



EXPLORATIONS

Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

January 21, 2016

From the Principal -The Power of Mentoring

*"If you can't fly then run,
If you can't run then walk,
If you can't walk then crawl,
but whatever you do you have to
KEEP MOVING FORWARD."
-Martin Luther King, Jr.*

January is National Mentoring Month. A mentor is a person that is an active participant in aspects of your life. This person uses their own experiences to provide support, knowledge, and resources. The idea is that by understanding one person doesn't just know it all, we are able to rely on the knowledge of someone else that has already done it!

As a first and second year teacher, you are assigned a mentor (usually within the school) that will check in with you, answer your questions, observe and critique you, and help you figure out all the things that are expected of you as a teacher. Mentor teachers have gone through a specific training on mentoring other teachers. It is a fantastic way to jump start a career in education!

Today is actually Thank Your Mentor Day as a part of National Mentoring Month. It is suggested that people take a bit of time today to thank someone that has helped to encourage or guide them and has had a lasting positive effect. So I will take this opportunity to thank my mentor, Della Martin. When I started teaching fifth grade here at 22 years old, I was so grateful to have Della's support during that time (she was teaching in eighth grade then). Dealing with classroom management was especially difficult, because that's not something that is taught well in our undergrad programs! She taught me the importance of building positive relationships with students from the outset of the year and how to keep the school day structured in a way to optimize learning time and prevent behavior issues. Now, as I sit in what I still consider "Della's Office," doing my best to move our school forward with continuous improvement, the phrase, "Always think, what's best for kids?" stays with me. She has been an encouragement and an inspiration to me throughout my career. Thank you, Della!

Warmly,
Shelly

Kudos

Kudos this week to Mark Baxter and Tarsha Astbury for their organization of a field trip to the Holt House. While out in the community this weekend, a gentleman that helped facilitate this experience for our fifth graders sought me out to compliment the well-behaved and intelligent students that had visited! This doesn't happen by accident! Thanks, Mark and Tarsha!

Conference Hours

Megan Granger, school counselor, is happy to meet with parents at any time throughout the school year as well as during conference times. Megan is also happy to join parent-teacher conferences at the request of teachers or parents. To schedule an appointment, please call [207-374-2202, ext. 104](tel:207-374-2202) or email mgranger@bhcs.org.

Kristin Burch is available by appointment.

Katie Danielson will attend conferences with teachers for her students or is available by appointment.

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| Greg Holman | Tues. 3:00 PM- 7:00 PM Wed. 3:00 PM- 7:00 PM |
| Bob McCormick | Mon. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Tues. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Wed. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM |
| Penny Ricker Bill Schubeck | Mon. -Thur. 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM Mon. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Tue. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM Thur. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM |
| Tracy Gandy Matt Jurick | Mon. -Thur. 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM Mon., Tue., Thur., 3:00 PM - 5:30PM |
| Audrey Means | Mon. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM Tue. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM Thur. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM |

School News from the Communication Club

Last week in science class Ms. Herrmann had a great lab for the 7th and 8th grade students. During the lab we dissected mushrooms and made slides to look at under the microscope. I had a lot of fun looking at the different parts of the mushroom and learning about them.

Chess Club & Chess Team News

There is no Chess Club (younger students) on Monday due to Parent-Teacher Conferences.

The Chess Team (students that have been going to the Tournaments) will still have a practice and will meet in Mrs. Davis's room.

PTF News

On January 22, the PTF will be hosting movie night and showing *Hotel Transylvania 2*. Doors open at 5:30 and the movie starts at 6:00. Popcorn and the movie are free and there will be goodies for purchase.

Dates to Remember...

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| Thu., Jan 21 | PTF Meeting, 6:00 PM, Farmhouse Inn |
| Fri., Jan 22 | PTF Movie Night, 5:30 PM goodies, 6:00 PM movie |
| Fri., Jan. 22 | Dance in Penobscot Gr. 6-8, 6-9 PM |
| Wed., Jan 27 | Grade 8 to HCTC |



The Transgender, Family and Friends Group (TGFF) provides support for families, friends and transgender people of all ages. TGFF meets Thursday January 7 & 21, 7:30 pm, at First Congregational Church, Blue Hill. For details, contact Susan Yaruta-Young, (207) 460.6155 or email: syyoung@myfairpoint.net. In case of stormy or icy weather, please contact Susan to find out if the session is on.

Nia (Non Impact Aerobic dance class) in the BHCS cafe Thursdays 7-8pm January 14, 21, 28
Adults \$15/drop in, \$60/6 class pass.
Jennifer Coolidge dancingheartdoula@gmail.com
[734-277-1358](tel:734-277-1358)
Want to know more about Nia? Check out www.nianow.com

A Valentine's Day-Themed "Kids&Couples" Mini-Photo Shoot Fundraiser for the Blue Hill Consolidated School Chess Club! Saturday, January 30th at Fairwinds Florist from 12noon-4pm.
16 Sessions Available \$45/session
Photos by Professional Photographer Jennifer O'Connor Smith
At least 2 high-resolution photos delivered digitally via email
Unlimited print rights
Sessions available for groups of 1-8
Reservations Required

FB Page: <https://www.facebook.com/BHCS-ChessClub-Valentines-Day-Themed-Mini-PhotoShoot-Fundraiser-1547352025583233/>
EventBrite link for tickets and reservations: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bhcs-chess-club-kids-couples-valentines-day-mini-photo-sessions-tickets-20843539588>