



# EXPLORATIONS

## Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

March 20, 2014

### Blue Hill Consolidated School Named High Performance Reward School

It was exciting to receive the official news from the Maine Department of Education this week telling us that we have been identified as one of the 19 High Performance Reward Schools in Maine. Needless to say, I am so proud of the students, parents, townfolk, supportive administration, and the very, very hard-working staff at BHCS. Our recognition, in part, comes from the staff's expertise and ability to consistently target areas that need attention and to work toward those goals. Thank you, all.

~Della

### Town Meeting is Saturday, April 5

We hope that you can attend this very important meeting where the many town issues and the school budget will be voted on. As you know, there has been a great deal of effort put into planning a Pre-K program this year in hopes that it will be in place for the next school year. More and more, we realize the importance of this early experience that can better prepare kids for their years in school and the future. There's a multitude of research that has been done that supports the need for Pre-K, and as educators at BHCS we see it firsthand each year. Please make plans to attend this meeting in the BHCS gym. It starts at 9:30 AM and there is a mid-day break for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade turkey dinner; it usually wraps up in the early afternoon. Childcare will be provided at no cost to you. There will be more information next week.

### Jazz Band News from Mr. Schubeck Way to Go GSA!

Congratulations are due to former BHCS students Raine Smith, Mariah Reinke, David Reinke and Joe Boulet who took home musicianship awards at last weekend's High School State Jazz Festival. The combo Resonation took 1st place, 7up took second and Dissonance took third in their respective

divisions. And the GSA Jazzband took first place! Congratulations to all the GSA musicians!

### Good Luck BHCS Jazz Bands!

Please wish the BHCS jazz bands good luck as they head to Westbrook to compete in the Middle School State Jazz Festival on Saturday. The students have all worked incredibly hard and sound great. I am so proud of them!

### Science Fair – April 3

BHCS students in 7th and 8th grades will be presenting results of their original scientific research projects on the evening of April 3<sup>rd</sup> in the gym. Each project will include a hypothesis, based on background research, as well as data collection and analysis. Students who receive a "superior" score from the judges will be recognized, as will the top-scoring student. If you have questions, please contact Nell Herrmann.

Timing will be as follows:

5:30-7:00 - Students and judges only

7:00-8:00 - Public welcome

7:45 - Winners announced

### MLTI Update

"Minecraft" capabilities are being removed from the MLTI laptops. We are finding that students are not able to regulate themselves, some are sneakily trying to use it during school time, and that is impacting the learning environment in our classrooms. Gaming is not the intent of this school provided tool. It is meant to enhance learning, so we will no longer support this program as of 2:30 PM today.

### Geography Bee Winner Goes to State Competition

Elana Willimson, grade 7, has qualified to compete at the state level of the National Geographic Bee, sponsored by Google and Plum Creek, on Friday, April 4 at the University of Maine Farmington. To qualify, Elana had to

take and pass a written test after winning our school bee. We wish her well as she represents BHCS. Great job, Elana!

### **A Wrestling Champ!**

This past weekend Peyton Cole wrestled in Andover, Massachusetts in the New England Championships. He wrestled hard and came home with the win! He beat the wrestlers ranked #1 and #2 from New Hampshire, #1 from Massachusetts, #1 from Vermont to become the 130lb Middle School New England Champion. Unbelievable!!! Congratulations, Peyton!!!

### **Spring Sports**

Next week, the track team will have open gym times on Tuesday, March 25 and Wednesday, March 26 from 2:45-4:15. This is completely optional, but it is an especially good opportunity for students who have never participated in track before to learn more about it. (*If you are participating in the play you MUST attend the play practice if these times conflict.*)

**Monday, March 31, is the mandatory Pre-Season Parent Meeting at 6:30 PM in the gym.** I will be there to discuss the policy with the whole group and then teams will get to meet with coaches to hear more specifics about their sport. I look forward to seeing you all there!  
~Mrs. Schildroth, AD

### **Birds and Art**

5th grade is raising money to help support Birdsacre in Ellsworth. Mrs. Nightingale's class has been studying J.J. Audubon and drawing birds in art class. They are now working on tiles to sell. The change tower will be going up in the lobby and we would appreciate your support for this project. Due to a recent fire, Cordellia Stanwood's homestead was damaged, the building was not insured, and Birdsacre needs our help. This seems like a great community service project for our students, as many have traveled to the sanctuary on field trips and feel a close relationship to the birds and owls.

### **Celebrating Acadian Culture**

Students are starting to learn more about the Acadians -- their history, culture, language,

music, dance, arts and crafts -- in preparation for our Acadian Celebration on March 26 and 27. As previewed in last week's newsletter, March 26 will feature musicians from around the area coming to share Acadian music with our students during classroom visits in the morning and an afternoon ceilidh for everyone.

