



EXPLORATIONS

Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

September 4, 2014

Welcome Back! We at BHCS are looking forward to a fresh new year with your children. And...we are excited to welcome our Pre-K children to our new program. Thank you, parents, in advance, for your support this year.

Open House and Picnic Tonight!

We hope to see you here -- starting at 5:00 PM for classroom talks, a welcome gathering in the gym at 5:30, and a picnic on the playground at 5:45 with music provided by our jazz band. The Chess Team is raffling off a Kindle Fire HD! Wow! They will have a table in the lobby. Come and buy a ticket! BEEM is sponsoring another scavenger hunt, too! Join us for this fun night.

New Spaces at BHCS

Be sure to stop in to see the new spaces in the Pre-K room, the library, and the I.D.E.A. Center (former tech lab). There will be more information about them at 5:30 PM during the gym meeting tonight.

Important Bus Notice for Bus C

Starting on Monday, students who ride on Bus C for the AFTERNOON run will be 5 to 10 minutes later getting home.

About Explorations....

Starting this year, Explorations will be a bi-monthly newsletter. We will, however, send by email any news that cannot wait until the next publication. Dates and notices will be posted on the website, and/or sent to your email addresses, as well.

New Teacher Evaluation on Professional Growth Program – Piloting in 2014

This year, we are piloting a new teacher evaluation system that requires many hours of the principal's time for observing in classrooms. For me, this is good and bad news. I have always wanted to spend more time in the

classrooms, but it also means that I cannot publish a newsletter weekly. These pilots are happening all over the state of Maine this year due to an initiative recently passed by state legislation in the hopes of improving teaching and learning for our kids. So, watch for the publication to come out every other week from now on. I strongly suggest that you receive it by email, and if you have not already done so, please send your email address to mjurick@bhcs.org.

HELP! Missing TEXTBOOKS!

We are missing many textbooks, and our budget does not support getting replacements this year. There were sufficient books for everyone in the past, so we suspect that some may be on the floor in someone's bedroom at home! Please scour your home to help us restore our textbook supply - especially for 6th grade social studies and math. Thanks!

Lunch Card Replacements - \$1.00

Last year we had several instances where students damaged or repeatedly lost their lunch cards (mostly in the middle school). We will need to charge their lunch accounts \$1.00 if this happens this year.

PTF News

Welcome back to school. The PTF is excited to start the year off and plan some great activities for our families. We want to take a moment to introduce you to the faces of the BHCS PTF. Tracy Gandy, who served as PTF Co-President last year, will continue her role as PTF co-president this year. Tracy is the BHCS librarian, as well as mother to 8th grader Jack. Sarah King, who was active in the PTF last year, will also serve as PTF Co-President. Sarah has a son, Aubrey, in 2nd grade, and a daughter who is eager to start Pre-K next fall.

The PTF is for all families and friends of BHCS. We hold meetings once a month after school on the second Thursday. Childcare is

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

provided and we try to finish in about an hour. If you cannot attend a meeting, be sure to check the PTF section of the Explorations newsletter and also on the school website. You can also reach Sarah King and Tracy Gandy, at ptf@bhcs.org.

Our first Meeting is Thursday, September 11 at 2:50 in the BHCS Library. Hope to see you there.

Library News

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

— *Dr. Seuss*

If you have stopped by the library lately, I am sure that you have noticed that things have changed a bit. After some careful rearranging of furniture and books, we were able to include a complete computer lab in the library now. It will provide more computer access for the students in the younger grades while maintaining the substantial collection of print materials we have in the library. There is even a fish tank that was designed by students last year. Please stop by to visit if you have not yet seen the changes.

Volunteers are needed to help with book check out, shelving, and assisting students. You can volunteer for one morning/afternoon a week or more often if you would like. Please contact Tracy Gandy at tgandy@bhcs.org if you are interested or if you have any questions.

A Note from Ms. Gage

Dear BHCS Students and Families:

Some of you I have worked with, and others I've said hello to in passing... I will miss our time together and will miss seeing your faces. Keep up the great work you've been doing in your learning! BHCS parents, thanks for giving me the opportunity to work with your wonderful children.

I am sorry to be leaving BHCS, and sorry that it happened over the summer when I didn't have the chance to say goodbye. I have thoroughly enjoyed my work with each student, contributing to both BHCS and Union 93. I've driven quite a distance to work for many years, and just couldn't pass up the opportunity to work

closer to my home. It was a very difficult decision for me, and I will miss each of my students and the community. You show that you care about education by reading and working with your children at home, and you show that you care about each other in many ways. Mrs. Danielson will be taking my place, and I am very confident that she will do a great job, along with our caring teachers. Have a wonderful new school year - I look forward to hearing great things about you in the coming years! Love,
~Ms. Gage

PMAL News

Arts Playhouse will open its doors for our 6th year of programming on Monday, September 8. There are no major changes to the program, although we are very excited to have students playing on the brand new lawn on the north side of the building and enjoying a game or two on the new ping pong table!

Registration is available by email or you can call us at 479-4795. Space is limited, so please do not wait!

The listing for September and October workshops are as follows:

- Monday - Games, Games, Games - Chess and other really cool games!
- Tuesday - Science Wonder - chemistry and physics
- Wednesday - Outdoor Adventures - Wilderness projects and adventures
- Thursday - Maker's Day - craft and art projects

Music in Our Community

Duo Yumeno -- Japanese Classical and World Music,

Saturday, September 6, 7:30 PM,

First Congregational Church of Blue Hill
Unique, dynamic cello/samisen/voice concert

Suggested donation: \$20, students free.

For more info, call 374-2891 or 374-5431.

Email: ccmaccannell@msn.com.

Blue Hill Public Library – Book Sale

U-Pick: Abundant "Harvest" of Quality Books, Videos, and CD's

Saturday, September 6, 10 AM – 2 PM

Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance

The Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance has gas cards to help families with children 8-18 attend the Acadia Night Sky Festival on Mount Desert Island. The festival will run from September 25 through 29. Events will range from "star parties" at which astronomers point out constellations to a talk about plans to send a spacecraft to one of Jupiter's satellites.

To request a gas card, contact STEM guide Judy Mathewson at 266-7765. For more information about the festival, visit the following website: <http://www.acadianightskyfestival.com/>.

Dates to Remember

Thurs., Sept. 4	Open House and Picnic, 5 PM
Wed., Sept. 10	School Board Meeting, 5 PM