



EXPLORATIONS

Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

April 17, 2014

Attention: There will be school tomorrow to make up for a snow day. The last day of school for students is Friday, June 20.

What a Week!

Not only was there an unexpected snowstorm to make this week unique, but there were also several unique and exciting learning experiences! To start, Grade 2 spent the day today in Brooksville, joining other 2nd graders from the area to study the history of our local Wabanaki Native Americans.

Students in grades K-4 relished an author day on Tuesday with Mary Cerullo who wrote *The Giant Squid, Shipwrecks* and other books about the ocean. Our own teachers' talents were utilized that day, too, as Nell Herrmann talked about ROV's (remotely operated vehicles) and her upcoming explorations in the Caribbean this summer; Penny Ricker helped students create exquisite nature journals; Tracy Gandy worked with students with fun ocean words; and Miss Nelson helped students perform expert squid dissections and write using the ink from the squid. Wow!

The 5th and 6th graders spent their Maine Student Book Award Day at Maine Maritime Academy in Castine on Wednesday as they celebrated Mary Cerullo's books, too. We appreciate the efforts of Nate Gandy who helped coordinate special experiences for the kids. Their activities included using the MMA navigation simulator, a tour of the State of Maine training vessel, boat rides, and hearing about North American Right Whales.

Our local librarians, including Beth Jackson, Rick Alexander, Helen Graikoski, Elizabeth Bruno, and Pat Horton of the Blue Hill Public Library who secured funds for the two days from the Rudman Family Grant, carefully planned all these events through the school year.

And, today... we had a very engaging presenter, Deborah Lipsky, who is an adult with autism. She kept our students' attention for a

solid hour with the story of her life and what it is like to be autistic. The students asked many perceptive questions, and they appreciated her honest answers. Deborah had also presented her colorful story on Wednesday night for the public. Her talk was enlightening for all of us, and gave a perspective of autism that was truly genuine and endearing. Thanks to Making Strides, this was all possible as a special event during Autism Awareness Month.

Come out and support the BHCS Chess Team one more time!

The Chess Team will be holding their last fundraiser before their trip to the National Chess Tournament in Atlanta. On Saturday, April 19, we will be having an "Easter Pies and Rolls" bake sale featuring homemade pies and rolls at Tradewinds from 10 AM – 2 PM. This is a great opportunity to get some goodies for your holiday plans and to support our Chess Team that has worked extremely hard to make this trip happen. *If anyone is interested in making a pie or some rolls to donate to this worthy cause, please drop them off either after school on Friday in Ms. Black's room, or at the bake sale first thing Saturday morning just before 10 AM.*

Student Art Show at the Library

There's still time to see the student art at the Blue Hill Public Library until the end of April. It is an exceptional illustration of our students' talents.

PTF News

Spring break is right around the corner, and then we are back full swing to finish out the school year.

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week is May 5-9, and this is a great time to show our teachers and staff how much we value all they do. Jessi Torrey and Sarah King are running the events for the week, so be sure to check out the attached sign up sheet to see how you can help.

If you are interested in organizing a Spring Spruce-Up for the playgrounds, please let us

know at ptf@bhcs.org. This winter has been rough on all our outdoor spaces and it will be great to get outside and give them a good cleaning.

Screen Free Week

Please return the sign-up sheets for the after school activities for the week after vacation when BHCS will be celebrating Screen Free Awareness. And, please consider supporting your child in a commitment to refrain from the "screen" forms of entertainment, such as TV, video games, computer socializing, etc., for this week.

5-2-1-0 Spring Fling Potluck Luau Dinner Dance & Health Fair - Wednesday, April 30 from 5:30-7:00 PM

Dress up in your favorite Hawaiian outfit, bring a healthy dish to share in the cafeteria, and then enjoy the fun!! The Rhythm Rockets and Planet Pan Steel Drum bands will provide music. There will be fun activities and samplings of healthy foods, as well as great displays and information from many of our local organizations that promote and support healthy choices for our kids and families in the community. Browse the information, try the healthy food, and engage in some fun activities, all while enjoying the fun music. You might even feel like dancing!!!

Science Excitement

Students aged 10 to 18 are invited to attend a free workshop in Stonington on Wednesday, April 23 to learn how to map local eelgrass beds. The three-hour workshop will take place at the Penobscot East Resource Center starting at 10 AM. Free lunch and snacks will be provided.

The Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory will provide the training. The laboratory needs help this coming summer locating and observing eelgrass beds around Deer Isle. The task will involve reporting the location of active beds, or reporting that eelgrass is missing where beds existed in the past.

Scientists fear eelgrass along the Maine coast is vanishing, which is a concern among fishermen and clambers because the marine plant provides essential habitat for clams, lobster and valuable fish. For more information or to

register, call STEM Guide Judy Mathewson 359-8458 by noon on Friday, April 18.

Peninsula Metamorphic Arts and Learning

PMAL has workshops ready for students in K - 6 upon their return from spring break! We'll be starting this new and last series of workshops for this year on Monday, May 4. Springtime is an amazing time to explore around PMAL. We'll be hiking down to Woods Pond and up to Stover Hill, and the activities that are listed below.

Give us a call at 374-5255 or email chris@pmaalcenter.com.

- Monday: Create a Village - tiny wee folk and fairies
- Tuesday: Circus School - juggling and clowning
- Wednesday: Wilderness Day - in the woods exploring trails around PMAL
- Thursday: Hot Glue Creations - arts and crafts with a bit of hot glue!

Summer Camp Info

Nichols Day Camp is now accepting applications for summer 2014. Parents can apply and pay for camp online by going to the website below: www.nicholsdaycamps.org.

Dates to Remember

April 28-May 2	Screen Awareness Week
Wed., April 30	Spring Fling Luau 5:30-7:00 PM
Thurs., May 1	8 th Grade Dessert Theater, 6 PM
May 15 and 16	Pre-K & Kindergarten Registration
Mon., June 2	5-8 Spring Concert, 7 PM, gym
Tues., June 3	K-4 Spring Concert, 6:30 PM, gym
Tues., June 17	Graduation, 7 PM
Fri., June 20	Last day of school
Every Friday	Bobcat Day
Attachments	**STEM Boredom Busters Sign-up sheet **PTF volunteer sheet for Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week

6-8 Dance in Brooksville, April 18, 6-9 PM