

EXPLORATIONS



Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614



December 22, 2010

Dear BHCS Families,

My favorite Christmas story is *The Gift of the Magi* by O. Henry, not just because one of the two main characters is named Della or because it teaches the perfect reading lesson for irony, but I like it because the message is one of true giving and gracious receiving. Times were tough for Della and Jim that one Christmas, so in order to give gifts from the heart they each made great sacrifices.

From my perspective in the office I have witnessed the true essence of giving this year. It makes me realize that BHCS is indeed a close extended family. We are genuinely here for one another to offer a warm and friendly greeting or to know when to offer more serious help. Loretta has been playing the part of Santa's elf for more than two weeks and she, ever so discretely, has a pulse on where there is a need and who might be able to help.

We wish to thank Wade Dow, Shani Billings, the PTF members who offer eternal help throughout the year, the classrooms for the Holiday Ham Dinners, and all those who donated to the BHCS Giving Tree. I have seen unbelievable gifts provided to families by the teachers and staff. I have also seen folks who, although they don't have much in these very hard economic times, have given some of what they DO have so that others can give their children a merrier Christmas. These have all been true gifts from the heart....Gifts of the Magi.

I love my job as principal of this wonderful school and I feel truly blessed to be surrounded by the BHCS family, one and all. I hope everyone has a joyous, healthy and restful holiday break.

Seasons Greetings!
Della

Geography Bee Update

We have some classroom bee winners! Ten students will be participating in the school geography bee on **Friday, January 7th at 8:15 AM**. We proudly announce Arlo Stabler, Kyle Rice, Lanie Billings, Kessler Parrott, Trent Williamson, Erin Niehoff, Abigail Jakub, Elijah Woodye, Sawyer Houghton, and Nina Quigley as the classroom winners, with Richie Acampora and Nellie Haldane as the alternates. Congratulations to these fine geographers!

Needed for the Classroom

After break Mrs. Schildroth and Mrs. McKechnie are doing a couple of projects linked to their lessons of local history and would love some donated items. They are looking for 1/2 pint jars to make blueberry jam. They are also looking for clean, new socks for making sock animals. If you can donate any of these items, please send them in after vacation. Thanks!

From the Sports Desk

BHCS is sporting 5 basketball teams plus an intramural squad of students this season. We have close to 80 students in grades 5-8 playing basketball! Our gym is being used non-stop during the week until 8:00 at night on most nights. It is awesome! Our students are surely busy this time of year.

There have been many requests to have our winter sports schedule online. Matt Jurick and I have worked hard to get that done and I can say now, **"We are online!"** If you go to the BHCS website's home page and click on the Wikis link across the top, you will see basketball. Click on that and you can then click on calendar and then the month button to see all of January's schedule. As you can see, January will be a very busy month of basketball for all

Della L. Martin, Principal • Loretta Smith, Secretary • Beth Jackson, Librarian • Matt Jurick, Technology Specialist

athletes.

Along with having it online, each and every child has received a January schedule, all highlighted for his/her practice and game times. Please ask for them and post them where they can be seen. We are trying to instill on the students the responsibility of remembering uniforms and other sports related materials so they do not have to call home to have parents bring in forgotten items.

Thank you to all who have attended the games. We have had great crowds for the games we have played so far. Kids like to have supporters there to help cheer them on. Keep up the good work.

See you all on the court--

~~Lori Wessel



On Another Note....

Thank you from the Music Department for a great concert season. Chorus Club will accept new 5-8 members after the Christmas break. Thank you to the second grade, Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Ricker, and parents for a great trip to the Nutcracker Ballet with Mrs. Means. Thank you to the PTF for providing snacks for the second graders at the Grand. 4th Grade will be starting recorders after the break; more information coming soon! ~Mrs. Means



And More Thoughts from the Podium...

I want to express my appreciation for all the hard work the band and chorus students put forth for the holiday concert. I was very impressed with all aspects of their behavior from their performance to rehearsals to concert etiquette. What a talented bunch (talent = hard work)! Great work, kids!!!

Also, here is an interesting musical opportunity...

The Maine String Teachers and Players Association is pleased to announce **TEMPO!** **TEMPO: The Eastern Maine Pops Orchestra for Young Musicians**, a newly formed organization providing a fresh and innovative full orchestral experience for middle school and

high school age students from eastern and central Maine. Based at the Criterion Theatre and Arts Center in Bar Harbor, TEMPO is dedicated to creating an educational and social atmosphere for the diverse student population of Maine's young musicians while providing the community with cultural enrichment and involvement opportunities. Auditions will be Saturday, April 9 with the first rehearsal on April 30 (after April break). Rehearsals will be on Saturday mornings, 9:30-12:00 noon at the Criterion Theatre, culminating in public performances the week of June 19 in conjunction with the Legacy of the Arts. For more information, please contact

tempo4ym@live.com

~~Mr. Schubeck

PTF News

*The elves were busy last Saturday making treasures for all. Thanks to everyone who made the Kids' Holiday Workshop such a fun day! Special thanks to members of the Civil Rights Team, the Student Council and the Girl Scouts who helped with the crafts, gift wrapping, and selling pretzel treats to make money for the Student Council.

*The next PTF meeting will be Wed., Jan. 5, 2011 at 8 AM in the library.

Library

Thanks to Kyle and Gilly Rice and Mrs. McKechnie for passing on already been loved items from their bookshelves.

Peninsula Metamorphic Arts & Learning

There's still time to sign up for "Cooking and Crafts" Discovery Day at **Peninsula Metamorphic Arts & Learning** on December 29th. Contact Chris at 374-5255 or chris.pmal@gmail.com to reserve a spot for your child. An additional Discovery Day that was scheduled for December 30th has been cancelled.