



EXPLORATIONS

Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

December 3, 2015

From the Principal - #I'mThankful

It is certainly easy to be overwhelmed this time of year. Last night it occurred to me that I had not taken down my Halloween decorations yet, and here it is time to be counting down to Christmas (insert "I'm a terrible mother" despair here)! However, it's also a time that reminds me once again to be thankful for the community we live in. Last Tuesday was another example of our community's generosity. Students created three lines, one from each of our wings, and passed the food we had collected out through the main entrance. We were able to fill the back of a truck with all of the food! There was a great feeling during this time as our entire school community participated in the passing of food while listening to holiday tunes over the intercom.

On Wednesday, schools from the Blue Hill Peninsula were invited to the annual George Stevens Academy Holiday Concert, a special performance for area elementary schools. Kindergarten through eighth graders walked across the street and were treated to an hour-long concert by some amazing musicians — many of whom have graduated from BHCS!

When we walked back, I perused the silent auction items in our lobby and found a whole new table of donated items! It is extraordinary how our community is working together to benefit Travis Astbury and his family. In addition to the donated items, some of our staff have donated their time to host after school experiences for groups of students as well. I am proud to be a part of a community that cares so deeply for others.

Warmly,
Shelly

Kudos

Kudos to Loretta Smith this week for being our school community's angel in disguise. She is the school go-to person for hundreds of things, but she also manages to quietly facilitate helping families. One example of this is the silent auction. She has organized the collection of items including finding out the information needed to post them and collecting the money raised. Her sincere willingness to help others is a great example to us all.

PTF News

Thank you to Tracy Gandy for coordinating the Thanksgiving meal donations and thank you to everybody that was able to donate an item. Your donations helped to provide Thanksgiving meals to BHCS families.

The BHCS Holiday Craft Fair is always such a fun occasion (and our biggest fundraiser)! Thank you to Rebecca Conable for organizing this event, to the crafters for participating, and to all of you that attended!

Hannaford orders will be due on Thursday, December 10th by 2:30 PM. Purchase a Hannaford card through us to use for your normal grocery shopping at any Hannaford store, including Tradewinds, and Hannaford will donate 5% of your order value back to the PTF. We use this money to provide food for classrooms and various school events. Questions? Contact Sarah King at ptf@bhcs.org or 374-9294.

Join us in the BHCS cafeteria on Saturday, December 12th from 10 AM - 12 PM for our annual Holiday Gift Making Workshop. Children are invited to come and participate in an array of gift making stations. This is a free event. Contact Heather Nelson with any questions.

Last call for sponsors for Winter Clubs. Contact Tracy with any questions. tgandy@bhcs.org

The next PTF meeting is scheduled for December 17th. We meet in the BHCS Library after school. Childcare is provided. Please join us.

PTF will host a holiday Movie Night on Friday December 18th in the BHCS Cafeteria. Cookie decorating will start at 5:30 PM and the movie will start at 6:00 PM.

Dates to Remember...

Fri., Dec. 4	Grade 4 to the Abbe Museum
Fri., Dec. 4	Dance in Penobscot Gr. 6-8, 6-9 PM
Wed. Dec. 9	School Board Meeting, 5 PM BHCS Library
Thu. Dec. 10	Hannaford Orders Due
Sat., Dec. 12	Chess Team to Aurora 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Sat., Dec. 12	PTF Holiday Workshop for Kids, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Sun., Dec. 13	Gr. 2 to the Nutcracker, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Mon., Dec. 14	5-8 Holiday Concert 7:00 PM
Tue., Dec. 15	K-4 Holiday Concert 6:30 PM
Thu., Dec. 17	Gr. 7&8 to Penobscot Theater
Thu., Dec 17	PTF Mtg, 2:45 PM BHCS Library, Childcare provided
Fri., Dec 18	Movie Night & Cookie Decorating, 5:30 PM

Attachment
December Menu

Help us Help Travis!!!

We here at the Family Redemption Center want to help our good friend Travis Astbury. As many of you know, Travis is fighting stage 4 cancer, and with the holidays upon us, we wanted to do something for him and his family. If anyone wants to drop off bottles in his name, the redemption center will add on an extra cent on every bottle. So, for every can, six cents will be paid, and liquor bottles, sixteen cents. All you have to do is be sure to say "These are for Travis"we will take care of the rest, and send the money to the family for the holidays. Thanks to everyone for helping us, help them.

From,
The Damon Family at
The Family Redemption Center

Benefit Dinner Update from Loretta

Thank you, everyone, for helping support the Astbury family. Many, many people have offered to do things, have brought in food and items for the auction, not to mention all the donations on the go fund me page. I am truly overwhelmed with the heartfelt support for this family. With that said, I need to remind people who are bringing the food for the dinner to have it at school by Friday. This will give us time to take inventory and get whatever we might need.

So, remember the dinner is at 5 and 5:45 on December 5th. There are many great silent auction items. Bidding will end after the dinner. Among those are lessons for quality time with teachers: Mr. McCormick & Mr. Baxter will have PE classes for Gr. K-2 and 3-5 on Dec. 12, Mrs. McKechnie & Mrs. Ricker will have a STEM Art class for Gr. K-5 on December 7th, Mr. Lescord will have acting lessons for Gr. 3-5 on January 7th, all for \$5.00 per child, and Mrs. Tobey will have a Fimo Clay lesson for Gr. 4-8 on December 18th for \$10.00 per child.

After the dinner there will be a Benefit Music Event at The Farmhouse Inn, starting at 8 PM. \$10.00 at the door to go to the family.

Thank you and hope to see you at the dinner.



PMAL will be joining in the festivities this afternoon, Thursday, 12/03 at the Town of Blue Hill Tree Lighting festivities. Come join us in the town hall for holiday craft fun between 4:30 and 5:30, then step outside to welcome PMAL's very own Renee as she and Henry from Four Leaf Huskies will be delivering Santa via sled dog around 5:30! PMAL will also be manning a camp fire around 6:00 PM where we will be offering a 20% discount on student programs being offered on Tuesday, 12/29 and Wednesday, 12/30. Don't miss out on this great opportunity! See you there!

The Transgender, Family and Friends Group(TGFF) offers a time for sharing stories and provides support for families, friends and transgender people of all ages. TGFF Group will meet Thursday December 3 at 7:30 pm at the First Congregational Church of Blue Hill. For more information, please contact Susan Yaruta-Young at [\(207\) 460.6155](tel:2074606155) or email: syyoung@myfairpoint.net.

This Saturday, Dec. 5th from 8:00 - 10:30, the Penobscot Community School is sponsoring the 2nd Annual Pancakes with Santa. The \$5 per person fee includes pancakes, hot cocoa, and a chance for you to take a photo with Santa & Mrs. Claus . Please bring your own camera/phone to snap the picture or we can e-mail you a digital photo.