



# EXPLORATIONS

*Blue Hill Consolidated School*

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

April 4, 2013

## APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH!

### *Did you know?*

- Autism is a developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life.
- It is the result of a neurological disorder that affects the functioning of the brain.
- Autism now affects 1 in 88 children and 1 in 54 boys.
- Autism prevalence figures are growing.
- Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the U.S.
- Autism costs a family \$60,000 a year on average.
- Autism receives less than 5% of the research funding of many less prevalent childhood diseases.
- Boys are nearly five times more likely than girls to have autism.
- There is no medical detection or cure for autism.

*Facts About Autism... from Making Strides and Autism Society of Maine.*

**Town Elections are on Friday, and Town Meeting is this Saturday starting at 9:00 AM. The education warrant articles are first this year.**

### *The Cookie Court*

Please join us for this amusing play, starring many 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders and directed by Shelley Latham. Wednesday and Thursday of next week, in the café at 7:00 PM. Will JUSTICE be served???

### *8<sup>th</sup> Grade Project Citizen – April 11*

It's been a lot of work, but civic work isn't always easy. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders have chosen a project, researched and interviewed, strategized how to make the best impression and argument, and written and rehearsed their speeches to

convince the judges that their ideas are worthy and workable. Judging will be done on April 11<sup>th</sup> in the library. Parents and community members are invited to their showcase and the awards presentations that night from 4-5 PM in the café. Thanks, Mrs. Kennedy, for bringing this project to BHCS.

### *The Student Art Show is Up!*

The show will be up at the Blue Hill Public Library for the entire month of April with a reception on Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM. There will be live music by the BHCS jazz band and refreshments, of course.

### *Senior Partners Tea*

It was fun to see so many senior friends visiting with the 4<sup>th</sup> graders today for their annual Senior Partner Tea. Patty Clapp and Melanie Cote's classes were excellent hosts. Thank you!

### *Conferences Are Next Week!*

Be sure to sign up with your child's teacher, and refer to the specialists' hours below. We aim for 100% participation, because that parent-teacher connection is part of the reason why BHCS kids do so well. See you next week!

### *Specialists' OFFICE HOURS*

#### Bob McCormick

Monday, 3-6 PM

Tuesday, 4-5 PM

Wednesday, 3-6 PM

#### Penny Ricker

Monday and Wednesday, 3-6 PM

Thursday, 3-5 PM

#### Matt Jurick

Monday – Thursday, 3-5 PM

#### Sara Brown

Monday – Wednesday, 2:45-4:45 PM

Thursday, 2:45-3:45 PM (or by

appointment)

#### Audrey Means

Monday and Wednesday, 2:45-6:15 PM

(or by appointment)

Bill Schubeck – Please call for an appointment.

### Megan Granger

Mrs. Granger, our school counselor, is happy to join any parent teacher conferences if invited by teachers and/or parents. She is also happy to schedule separate appointments with parents throughout the conference week as requested, or at any time during the school year.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade - History Bus Tour

This was a new and exciting social studies activity – a historic bus tour of Blue Hill and the neighboring towns. We started at the site of Blue Hill Mineral Springs in North Blue Hill, moved on to the Penobscot Historical Society's presentation of their town, then to Castine to learn about the beginnings of that town and the Revolution. The kids got a chance to have lunch with the Adams School kids, and then we were off to Caterpillar Hill. We returned to Blue Hill by way of Brooklin and South Blue Hill, taking in historic places all the way. What a great, authentic experience for 7<sup>th</sup> graders who are learning about their area in time to begin their Blue Hill Reports. Thank you Kyle Snow, and especially Rick Sawyer who orchestrated the bus tour with his expertise.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Play, Desserts, and Irish Auction

The 8th graders and their teachers, to raise money for their outdoor adventure trip in June, put on another exciting event last week. The play was Baby with lots of grins and giggles for the dilemmas of the sassy infant (Alissa Muise) and her parents (Becca Marks and Jackson Billings), her grandparents (Summit Colman and Cameron Gordon), her aunt and uncle (Sarah Mullen and James Marsh), her babysitter and the boyfriend (Sarah Mullen and Tom Woods), and Baby's 1<sup>st</sup> year coach (Maddie DesFosses). They were helped by the stage crew: Gage Clapp, Sam Scheff, Ben Politte, Arlo Stabler, Kyle Rice, and Jake Keenan. Thank you, parents for the elegant desserts, and Foster Smith for running the very entertaining Irish Auction!

