

EXPLORATIONS

Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

October 29, 2015

From the Principal - Habits of Mind

What do human beings do when they behave intelligently? Research studies seeking to answer this question consistently find that there are specific characteristics of people who are considered successful in all areas of life: lawyers, entertainers, teachers, engineers, mechanics, and leaders. Characteristics like persisting, thinking flexibly, managing impulsivity, questioning, and communicating with clarity are just a few of the habits of successful people.

This year, we are honing in on Habits of Mind as defined by author Art Costa. We believe that explicit teaching of these habits will help our students (and us!) to improve on these lifelong habits.

We will begin with Listening and Understanding with Empathy. To empathize with and to understand another person's point of view is considered by some psychologists to be one of the highest forms of intelligent behavior. Some of the behaviors we will talk about with students are paraphrasing the ideas and feelings of others accurately, inferring what another is really thinking using body language cues, and investing time in listening to someone else's ideas, even if they conflict with their own.

Research has shown that we spend 55% of our lives *listening*. So mastering the skill of listening and understanding at an early age will truly serve our children as they grow. Am I suggesting that as teachers we are looking for students that are sitting silently all day, soaking in what we have to offer? Absolutely not. We want critical thinkers; students who are capable of listening to a point of view without interrupting, and then weighing their previous knowledge and opinions against what they've heard to either modify their thinking or to defend their position.

I'm very excited to share with you more of the Habits of Mind we are sharing with your children!

Warmly,
Shelly

Kudos

Kudos this week go to Bryan Lescord and Megan Granger! They are the co-chairs of our PBIS Team and meet faithfully on a weekly basis to continue our work on behavior expectations and creating a positive atmosphere at BHCS! Thanks, Megan and Bryan!

Roaring 20s Dessert Theater

The eighth graders will present a Dessert Theater to showcase all they have learned while studying the Roaring 20s. Thursday, November 19th stop by BHCS from 6-8 PM, for a *Battle of the Jazz Bands* and a roaring good time.

PTF Events

On Friday, October 30th at 5:30 PM in the BHCS cafeteria we will be hosting a Halloween fun night. We invite you to wear a costume, bring a pumpkin to decorate, and watch a (not-so-scary) Halloween movie with us. Pumpkin Decorating starts at 5:30 PM with the movie starting at 6:00 PM. There will even be apples and special popcorn (with a surprise)!

Fall Sports Banquet

Congratulations to all our fall sports teams. We will be celebrating your successful seasons at a fall sports banquet potluck on November 12th at 5:30 PM in the cafeteria.

Reminders...

Chorus Club ends at 3:40 PM so please make sure you are here to pick up your student.

TIME CHANGE THIS SUNDAY! Fall behind — remember to change your clocks and your smoke detector batteries.

Parents are encouraged to send healthy snacks with students to school. Many of you will get quite a haul of candy this weekend, and that is very exciting! We just ask that you enjoy that candy at home. :-)

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 end of the cross country season ended with a great meet. Both boys and girls won trophies, both for 4th place out of 14 teams. What a great way to end the season! Great job everybody!

Coastal Soccer Team Update

On Tuesday, October 27th, Blue Hill played a game against Hancock, in the semi-final round of the district championship. Blue Hill won by a decent number. Sam Parrott played goalie for the first half, with no goals scored on him, and played an offensive position and scored twice in the 2nd half, while 8th grader Will Larson covered for him in goal.

The final was played on the night of the 28th, at the Mount Desert Island High School, with the team from Mount Desert Elementary facing off against Blue Hill. Mount Desert has beaten Blue Hill once, and Blue Hill has beaten them once. The final score was 2 to 2, but unfortunately we lost in penalty kicks after a double overtime. Both teams played a great game, and it was a great end to a fantastic season.

Library News

Thank you all so much for your support during the Monster Book Fair. Based on our sales, we were able to purchase over \$500 worth of books for the BHCS Library and individual classrooms. We also raised money that will help with the cost of the Leaping Literacy summer reading program. As always, it is such a delightful time to share the joy of reading with our BHCS families.

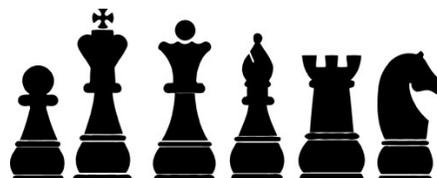
A special thank you to all the fabulous volunteers who helped make the Book Fair a hit: Rebecca Conable, Laura Maier, Ann Pladson, Lisa Arhontes-Marshall, Bill Pelletier, Christy Ross, Beth Dickens, Aimi Baldwin, Lisa Leighton, and Germanie Lewis. I really could not have hosted such a successful event without you!