On Thursday students will prepare for the evening performance of their dancing and music from 6-7:30 and exhibits will be on display in the cafeteria from 5:30-6 PM. Please come to enjoy the exhibits and food samples in the cafeteria at 5:30 and then have your children on the bleachers in the gym by 6 PM. This is an all school event and we would like all students to attend if possible. The schedule for the performance is:

- K- contradance-Bobolinka
- 1-2- contradance-La Bastringue
- 3-4-contradance- Loaded Car
- 5-6-contradance- Over The Top
- 7-8 band- 2 Acadian/Cajun tunes
- K-8- French song with Mrs. Means
- All- contradance with Mr. Schubeck's band.

This should be a very enjoyable evening. If you have any questions you can contact me at BHCS (374-2202, ext.113, [rmccormick@bhcs.org](mailto:rmccormick@bhcs.org)). If you would be able to bring any Acadian/French snacks for the cafeteria at 5:30 PM, please let me know.

~Robert McCormick

### **BEEM BASH**

The BEEM Bash is coming! Mark your calendars for Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. It's a fun evening at Barncastle and a chance to help raise funds that provide enriching opportunities to students at BHCS.

### **Library**

Marcia Schatz, Reach Center STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) guide for the Blue Hill pilot area, joined the Digital Discovery class this week to share the resources and information available at [reachcenter.me](http://reachcenter.me) about activities, camps, workshops and more available throughout Maine for anyone interested in these kind of activities. You can create an account so you receive emails and newsletters about coming events and opportunities, or just search

it to see what is available. You can search by county, areas of interest, or month, and hear personal stories of how people found their way into the STEM areas, from medicine to boat building to programming to math. Check it out to find exciting offerings, with information about scholarship opportunities!

### **PTF News**

Our February meeting that was postponed twice will finally be happening! Join us tonight, March 20 at 6:00 PM. There will be a presentation from Mrs. Martin regarding the budget and the Pre-K plan. Then we will move on to new business. Our goal is to be done by 7:30 at the latest.

The PTF is busy supporting many activities around school. There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby and attached that outlines all the ways you can volunteer.

March 26 - We need a few volunteers to provide breakfast for the visiting Acadian musicians.

April 5 - Town Meeting breakfast - We are looking for muffins, fruit salads, quiches, and breakfast sandwiches. It has been noted that people tend to prefer these types of items rather than the sweets. Megan Granger and Linsley Simmons will be manning the sale for us this year.

May 5-9 - Teacher Appreciation Week - We need someone to head up the effort of organizing the week of celebration.

We send a huge thank you to Sarah King for organizing and hosting the movie nights this year. It is such a great family activity and it is nice to see this tradition brought back. We are also grateful to Jay Marsh for providing the pizza for these evenings. The end of the movie season means that spring is right around the corner!

### **Blue Hill Concert Association Concludes Season with International and Local Talent**

On Sunday, March 30, violinist Joseph Puglia and pianist Erika Allen, a former BHCS student and Blue Hill native, will be the featured artists in the final performance of the season. The two artists met as students at Kneisel Hall Chamber Music School in Blue Hill and subsequently

formed the Acadia Chamber Ensemble in 2007. The concert begins at 3 PM at the Congregational Church in Blue Hill. As always, the Blue Hill Concert Association admits all students for free! Adult tickets for the concert are \$30 and may be purchased at the door or online through PayPal at the website [bluehillconcertassociation.org](http://bluehillconcertassociation.org). The concert program may be viewed on the website.

### **Soccer at MMA**

Due to the fact we had so many people that were not able to make it last weekend, there will be a second tryout for the upcoming spring season this coming Sunday, March 23 at 4 PM at the Maine Maritime Academy Fieldhouse. The tryout will be available to boys and girls age 8-12. For information contact Coach Travers Evans, Coordinator of Athletic Facilities. Maine Maritime Academy, 326-2112.

### **Dress Code Reminder**

Please remind students who wear leggings to school that they are expected to wear a top that covers them to mid thigh.

### **Dates to Remember**

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Fri., Mar. 21      | 8 <sup>th</sup> grade to MMA               |
| Sat., March 22     | State Jazz Fest,<br>Westbrook              |
| Thurs., Mar. 26/27 | Acadian Celebration                        |
| Fri., Mar. 28      | No school, teacher in-service              |
| Mon., Mar. 31      | Spring sports meeting,<br>6:30 in the gym  |
| Thurs., April 3    | 7/8 Science Fair,<br>5:30-7:45 in the gym  |
| Fri., April 4      | BEEM BASH,<br>Barncastle at 6:00 PM        |
| Sat., April 5      | Town Meeting, 9 AM                         |
| April 9 and 10     | Suessical the Musical,<br>7 PM in the café |
| Tues., June 17     | Graduation, 7 PM                           |
| Every Friday       | Bobcat Day                                 |
| Attachments        | BHCS PTF Helpers<br>Sign-Up                |