



Explorations

Blue Hill Consolidated School

February 9, 2017

Budget Season

Some of us might call this time of year, “Basketball Season,” or “Tax Season,” but for us here at BHCS, it is also “Budget Season.” The process of working on the budget for the 2017-2018 school year actually began in November of 2016 and won’t officially end until our Town Meeting on April 8, 2017. It began when teachers and support staff all provided information about what money they will need the following school year for books, field trips, furniture, subscriptions, equipment, professional development, repairs, and so on. From that information I came up with changes in costs from last year’s budget and met with the superintendent and business manager to get those changes entered into the budget. Meanwhile, our special education director came up with costs for the Special Education portion of the budget and we gathered information about what our high school costs would be. We had our first draft to the school board on January 11 and have been meeting weekly to comb through the budget ever since.

There are many parts to our approximately \$5.5 million budget. Some parts of the budget are fixed costs and we are unable to trim back, most notably Special Education (set by state/federal mandate) and Secondary Education (set by local high schools)—both large parts of our budget that have seen steady increases year over year. The costs of Regular Instruction and Operations and Maintenance are both areas that our school board looks through, clarifies, and trims. With steady increases in fixed costs, and the school board’s goal to present a budget increase to the town in the 2-3% range, other non-fixed areas are what have to be cut. Our Regular Instruction line that includes teacher salaries and benefits, classroom supplies, furniture, instructional equipment, and field trips has been trimmed down significantly and is less than last year’s budgeted amount, despite an anticipated increase in enrollment. In order to present a low-increase budget to the town, we have to compensate for the increased fixed costs by cutting what we can.

Please feel free to come to me or email me with questions about any of this. We would really appreciate your support of our school budget at the Town Meeting on April 8, right here at BHCS!

Warmly,
Shelly

Spirit Week and Winter Carnival

Now that we officially have some snow, it is sure to be a packed week of fun activities. Thanks to Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Tobey for organizing these events and for all the staff who make it happen!

Monday, Feb. 13: Twins Day
Tuesday, Feb. 14: Hawaiian Day
Wednesday, Feb. 15: Bobcat Spirit Day
Thursday, Feb. 16: Dress Your Best

Friday, Feb. 17: Winter Carnival
Crazy Hair Day • Lip Sync Competition Finals
Sledding Competition • Student vs. Staff
Basketball Game

Dr. Seuss Day & BEAR Night

On March 2 we will be celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday with a day filled with literacy, books, and a special Suessical lunch. If you are able to help out at lunch serving the birthday cake, please let [Mrs. Gandy](#) know. Volunteers will be needed at 11:25, 12:05, and 12:40.



The next night, March 3, will be our annual BEAR (Be Enthusiastic About Reading) Night. Join us in celebrating literacy from 6-7:30 pm.



This an opportunity for families to stop by the library and enjoy some quiet time to read. There will also be book-related games and snacks.

What to bring :

- A parent or other adult
- A blanket, stuffed animal, pillow
- A snack to share based on a story. For example: blueberry muffins from [Blueberries for Sal](#) or cookies from [If You Give a Mouse a Cookie](#).

Delay Days

When there is a two-hour delay for the start of the school day, school starts at 9:50. There is no breakfast on days that we have a delayed opening.

Menu Update

If there is a snow day on Monday, there will be a change to the menu:

Tuesday: Chicken taco, rice, veggie stick

Wednesday: Sweet and sour pork, drowned noodles, stir fry veggies, Hawaiian delight

Thursday and Friday will be as scheduled

Dates to Remember

February 14, 16	School Budget Meeting, 5 pm
February 13-17	Spirit Week & Winter Carnival
February 16	PTF Meeting, 2:45pm, BHCS Library
February 17	Winter Clubs End
February 20-24	Winter Break
March 2	Dr. Seuss Day
March 3	BEAR Night



Blue Hill Heritage Trust February Events

The Open-Air Arts Initiative- First Annual Show and Reception
Saturday, February 11th 3-5pm Blue Hill Public Library

The Open-Air Arts Initiative is excited to announce their first annual show, at the Blue Hill Public Library's Britton Gallery, for the month of February. The Open-Air Arts Initiative is a collaboration between the [Blue Hill Heritage Trust](#) and [Cynthia Winings Gallery](#). Its mission is to use nature to ignite creativity in the young people who live on the Blue Hill Peninsula.

