



EXPLORATIONS

Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

March 30, 2011

It's Spring! Well, it may not look like Spring out there yet, but I am eternally hopeful that it will soon. Historically, this season brings many joys at school. Areas of the playground that have been secreted away for months by snow and ice emerge again and provide the kids with fresh new kingdoms to explore and room to run. Teachers will occasionally take classes outside to enjoy the sunshine while reading a great book or to investigate the Mill Stream for changes and surprises in nature. There are many exciting things to look forward to in the Spring.

There is one aspect of Spring at most schools that is not so fun, however, and that is the inevitable struggle that comes with honoring the school's dress code. I have included the dress code from the student handbook below. The general expectations have been in place for some time, and seem to evolve with fashions over the years. Teachers are misunderstood when it is thought that they enjoy imposing dress codes because, indeed, this is NOT an area where they want to struggle with their students. But, they have also seen the distractions that are inevitable as the result of inappropriate clothing. While it is ever important to instill the importance of individual choice with students, it is also necessary to understand that BHCS is a public K-8 school with many different visitors who come to our building each day. Every student here is a reflection of the whole school, and we are cognizant of the fact that student appearance makes an impression both inside and outside the school. We do not allow students to wear clothing with offensive language, or that promotes drug or alcohol use, or that seems sexually explicit and distracts because it exposes underwear or because it does not appropriately cover the body.

Short of imposing a school uniform, we ask for your support when shopping for spring clothes with your children. We realize that media and fashion strongly influence choices of "what to wear," but if he/she wishes to buy something revealing, please remind him/her that it cannot be worn to school. If a student does come to school with inappropriate attire, we will need to call home for something else to wear. We do have extra clothing here, as well.

So, Spring has sprung, and it's a joyous time for all of us. Thank you for your help with this, as it allows our teachers to focus on classroom instruction rather than the length of shorts and skirts.

Town Meeting this Saturday, 9:00 AM
Be sure to vote on Friday at the Town Hall!

BHCS Jazzband Gets 1 Rating at States!

Blue Hill Consolidated Senior Jazzband participated in the State Middle School Jazz Festival in Millinocket on Saturday. Their 1 rating score of 92 qualified them for a gold award which put them in 2nd place in division IV. David Reinke was recognized with a musicianship award for the 3rd year in a row! Hannah Maiden, Jessie Moore, Jordon Soper, Matthew Stephens, Beowulf Urban, Abigail Jakub, Summit Colman, Isaac Webb, Trent Williamson, Jack McKechnie, Ben Politte, and Jackson Billings all received 1 ratings for their solos. Also performing, but not soloing, were Schuyler Williamson, Jacob Bowden, Sam Scheff, Mira Schubeck, Arlo Stabler, and Mariah Reinke. Many parents were on hand to help with equipment, encourage the students and supporting their efforts. Thank you all so much! For a view of one of the tunes, a you-tube video is posted on the BHCS website....search BHCS Superstition.

Della L. Martin, Principal • Loretta Smith, Secretary • Beth Jackson, Librarian • Matt Jurick, Technology Specialist

Telephone: (207) 374-2202 • Fax: (207) 374-2919 • www.bhcs.org

Congratulations to Logan Lord! He has come in 1st in his last four wrestling tournaments. He attends the state tournament this weekend. Good Luck, Logan!

BEEM Silent Auction is here at BHCS until Friday. More bidding can happen at the BEEM BASH on Friday night!

8th Grade News

The 8th grade will be at Maine Maritime Academy on Friday April 1st. All 8th graders from Union 93 will be attending. Students need to turn in their permission slips by Thursday, March 31st. They will be using MMA's climbing wall, field house, swimming pool & receiving a tour of the ship. MMA will also provide lunch. We will leave Blue Hill at 8:00 AM & return to Blue Hill at 2:30 PM.

2011 YEARBOOK

The Yearbook Committee is looking for advertisers to support the 2010/2011 Yearbook. This year we will be offering advertisement space in different sizes. Business card size for \$25.00; one-quarter page for \$50.00; and one-half page for \$75.00. This is a great opportunity to advertise your business; congratulate your child; and/or thank a teacher while supporting the production of this valuable BHCS keepsake. Please contact Kathy Soper @ 374-2703 or kathyspr14@gmail.com with orders and questions. Thank you!

New Garden Committee Forming!

Are you interested in plants, gardening, greenhouses, an after school garden club?? Join the first meeting of the new BHCS Garden Committee on Monday, April 11 at 3 PM in the library! Contact Cate Reuter or Heather Nelson for more information or to express interest.

PTF News

*Donations are wanted for the PTF Snack and Bake Sale Table at this Saturday's Town Meeting here in the BHCS gym! Yummy

muffins, cookies, bars, breads, snacks, fruit salad, etc. will be gratefully received! Bottled water and coffee are also needed, as well as people to help at the table during the meeting. Contact Melissa Emerton or Beth Jackson if you can help. Our goal is to keep all voters feeling alert and in good humor as they consider the important issues related to our town and school!

