



EXPLORATIONS

Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

October 8, 2015

From the Principal - Focus on the Positive

I am grateful for the many lessons that my parents taught me growing up. My mother had many sayings that have become the backbone of who I am, including, "It's the power of positive thinking!" whenever a task seemed too difficult. This is a philosophy that I believe our staff has worked to embody this year and pass along to our students. I've seen funerals for things that students think they "can't" do, penny and sticker awards for positive reinforcement of behaviors, and star cards pouring into the office each day.

It isn't often that I feel sorry for myself, but as a human being, pity parties are occasionally inevitable. Tonight I began that downward spiral of "woes" as I was folding laundry. Laundry doesn't always have that effect on me, but since the surgery on my broken arm I have been severely limited in how much I can do. Today I was determined to fold two loads of laundry *by myself!* (Fun fact about me: I'm also independent to a fault!) After basket number one, I was in pain. Shaking out the wrinkles and doing the tri-fold isn't even moderately easy yet. As I grumbled, I forced myself to take my mother's advice and focus on the positive. There are so many things to be thankful for, starting with my three children being safe, happy, and healthy as they headed to bed.

In the spirit of focusing on the positive, I've decided to add a "Kudos" section to our Newsletter. This is the way that I start each Faculty Meeting in an effort to remember to focus on the positive things that are happening here thanks to the devoted staff. It will be a small section where we will give acknowledgement to a staff member (or group of staff members) for their extraordinary efforts. There will be many to choose from!

Research shows that people who use positive self-talk are better able to regulate their emotions and therefore be more productive in school and life. So, I encourage you to also take my mother's advice and focus on the positive, and help us teach your children to do the same!

Warmly,
Shelly

Kudos

Kudos to Katie Danielson! This week she met with every classroom teacher to review classroom data in reading and math. In those meetings she and the teacher came up with a plan for implementing research-based interventions to make sure all our students reach their fullest potential. Great job!

Original Works

Dear Parents,

You can expect a green package to come home with your child containing an Original Works order form and a piece of your child's artwork. This is a fundraiser for the Art program. Participation is optional but this has been a successful way to raise much needed extra funds for supplies and programing. Any piece of artwork can be used as long as it measures 8 1/2" by 11" and the company prefers heavy paper. Please no glittery, metallic or trademarked images. Orders must be returned by Oct 19th, no exceptions. Contact me with any questions.

Penny Ricker, ext 114

PTF Events

Join us at our next PTF meeting on Thursday, October 15th at 2:45 PM in the BHCS library. Childcare and snacks provided.

On Friday, October 30th at 6:00 PM in the BHCS cafeteria we will be hosting a Halloween fun night! We invite you to wear a costume, bring a pumpkin to carve, and watch a (not-so-scary) Halloween movie with us!

School News

The newly-formed Communication Club is a group of 8th graders that meets twice a week and creates articles and displays for school related activities.

The cross country meet on Monday, October 5 was very fun and successful! There were three teams at the Bucksport meet: Blue Hill, Ellsworth, and Bucksport. The boys and girls both came in second overall with Ellsworth placing first.

Library News

Mark your calendars - The Monster Book Fair is coming! October 19 - 22 the BHCS library will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair. The Book Fair is open from 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Tracy Gandy. There are jobs for everyone from setting up to helping shoppers at the fair.

Thank you all so much for making sure your students are responsible with their library books. So far, over 1,200 books have been checked out by teachers and students! The care shown by each individual really makes a difference.

Reminders...

All visitors to BHCS must sign in and get a pass. We have new badges and lanyards in the lobby for visitors! Thank you for taking the time to keep our students safe.

Dates to Remember...

Wed., Oct. 14	School Board Meeting 5:00 PM
Thu., Oct. 15	PTF Meeting 2:45 PM BHCS library
Oct. 19 - 22	Monster Book Fair 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM BHCS library
Oct. 19 - 22	Parent Teacher Conferences
Thu., Oct. 22	Flu Clinic 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Wed., Oct. 28	Grade 6 to Acadia Park 8:00 AM - 2:15 PM
Fri., Oct. 30	Movie Night and Pumpkin Carving, 6:00 PM
Fri., Nov. 13	Picture Retake Day



The Blue Hill Community Resource Collaborative Career Fair will be October 14, 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM, in the BHCS cafeteria. Meet local employers, learn about training options for jobs and connect with community resources.

The Bar Harbor Kids Book Festival brings authors and illustrators to Trenton and the Mount Desert Island community for school visits, public appearances, and interactions with both kids and adults. On Saturday, Oct. 10, the Jesup Memorial Library, MDI YWCA, Bar Harbor Congregational Church and Abbe Museum will host author and illustrator panels, workshops, readings and book signings from 11 AM to 3 PM The Opening Ceremonies, featuring Ashley Bryan, occur at 10 AM at the Criterion Theatre. All events are free and the program and schedule are available on www.barharborkidsbookfestival.org There are events for all school age groups as well as some geared towards adults.

Pumpkin Pancake Breakfast at First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, Saturday October 10, 7:30 AM to 11:00 AM. Pumpkin and plain pancakes, scrambled eggs, cheese biscuits, bacon, baked apples, coffee, tea and apple cider. \$7 Adults and \$5 Children 12 and under. Come join the fun! Info call 374-2891.

The Simmering Pot—A Community Created Supper, will be closed Monday, October 12 for the Columbus Day holiday. We'll be back October 19, providing free meals on Mondays 2:30 PM to 6 PM at First Congregational Church, Blue Hill. We make use of the bountiful local harvest in soups and side dishes. Come and enjoy a delicious meal at the Simmering Pot. No charge, donations accepted. Info, call 374-2891.

Scarecrow Contest returns to Mainescape! Join the fun and maybe even win a prize. Build a scarecrow to display at the Peninsula Harvest Festival held Saturday, October 17, at Mainescape Landscaping. Set up your scarecrow October 8-16. Prizes will be awarded for scariest, funniest, and people's choice scarecrows. Sponsored but The Christopher Group, LLC. For more information, please contact Jill Knowles (207) 248 - 2048.

A benefit concert for Healthy Peninsula's Magic Food Bus will be held October 24th, 7:00 PM at the First Congregational Church of Blue Hill. This is an inspiring evening of stories, kinship, and songs featuring David Dodson, Dean Stevens, John and Rachel Nicholas, and Dillon Bustin. Suggested donation is \$15.