



# EXPLORATIONS

## Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

December 6, 2012

### **Pre-K Discussion - Next School Board Meeting on Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM.**

Please think about coming to the next Board meeting to hear what Blue Hill's options are as we consider providing a Pre-K for our town. There are many dimensions to consider. Should we collaborate with Head Start? Will we need to add a portable space? What about collaborating with another town that has space? There's much to discuss, so please join us.

### **Date Change for the 5-8 Concert!**

Please put Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM on your calendars as the new date for the 5-8 winter concert. This will facilitate an easier set-up and allow some students to make the show who otherwise would have missed it. Mrs. McKechnie will inform basketball players of any changes to their schedule.

Thanks to the 7/8 musicians who played at the Tree Lighting downtown on Thursday. They will sound great and they certainly have the seasonal spirit! And also, thanks to the 8th Grade Jazzband who played beautifully at last Saturday's Winter Faire. Their playing was very impressive and they represented BHCS with style and confidence.

~~Mr. Schubeck

### **8th Grade Bottle Drive**

The 8th grade would greatly appreciate any 5¢ or 15¢ returnable cans or bottles to help raise money for the class trip. Bottles may be left throughout the school year in the recycling bin in front of the gym or at the Sedgwick Redemption Center on our behalf. Thank you! ~The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class

### **Reminders:**

\*\*Classes start at 8:00 AM each day. If your child is eating breakfast in the morning, it is important that he/she gets to school by at least 7:45 AM, in order to not miss out on important academic time.

\*\*PLEASE make sure to send in a note each day that your child will not be following his/her usual dismissal routine. It is not safe practice to simply tell your child to go on a different bus, for instance, and not notify the teacher or the office. Without hearing from the parent, we cannot send them to a different location; they may have misunderstood and then are not supervised.

### **Ryan Higgins Was Here!**

We had a great visit today from Ryan T. Higgins, author and illustrator of Roger Goes Up and Twaddleton's Cheese, who shared about his "job" as a creator of children's books. Kids asked great questions and learned a lot about writing, illustrating and publishing. It isn't too late to get an autographed copy of Roger Goes up -- return an order form with \$15 by next Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. They will be delivered before Christmas vacation.

### **Special Needs Siblings Group Interest**

Last year Megan Granger, our school counselor, provided a support group for siblings of students with special needs. We are likely offering the group again in the new year. Sibling diagnoses ranged from ADHD to Autism to Learning Disabilities. If your child would benefit from this group, please let Megan know. She can be reached at: [mgranger@bhcs.org](mailto:mgranger@bhcs.org) or 374-2202, ext. 104.

### **PTF News**

•**Holiday Workshop this Saturday -- December 8<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM - Noon.** The cafeteria will be transformed into **Santa's workshop** with stations set up for "elves" to create jewelry, gingerbread people, pet treats, ornaments, wood crafts, cards, gift tags, and more. Supplies and instruction will be provided, as well as a mid-workshop snack. Thanks to everyone who is helping with this annual holiday tradition! Free and open to all; donations help with the cost of materials.

•**Helping Hands & Holiday Ham Dinners** -- Each year the PTF organizes holiday dinners for a number of BHCS families. We gather donations for these dinners by wing (K-2, 3-5, 6-8), and the boxes usually include many special touches created by the various classrooms. Watch for the donation sign-up sheets coming home early next week. Tera Gellerson and Sharon Scheff will be wing coordinators. If you would be willing to be the third coordinator, let one of them know.

### •**2013 Discount Card Contest**

Order forms came home earlier this week for the PTF 2013 Discount Cards. The PTF is offering a pizza party to the classroom selling the most cards by Friday, Dec. 21. These cards are great for gifts, and can be used over and over during 2013. Let your friends and neighbors know about this great offering, and help the PTF help BHCS by selling 500 cards! More order forms are available in the lobby.

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](http://www.bhcs.org)

**From the Nurse: Health Alert!**

There has been a confirmed case of conjunctivitis in the school. Conjunctivitis, also known as "pink eye," is very contagious. It is caused by a bacteria, and if suspected, needs to be seen by a doctor. If confirmed by the doctor, it is treated with an antibiotic. The symptoms include pink/reddened discoloration of the white part of the eye, green/yellowish drainage, and irritation and itching of the eye. It can be spread to the other eye very easily by rubbing the eye. This is also how it can be easily spread to other people. For this reason, if a child at school has these symptoms, we will call the parent(s) to come and take the child to the doctor. If confirmed, the child needs to stay home for 24 hours from the day the antibiotic starts. If you suspect your child has "pink eye," please have them checked out by your doctor, and let us know here at school so we can monitor for any further outbreaks, and to reinforce our prevention methods.

**Flu Vaccine Clinics:**

We will be offering the flu vaccine to all students in Kindergarten through eighth grade again this year. Consent forms and information about the vaccines have been sent home for parents to review. **We will be conducting the vaccine clinics during the week of December 10th. Please return your consent form(s) by December 7th.** If the form is not received by that date, then your child will not be able to receive the vaccine here at school. Please do not hesitate to call or contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,  
Deborah L. Candage, RN, BSN

**Ballet Classes**

A ballet class for children ages 4, 5, and 6 will be held at the Sedgwick Dance Studio with Jessica Holloway on Thursdays at 3:30 PM. If you are interested, please call Jennifer at 359-5562 to register. Minimum class size will be 8 students.

**Science Enthusiasts!**

Students: If you are intrigued by science and want to spend more time in the lab.... .join Ilona Rankin, Eugenia's mom, for an after school science lab experience on Mondays after the Christmas break. Mrs. Rankin teaches at the college level and she would love to share her enthusiasm with students in grades 6-8. Let Mrs. Martin know if you want to participate to any degree.

**The Blue Hill YMCA**  
Made possible by the generosity of  
Chuck & Belinda Lawrence, owners of  
Tradewinds Market

Join us for our Open House on  
Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup>  
12:00 - 3:00 PM & 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Our Fitness Center has new additions to its programming and space! Our Early Learning Center consists of two Preschool classrooms & a fantastic Playground!

Meet our *fantastic* Fitness and Early Learning Center Staff.  
Refreshments will be available.

Come and see what we have to offer you, your family and the communities of Blue Hill, Surry, Sedgwick, Brooklin, Brooksville and Penobscot!!

***Christmas Greens Gathering***

Cut your own Christmas tree  
Sundays, Dec. 2 & 9, 12-3 pm  
Great Pond Mtn. Wildlands, Orland

Open-grown trees, scenic hayride, bonfire,  
hot cocoa and home-baked treats  
\$25 per tree—benefits the Wildlands

Wildlands South Gate is on Rte. 1  
just south of Rte. 176 junction in East Orland.  
North Gate is on Bald Mtn. Road, 0.2 mi. from  
Winkumpough Rd. in North Orland.  
469-7190 or [www.greatpondtrust.org](http://www.greatpondtrust.org)



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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- Sat., Dec. 8 PTF Kids' Holiday Workshop, 10 AM – Noon
- Wed., Dec. 12 School Board Meeting, 5 PM
- Thurs., Dec 13 K-4 Winter Concert, 6:30 PM  
Snow date: 12/14
- Mon., Dec. 17 5-8 Winter Concert, 7 PM  
Snow date: 12/18