### Sports News

It was terrific to see all the families at the Pre-season Spring Sports meeting! 56 families

and 72 athletes are all signed up for our spring sports: baseball, softball, and track!

The BHCS field is a little mushy, but ready for some field work this Saturday. If you would like to help, stop by from 10 AM - noon. Bring a metal rake, if you have one!

### Our Healthy School

**Screen Free Week!!! April 29th - May 3rd**

*The goal: Limit screen time to 2 hours or less a day, and provide some great alternative choices for after school fun!!!!*

In the past we have observed TV Turn Off Week, but now it includes all types of screens, like video game screens, computer screens, TV screens, technology screens, and so forth. The 5-2-1-0 Committee and PTF members are planning some really fun after school activities every day during this "Screen Free Week," including an "Open Gym" day, a mountain hike, Garden Club events and more! All students, parents, and staff are welcome to attend. It's all free and FUN!!! Stay tuned for the dates, times and places for these fun activities.

**\*\*\*TOMORROW\*\*\***

### **BEEM Bash!**

***An Evening of Fun!***

**Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 6-11 PM.**

**Reserve your tickets today!**

**Barncastle Restaurant, Blue Hill**

**\$30/person includes dinner,**

**silent auction, and dancing**

**with DJ Gary Milliken.**

**Call 374-3513 or**

**email [spolitte@roadrunner.com](mailto:spolitte@roadrunner.com).**

**Benefitting Blue Hill Education**

**Enrichment Monies and the students at**

**BHCS!**

**Find us on Facebook!**

### 5-2-1-0 Potluck and Spring Fling

Thursday, May 2nd at 5:30 PM in the cafeteria, gym, and library. Bring your favorite healthy dish, and the recipe. After dinner, there will be fun activities in the gym and the library. Try out the homemade smoothies, or make your own spring rolls. The veggie and fruit carving will

return, as well. It's so much fun to play with food! These have been really fun activities in the past, and will be available again this year. We'll also have some active fun to participate in - like "Boot Camp for Kids" with our local YMCA friends, and maybe some yoga in the library. Mr. Baxter will be offering some basketball fun in the gym. Find out what's going on this summer with PMAL and the Blue Hill Public Library. Enjoy favorite dishes, the company, the activities, and the break from TV, computers, and videos. Again, it's free, and it's all healthy, and best of all, FUN!!!!

**The Simmering Pot** - A Community created supper that provides a free, delicious meal on Mondays from 2:30 to 6:00 PM at the First Congregational Church of Blue Hill. Eat in/take out. No charge, donations accepted. In case of storms, follow school closings. For information call 374-2891.

#### **Vernal Pools Walk & Talk in Blue Hill**

Blue Hill Heritage Trust invites you to venture into the world of vernal pools at our Kingdom Woods Conservation Area on Saturday, April 6 from 1:00-2:30 PM. The walk will be led by Enoch Albert, who holds a Master's degree in zoology and wrote the chapter on Eastern Newts in *Maine Amphibians and Reptiles* (1999 ed.) Enoch will show participants the best places to find amphibians and how to identify the various species found in this part of Maine, including spotted salamander egg masses. Participants will look under logs, leaves, and rocks and will dip nets into vernal pools to investigate these amphibians of spring. This program is free and open to children and adults. Sign up at 374-5118 or email [eileen@bluehillheritagetrust.org](mailto:eileen@bluehillheritagetrust.org). A nationally accredited, member-supported local nonprofit, Blue Hill Heritage Trust, has conserved over 6,000 acres on the Blue Hill Peninsula since 1985.

#### **Dates to Remember**

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|----------------|---|
| Fri., April 5  | BEEM Bash, 6-11 PM,<br>Barncastle<br>Blue Hill Town Election Day at<br>the Town Hall  |
| Sat., April 6  | Town Elections, 10 AM – 8 PM<br><b>Town Meeting, BHCS,<br/>9:00 AM</b><br>7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Luncheon at Town<br>Meeting break, served around<br>noon. |
| April 10-11    | “The Cookie Court” at 7 PM  |
| April 11       | Project Citizen – grade 8   |
| April 8-11     | Conferences   |
| Fri., April 12 | No School<br>Student Art Show Reception,<br>Blue Hill Public Library, 4:30<br>PM. The work is up all month.   |
| Mon., May 6    | BHCS Speech Contest (7/8),<br>4 PM, Café  |
| Thurs., May 9  | Speech Contest – grades 7 - 8<br>Penobscot, 4:30 PM   |