Mandatory Chess Club Parent Meeting

October 30th at 5:00 p.m. in Mrs. Davis' room. Whether your student is interested in the competition of chess or just wants to learn to play the game. Did you know that "chess makes you smart"? A growing body of research is showing that chess improves concentration and memory; fosters logic, critical thinking, creativity and problem-solving skills; and improves math and reading test scores. All that and it's **FUN, too!** This is why we have decided to expand our chess club this year to include grades 2-8. If you would like to know more about the benefits of your child getting involved in chess, the following websites are great resources about how chess can help your child!

- <http://www.connectionsacademy.com/blog/posts/2013-10-09/Playing-Smart-The-Benefits-of-Chess-for-Kids.aspx>
- <http://www.parents.com/kids/development/intellectual/benefits-of-chess/>
- <http://www.susanpolgar.com/susan-polgar-foundation-benefits.html>

We hope to see you at the meeting!



Dates to Remember...

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| Fri., Oct. 30 | Movie Night and Pumpkin Decorating, 5:30 PM |
| Fri., Oct. 30 | Dance in Blue Hill Gr. 6-8, 6-9 PM |
| Fri., Oct. 30 | Mandatory Parent Meeting for Gr. 2-8 Chess, 5:00 PM Gr. 7 at Kieve |
| Nov. 2-6 | Band to Honors Festival, Orrington, 8:00 AM - 7:00PM |
| Sat., Nov. 7 | Gr. 2 to Sedgwick Historical Society, 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM |
| Tue., Nov. 10 | School Board Meeting |
| Tue., Nov. 10 | Veteran's Day, NO SCHOOL |
| Wed., Nov. 11 | Gr. 2 to Sedgwick Historical Society, 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM |
| Thu., Nov 12 | Fall Sports Potluck, 5:30 PM |
| Thu., Nov 12 | Picture Retake Day |
| Fri., Nov. 13 | 8th Grade Dessert Theater, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM |
| Thu., Nov. 19 | Craft Fair |
| Sat., Nov. 21 | |

Save the Date

Mon., Dec. 14

Tue., Dec. 15

5-8 Holiday Concert

PK - 4 Holiday Concert



All are welcome to head to the First Baptist Church of Blue Hill on Pleasant Street on October 31st, from 5-7 PM for Project 31! There will be candy, face painting, games, crafts, a bounce house, and free coffee, donuts, and hot dogs!

Parker Ridge is welcoming trick-or-treaters in Kindergarten - Fifth Grade on Halloween night from 4-6. They may come to the Inn and into the Main Entrance at the end of the car port. Students must be accompanied by an adult. We hope to see you there!

Christmas Angels Program provides gifts of warm clothing to children in need living on Blue Hill Peninsula and Deer Isle/Stonington. The program is also collecting books and stuffed animals in 'new' condition. To learn how you can help the program, contact Kim Williamson at peony13@me.com, 374-2092 by December 1. To receive assistance from the program, contact Wendy Ritger, bhcongo@yahoo.com, 374-2891.

Children's Ballet at the Sedgwick Dance Studio, Monday & Wednesday classes November and December session, teacher, Nina Poole. For information email j.trowbridge@georgestevens.info or call 359-5562

Dolly's back! Dolly Fisher Fund Concert Saturday, November 7 at 7 pm, First Congregational Church of Blue Hill. Some wonderful Peninsula musicians will perform for this peninsula fund: Jay Peterson, Hugh Bowden, Alison Dibble, Carl Karush, Heather Jellison, Mike & Susie Fay, Nancy & Blaine Stoner, Anne & Lin Parker, Suzanne Eaton & Tom Tootill, Congo Choir, and Adam Mathewson & Asha Soliel. A free-will donation will be taken. All proceeds go to the Dolly Fisher Fund helping neighbors in need with fuel, food and electricity. For more information, call 374-2891.

New Enrichment Sessions at PMAL!!!

Monday - Time Travel: What was life like before...?

Tuesday - Boat Building...with a real live boat builder!

Wednesday - Board Game Construction: Pieces included!

Thursday - Famous Artists: Learn to create from the masters.

Remember that bus transportation is available from BHCS to PMAL.

If you have never visited us, please stop by 139 Mines Road!
Call or e-mail to register: 374-5255 or amy@pmalcenter.com.