



# EXPLORATIONS

## Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

March 28, 2013

### No School Tomorrow - Teacher In-Service

### Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday at BHCS at 10:00 AM

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dessert Theater with "Baby" TONIGHT at 7 PM

### Coming Soon! Student Art Show at the Blue Hill Public Library

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

### Parents, we need your help!

Our children must be as safe as possible at all times. Though we at BHCS have things well organized during the school day, we are concerned about after-school hours, and this is where we need your help. For years, the school procedure has been, and continues to be, that students go home directly after school unless they have practices right after dismissal. Those who have practices later than that need to go home and arrive back here at the coach's requested time. They may not stay to "hang out" in the school or the gym. Practice schedules may vary, so it is important to check the website for details.

The **BHCS Student Handbook** is approved each year by the school board. In the section entitled Playground it reads, "After school hours and during the summer vacation the playground is available for public use, but children using it must be supervised by an adult. The playground is off limits from sunset to sunrise." In another section called School Sponsored Activities, it states, "Students who are in grade 4 and lower are not allowed to stay to watch older students' games or practices, or play on the school's playground, without adult supervision." From that we have historically felt that students in grades 5-8 may play on the playground as long

as their parents are aware that they are doing so and if they have a note. Students should not be in the school unless there is an emergency or a bathroom is needed. And, it must be understood that students are not supervised by BHCS personnel after school. Because of professional responsibilities, teachers are not available to supervise kids after school unless arrangements have been made with parents and students to give extra help. Unless there is a note from a parent, students are expected to follow their usual dismissal routines each day.

It would be tragic if something terrible should happen to a child who was not supervised. Please share our expectations with your children, and help us abide by these safety precautions. Thank you.

### Maine State Champs!

The Crazy Eights, Blue Hill Consolidated School's 8th grade jazz band, took first place in the Maine Middle School Jazz Fest in Division III last weekend. Additionally, Mira Schubeck received a Musicianship Award for piano, trumpet, and flute! Azule, the 7th grade band, received a I rating in Division III, and Sunrise, our 6th grade band received a II rating... their first time on an auditorium stage! We are so very proud of our young musicians, and we owe Bill Schubeck an enormous round of applause for his amazing talent and efforts.

### Wow! 5<sup>th</sup> Graders are Amazing Citizens!

Gathering a total of 1,231 items of food for the Hancock County Food Drive, the 5<sup>th</sup> graders have completely amazed us! On top of that, they raised, for our local Tree of Life Food Pantry, \$610 in cash from generous neighbors and individuals impressed with their civic-minded attitudes. What was the greatest lesson learned from this month's efforts? Dawsen Astbury summed it up, "You're never too young to make a difference in your community." Thank you, Grade 5 students and teachers, Mr. Baxter and Mrs. Nightingale.

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

### Truancy Concerns

Truancy during the early years of school is one of the main reasons why students do not succeed in school, and why they are likely to drop out, in the older grades. Students who miss more than a few days each year (specifics are listed below) fall behind in classes and have trouble maintaining quality friendships. They often feel lost and left out when they have been absent or consistently have arrived late. Maine law states that a student is truant if he/she is "at least 7 years of age and has not completed grade 6 and has the equivalent of 7 full days of unexcused absences or 5 consecutive school days of unexcused absences during a school year. Additionally, Maine law states that a child is considered truant if he/she has completed grade 6 and is not 17 years of age and has the equivalent of 10 full days of unexcused absences or 7 consecutive school days of unexcused absences during a year." There are consequences for truancy that involve meetings with the principal, superintendent, and an intervention team to determine the causes of the truancy and to make a plan for attendance. Beyond that, parents are in violation of *Maine Statue 5051-A. Truancy*, and law enforcement and the Department of Health and Human Services will be contacted.

### Wilfred is Here!

Maine author Ryan T. Higgins has a new book! During his school visit last fall, Ryan Higgins gave BHCS students a preview of his new book, Wilfred. That book was JUST released. Many BHCS students have heard it this week, and we are attaching a note from Ryan to the newsletter about getting your own copy through Amazon. He is hoping to hit the Amazon hot list if enough folks order it next Monday, April 1. So, if you want your own copy of his new book, head to Amazon on Monday or check out his flyer. He promises to come back to BHCS and sign all the books next year! Is he the next Dr. Seuss...? The *School Library Journal* calls it "a heartening tale of friendship."

### Sports News

#### Spring Track

Due to the overwhelming interest in track this spring, we will not be able to offer track for athletes in third and fourth grade. Safety and supervision are a top priority for our athletes. We have 40+ track athletes in grades 5-8 signed up for this spring. We will certainly take the interest level into consideration when making the athletic budget for the 2014-2015 school year. Maybe a clinic for our third and fourth grade track athletes would be possible.

Baseball and Softball Clinic for students in grades 3-8 will begin after April vacation on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:45-3:45 PM on the BHCS field.

#### **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!**

#### Dates to Remember

Thurs., Mar. 28 Grade 8 Dessert Theater, 7 PM

Fri., March 29 NO SCHOOL/In-service

Sat., Mar. 30 PTF Easter Egg Hunt, 10 AM

Fri., April 5 BEEM Bash, 6-11 PM,

Barncastle

Blue Hill Town Election Day at the Town Hall

Sat., April 6 Town Meeting, 9:00 AM

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Luncheon at Town Meeting break, served around noon.

April 8-11 Conferences