A public reception for the exhibit, will be held on Saturday, February 11th from 3-5pm. Come learn more about Open-Air Arts Initiative, meet some of the incredible school aged artists from our peninsula who submitted works for this year's show and find out how to participate and submit works in our next exhibit.

The Open-Air Arts Initiative is a self-driven program, in which school aged young people on the peninsula (Pre-K through 12th Grade) may visit any Blue Hill Heritage Trust trail or conservation property and create something that expresses their inspiration from and connection to that place. All participants' work, once submitted, will be displayed and celebrated at an art show in the next year.

The Initiative asserts: 'Yes! be inspired, we believe that you are all creative and amazing, show us what you see out there, we think it's amazing too!'

For more information, please visit our website at www.openairarts.org or contact Chrissy at Blue Hill Heritage Trust 374-5118.

President's Day Winter Hike

Monday, February 20th 10am Bluff Head Trail, Rope Ferry Road, Sedgwick

Join Blue Hill Heritage Trust volunteers Barbara Kourajian and Merrie Eley, a Maine Master Naturalist, for a winter group hike at our new Bluff Head Trail in Sedgwick (plus a second hike at Snow Natural Area for those looking for a bigger workout). We'll begin hiking at 10am and will have hot beverages and refreshments to keep you going! Free and open for all ages. For more information and to pre-register, please contact Blue Hill Heritage Trust at 374-5118 or info@bluehillheritagetrust.org

Take It Outside! Winter Family Fun Day to Celebrate Brooksville's Bicentennial

February 11 - [Holbrook Island Sanctuary](#) - 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Join us for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, sledding, and ice skating (ski or walk to Fresh Pond) along with warm refreshments. Skis and snowshoes will be available for loan, free of charge. If low snow, the event will still take place (call and check on conditions for appropriate footwear). Inclement weather date will be Sunday, February 12th. Park location: 172 Indian Bar Road, Brooksville. For more information call: 326-4012.

Cabin Fever Reliever

Friday, February 10, 6:00 pm, First Congregational Church of Blue Hill will put on a Cabin Fever Reliever, Community Potluck Supper, with Cake Auction, entertainment and children's activities. Youth will get together in afternoon to decorate and make desserts. Youth performers – musicians, jugglers, comedians, etc., are welcome to take part in the talent show – for more information, contact Wendy Ritger, 374-2891, info@bluehillcongregational.org.

Upcoming Blue Hill Concert Association Concert

The second concert of the 2017 Winter Season will feature DECODA, a trio of flute, cello, and piano. These virtuoso musicians are drawn from the larger Ensemble ACJW fellowship program, created by The Juilliard School and Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute. Their program is called Folk Song in tribute to music and cultures which came before them. It will feature Martinu's "Variations on a Slovak Theme", "Four Pre-Inca Sketches" by Frank, "Oblivion" by Piazzolla, and as a nod to traditional Hungarian rhythms, Haydn's "Trio No. 39 in G major" also called "The Gypsy".

The wonderful acoustics and splendor of the First Congregational Church in Blue Hill is the perfect venue to enjoy the enthusiasm and excitement of these renowned young artists. Tickets for this concert are \$30, available at the door or online at: bluehillconcertassociation.org. **Students under 18 years of age are always admitted free of charge.** For more information about this and our upcoming concerts visit us online or call 367-2918. The concert starts at 3:00 at the Blue Hill Congregational Church on Sunday. The group is also doing a special "Open Rehearsal" for students (and their parents) since they have to cancel Friday's assembly in Castine due to the snow storm. The Open Rehearsal is free for students and parents.

Events at the Blue Hill Public Library

Paper Petals for Parker Ridge – a 52 Weeks of Giving Project on Saturday February 11th at 10 AM

Howl's Moving Castle – Inklings movie and book club Saturday February 25th at 2 PM

As always we have Storytime Tuesdays at 10:30, Toddler Playgroup Wednesdays at 10:30, Teen Writing Group Tuesdays at 4:00, and Girls Who Code Wednesdays at 4:00 (requires registration, only 1 spot left).

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.