*The planning meeting for Staff Appreciation Day (Tues., May 3) will be Wed., April 6 at 6:30 PM in the library. Bring your ideas and energy, or pass them on to Melissa Emerton or Rena Flores if you can't make the meeting.

*The April PTF meeting will be Wed., April 13 at 6:30 PM, in conjunction with the School Board meeting. Hope to see you at one or both!

In the Library

Next week will be a busy one at BHCS in terms of visiting authors!

*Maine author Ryan Higgins will be here on Monday, sharing with 8th graders about how to make a picture book as they start to think about creating their own children's book as a final project of their 8th grade year. He will also talk with the 6th and 7th graders in their art classes -- the last two grades that haven't had a chance to visit with him yet. He will be bringing copies of his first book, Twaddleton's Cheese, with him so if you would like a signed copy (or another one!), send in \$14.95 (checks made out to Ryan Higgins) by next Monday.

*On Thursday, our Kindergarten through 5th graders will be treated to a day focused around Chickadee Award nominee Winnie Finn, Worm Farmer, and related activities (more details next week). Author Carol Brendler will soon be on her way from Chicago, along with her worm farm, and will be visiting a number of schools on the Blue Hill peninsula in this cooperative offering from the area libraries. If you want to get a sneak peak at Carol and her worms, she will be presenting at the Blue Hill Public Library on Monday afternoon (4/4) at 3:30. That would also be the best time to get an autographed copy of her book, as there are very limited numbers available.

*Speaking of the Chickadee Award, students in grades K-4 will join students across Maine and vote on their favorite by this Friday from the list of 10 titles. Students in grades 4-8 who have read at least three books from the Maine Student Book Award list of over 40 books can also vote for their favorite by Friday. Watch here next week for the BHCS winners, as well as the overall Maine winners as soon as we know them.

"WE'VE GOT TALENT"

VARIETY SHOW FUNDRAISER

Saturday April 9th @ 7:00 p.m.

Benefit for Nichols Day Camps

Show Tickets: \$10 in advance or \$12 @ the door and also at the PTF bake sale table at town meeting. Children 12 & under Free

RAFFLE DRAWING FOR FREE SESSION ONE CAMP

Contact: 359-2122 for more information

Dress Code

We encourage all students to dress appropriately and cleanly, in order to add to a positive learning environment.

- shorts and skirts must be of an appropriate length
- no pajamas
- one inch straps for tank tops, no plunging armholes
- no halter tops
- no exposed underwear, or skin between shirt and pants
- no hats or kerchiefs in the school building
- no clothing which promotes drugs, alcohol, tobacco, profanity, disrespect, or unlawful activity
- sneakers must be worn for all gym classes
- no slippers in grades 3-8
- no footless-tights (leggings) unless worn with a skirt or shorts of appropriate length.

Sports News

The Parent Meeting for Spring Sports will be on Thursday, March 31st at 3pm in the gym. All sports families are required to attend.

- Tryouts for Baseball will be held right after the Parent Meeting from 4:00-5:00 on Thursday, TOMORROW!
- Tryouts for Softball will be held on April 4th and 5th in the gym.

5th and 6th grade ball players: **There will be a firm deadline for sign up for this team - Friday, April 8th.** Beyond that date, we will begin recruiting elsewhere in the union to fill the slots. **Sign up by sending a note of intent to participate on the Tier 2 Team to Tara McKechnie.**

Baseball and softball for all teams: 3/4 intramurals, 5/6 2nd Tier Baseball and Softball, and A Team Baseball and Softball will begin the week after April vacation.

Ultimate Frisbee will be starting again on April 8th, Friday - right after school. John Richardson will be leading this team again. All 5th - 8th grade students are welcome to join!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

March 31 (Th)	Mandatory Sports Meeting for Parents of Spring Athletes, 3:00 PM.
April 1 (F)	BEEM BASH at Barncastle, 6-10 PM
April 2 (S)	Blue Hill Elections, 10 AM – 8 PM
April 2 (S)	Town Meeting, 9:00 AM with 7 th Grade Turkey Dinner at 11:30 AM
April 6 (W)	PTF Staff Appreciation Meeting, 6:30 PM
April 7 (TH)	Winnie Finn, Worm Farmer Day (K-5)
April 8 (F)	Student Art Show Public Reception, Blue Hill Public Library, 4–6:00 PM
April 8 & 9	OLIVER! Friday at 6:30 PM and Saturday at 1:00 PM.
April 11 (M)	Garden Committee Meeting, 3:00 PM
April 13 (W)	School Board Meeting, 5:00 PM
	PTF Meeting, 6:30 PM
April 15 (F)	Start of April Vacation
April 28 (TH)	5210 Family Fling, 5:30-7:30 PM
June 16 (TH)	Graduation, 7:00 PM
June 20 (M)	Last Day of School