



EXPLORATIONS

Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

March 10, 2016

From the Principal — Innovation and Enrichment

Students at Blue Hill Consolidated School are fortunate in many ways. One of the most impressive things that I've found is that in every single room of this school we have tremendous teachers. This school has a faculty that is always looking to improve the way they teach using up-to-date teaching methods and tools and strive to enrich students in innovative ways. On a fairly regular basis we actually have educators from outside of our building come to observe our programs — especially our state-of-the-art IDEA Center. The Perloff Foundation, our biggest benefactor of the IDEA Center, uses our set-up as an example for others moving in this direction from all around the state.

The faculty at BHCS have been supported by BEEM since 1992. To-date, they have awarded more than \$125,000 to enhance school curricula, support special projects and events, and create new and bolster existing academic programs. BEEM raises money to bring new initiatives, proposed by teachers, to our school that aren't otherwise in the school budget. This school year alone they have funded two fitDesk exercise bikes for the middle school (a grant request proposed by Vicki Davis), binoculars and loupes for Penny Ricker's K-8 art classes, Camp Beech Cliff counselors onsite to coordinate team-building activities, a subscription to an online reading program called "Read Naturally" that enhances our Special Education and RTI offerings, and materials to make flower presses in the IDEA center for a sixth grade science program.

Our students' education is also enriched by a variety of other local organizations and businesses throughout the year. Currently our third through fifth graders are participating in the Bikes for Books program, sponsored by our local Masons at the Ira Berry Lodge. This program is designed to give our kids an incentive to read even more books than usual from March to May. After each book a student reads, they fill out an entry form to be drawn at the end for a brand new bike and properly-fitted helmet. I can tell you those kids are reading like crazy!

Finally, thank YOU families of BHCS, for your continued support of your kids education. We had nearly 60 students participate in our BEAR night on Friday!

I saw dozens of families attend our sports banquet last night to celebrate our athletes, as well as many at our Jazz Night before our jazz bands headed to the district festival. Our students are very lucky, indeed!

Warmly,
Shelly

Kudos

Kudos this week to April Chapman and Vicki Davis! These two are the chess advisors for BHCS and will be taking two groups of students to the state chess meet this Saturday! I've found this year the job of chess advisor is vast, not only do they supervise multiple age and ability levels every Monday for six months, but they also organize fundraising and travel to meets on holidays and weekends. Thank you for your extraordinary efforts with our students, and good luck at states!

CONGRATULATIONS! To our jazz bands, "Eighty Eights" and "Every Ready" as they both qualified to participate in the STATE competition on Saturday, March 19!

St. Patrick's Day Dinner To Support the Chess Team

Date: Thursday, March 17

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: BHCS Cafeteria

Menu: Corned Beef, Cabbage, Mac n' Cheese, Dessert

Cost: Suggested Donation of \$10/Adult,
\$5/ Child, \$25 Family



- * Exciting Irish Auction to follow the dinner with Auctioneer Foster Smith! Bring your quarters!
- * New this year, Silent Auction Tables beginning on 3/10 in the lobby.

PTF News

Join us Friday, March 11, in the BHCS Cafeteria for our last movie night of the year! Doors open at 5:30 PM, movie starts at 6:00 PM. We will be watching *The Good Dinosaur*, which is an animated movie about an amiable Apatosaurus named Arlo in a world where dinosaurs never went extinct. Movie, popcorn, and healthy snacks are free. There will be other snack items for sale. Contact Sarah King at ptf@bhcs.org with any questions.

The next PTF Meeting will take place at 2:45 PM on March 17. We will be discussing upcoming events such as Blue Hill Town Meeting childcare, Screen Free Week activity support, and Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week. We would love to hear your ideas and input! Contact Sarah King at ptf@bhcs.org with any questions.

About BEEM

BEEM is a 501(c)3 nonprofit whose mission is to develop resources to support and supplement programs at BHCS. The tagline for BEEM is "Enriching Education. Fostering Innovation." BEEM is directed by a volunteer board that includes Blue Hill school board members, administrators, and teachers.

The Board currently consists of:

Rebecca Conable, President
Sharon Scheff, Vice President
Matt Jurick, Secretary
Sue Hipsky, Treasurer
Lisa Arhontes-Marshall
Kelley Columber
Isla Dickerson
Lauren Richardson
Shelly Schildroth
Sean Walsh
Elizabeth Young

BEEM raises money through school fundraisers, school activities, its annual campaign, and its annual BEEM Bash Benefit Auction. This past fall, we included a new event, the "Cruise-In." The BEEM Bash will be coming up on April 8 (look for posters in the next few weeks) and will be a totally different event than in years past. Please mark your calendars to attend and help support enrichment and innovation at BHCS!

Principal Search

The search for the permanent BHCS principal is starting and two community members have volunteered to serve on the committee. Sarah King and Chrissy Allen will be part of the team that navigates

this process. If you have any input that you would like to share with them, please feel free to contact them. Sarah can be reached at sarahwjking@outlook.com and Chrissy at

Dates to Remember...

Thur., Mar. 10 Lively Literacy and Magical Math Evening, 6:30 - 7:30, Emlen Hall, The Bay School
Fri., Mar. 11 PTF Movie Night
Fri., Mar. 11 Dance in Brooklin Gr. 6-8, 6-9 PM
Thur., Mar. 17 Chess Team St. Patrick's Day Dinner Fundraiser, 5:00

Support BEEM! Join us on Friday, April 8 for the BEEM Bash: Mystery Edition at the Barncastle.

Reminder - Daylight Savings Time ends this Sunday. Spring Ahead!



The Simmering Pot – A Community Created Supper, provides free meals on Mondays from 2:30 to 6 pm at First Congregational Church of Blue Hill. Local produce is often used in soups and side dishes. Come and enjoy a delicious meal at the Simmering Pot. No charge, donations are accepted. For more info, call 374-2891.

Girls Softball Clinic -Saturday, March 5th, 12th, 19th at GSA gym from 9:00-11:00, ages - up to 14 years old, run by Stormi Wentworth.

Little League registration will be Thursday and Friday March 10 and 11th

Did you know that Friday, March 25th was an in-service day at BHCS? Don't worry, PMAL's got you covered! From 8 am till 3 pm PMAL will be transforming into a lab for mad scientists! Ever wondered how to make your own rocket, or how to make a battery out of a potato? Those are just a few of the fascinating experiments that we will be doing! If your K through 5th grader is interested, please register before March 22nd. Registration is \$50 per student. Please feel free to email us at renee@pmalcenter.com, or call us at 374-5255.