



# EXPLORATIONS

## Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

March 24, 2016

### From the Principal — Town Meeting Information

We have successfully navigated our way to the end of the budget season! The final budget decided by our school board has been presented to the Town Budget Committee and will go before the town at our annual Town Meeting Saturday, April 2 here at BHCS. I hope that you will come support our school's proposed budget. There is a bit of information that I'd like to highlight for you today that will hopefully assist you in making a decision in how to vote.

Our proposed budget is up \$167,709.92, an increase of 3.13%. It's important to remember that our town is responsible for the education of every child that is a resident of Blue Hill from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Since we do not have a public high school, our town pays tuition for each student to attend a high school, and we do not control the tuition amount—it's actually set by the state. The increase in secondary (high school) tuition for next year is \$141,271.10 and the increase in secondary special education is up \$31,000. This is a total increase of \$172,271.10 for secondary education. What this means for our PK-8 budget at BHCS is that we are actually *decreasing* our budget by \$4,561. What is perhaps most significant about that number, however, is that our student enrollment has continued to increase year-over-year, in fact, our enrollment has increased by 25% in the past 10 years.

I'm highlighting these numbers for you because the Town Budget Committee has recommended a cut of \$40,000 to the Regular Education section of our budget. The decision on what would actually be cut would be determined by our school board if needed, but it could include things like school supplies, textbooks, and field trips.

After attending every budget meeting this winter, I can say with authority that the school board, superintendent, teachers, and I all spent hours and hours reviewing this budget line by line. Many things were cut from the budget already.

I hope that you will come to Town Meeting, support the budget proposed by the school board, and, of course, stay for the lunch put on by our seventh graders! If you have any questions, or would like clarification on any of this, please feel free to contact any of the school board members or myself.

Warmly,  
Shelly

### Kudos

Kudos this week go to Megan Granger and Mary Tobey! This year they have paired up two eighth graders and two first graders each week to work on a special cooking project together. The students have had lots of fun and learned a bit about cooking, too. Thanks, Megan and Mary!

### PTF News

Once again, the PTF will be providing childcare during Town Meeting on April 2. You can drop off your children in Miss Nelson's room.

At our last meeting, we discussed many of the upcoming events that the PTF will be coordinating. After spring break, there will be opportunities to help with Screen Free Week and Teacher and Staff appreciation week so make sure you check your weekly newsletter. We are also going to be sending out a survey to get your feedback on the Winter Clubs so we can continue to grow and improve. Finally, we started brainstorming some ideas for fun family events for next year. Please feel free to contact us if you have any suggestions.

### Young Author's Camp

This summer there will be an opportunity for students in grades 5-8 to participate in the Maine Writing Project Young Authors Camp. This is the first year the camp is being offered here at BHCS and we are very excited about the program. The session will run from June 27 - July 1. Please see the attached flier for complete information.

### Easter Bake Sale To Benefit BHCS Chess Team

Date: Saturday, March 26  
Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
Location: TradeWinds entrance  
Pies, roll, breads, cookies, and more!

**BEEM Bash**

**THERE'S BEEN A MURDER  
IN MARGARITALAND!**

Join us for a Caribbean-themed party at the Barncastle Restaurant on April 8 from 6-10 PM. The BEEM Bash benefits educational enrichment grants at the Blue Hill Consolidated School. Evening entertainment will include interactive mystery theater, silent auction, DJ Gary Milliken, dancing and delicious food. Come in Caribbean attire and receive a free drink.

Come figure out whodunit... was it you? Or are you just an innocent bystander? Watch the mystery unfold or take an active role—you decide when you purchase your tickets on our website ([www.bhcs.org/beam](http://www.bhcs.org/beam)).

Choose your own adventure.... If you select 'Participant' you will be assigned an active mystery role, complete with a character dossier, background, and costume hints. Are you the victim of a dastardly plot or maybe the murderer yourself?

If you select 'Bystander' you will be assigned an optional, supporting role. As a bystander you will receive full background information regarding the evenings mysterious events, and an optional character profile, but will be able to choose to participate or simply watch events unfold. Bystanders may participate fully in solving the mystery, but will have no actions or obligations required to further the mystery plot.

After purchasing tickets you will receive supporting information regarding the mystery via email. At the event on April 8 you will receive additional information and instructions regarding the evening's events. Question or bribe fellow partygoers to unravel the mystery, then dance the night away with DJ Gary. Enjoy complimentary food and support BEEM by bidding on items at the silent auction.

See attached poster for more information.

**Dates to Remember...**

Fri., Mar. 25	No School - Teacher Inservice
Tue., Mar. 29	Gr. 6 Spanish Class to Milbridge
Fri., Apr. 1	Don't forget to vote!
Sat., Apr. 2	Town Meeting, 9:00 AM BHCS Gym - PTF will be providing childcare

Support BEEM! Join us on Friday, April 8 for the BEEM Bash: Mystery Edition at the Barncastle.



Free for picking it up:  
Kimball piano, 20 years old, in Bucksport.  
Contact Dick Howard 374-2420

Transgender, Family and Friends Group (TGFF) provides support for families, friends and transgender people of all ages. TGFF meets twice monthly, next meeting is March 24 at 7:30 pm, at First Congregational Church, Blue Hill. Details, contact Susan Yaruta-Young, [\(207\) 460.6155](tel:2074606155) or email: [syyoung@myfairpoint.net](mailto:syyoung@myfairpoint.net). In case of stormy or icy weather, please contact Susan to see if the session is on.