!

PTF Holiday Ham Boxes

Thank you all for your generosity. We were able to fill bags for six families. Each grade created some wonderful additions to the bags--everything from ornaments to gingerbread. This is a wonderful activity that combines the efforts of our parents and students to support the community.

Winter Clubs

Notices will go out tomorrow to let families know what clubs your children signed up for. Thank you to our amazing parent volunteers who are running these enrichment opportunities. Clubs start the week of January 9.

Hannaford Card Program

Start the year off right by helping the BHCS PTF. The **Hannaford Gift Card** program is a great way to donate money to the school at no additional cost to you.

If you purchase or reload a Hannaford Card through us, Hannaford will donate **5%** of your order to the Blue Hill Consolidated School Parent, Teacher, Friend (PTF) Group. We use these funds to benefit BHCS and PTF activities and programs.

Cards are good at any Hannaford - including TradeWinds!

January Hannaford Gift Card Order:

Whether you are ordering a new card or requesting to reload a card just click on this link for the Hannaford Gift Card order form <http://bit.ly/bhcsptf-hannaford-1617>. Please drop off the completed form and your cash or check to the school office by 2:30pm, Thursday, January 5, 2017.

Contact me with any questions.

Thank you,

Ann Pladson, BHCS PTF

[925-997-3458](tel:925-997-3458) or ptf@bhcs.org

Dates to Remember

Dec. 26 - Jan. 2	Holiday Break
January 5	Hannaford Card orders due
January 9	Winter Clubs Start
January 11	School Board Meeting
January 13	No School - Inservice Day
January 16	No School MLK Day



Christmas Eve Services at First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, Maine, UCC, all are welcome. Family Service will be at 5:00 pm, with an unrehearsed Christmas Pageant. Contemporary Lessons and Carols Service at 8:00 pm. Christmas Day service, 10:00 am, with refreshments following.

The Simmering Pot—A Community Created Supper, provides free meals on Mondays 2:30 to 6 pm at First Congregational Church, Blue Hill. The Simmering Pot will be closed Monday, December 26 and Monday January 2 for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. We'll be back January 9. Come and enjoy a delicious meal at the Simmering Pot. No charge, donations accepted. In case of storms, follow school closings. Info, call 374-2891.

Caroling at Parker Ridge: Please join us for caroling at Parker Ridge on Friday, December 23 at 3:30 pm. We will meet in the lobby of Parker Ridge. Contact Rebecca with any questions ~ rconable@mac.com or 374-5119. Hope to see you all there!

Community articles submitted by the Blue Hill community are posted as-is. Those interested in submitting community news for the newsletter may contact Tracy Gandy (tgandy@bhcs.org). Views/opinions expressed in this section are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official school positions or policies.