



EXPLORATIONS

Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614

April 7, 2016

From the Principal— Living on the “Cutting Edge”

Recently, during a Community Circle with eighth grade, I prompted students to share what they feared the most. Among their thoughtful responses I heard, "death," "being excluded in high school," and "not living up to my potential." When it was my turn to share I told them, "public speaking, which isn't really a good fear to have when you're the principal!"

During our annual Town Meeting I faced my fear and spoke in response to questions about technology at our school. Specifically, in our budget we had requested iPads for Pre-K through sixth grade to replace the antiquated MacBooks that are between nine and eleven years old. Also in question was the 3D printer we requested to replace the broken one in our IDEA Center. In the process of describing the need for these items, I may have overused the phrase, "cutting edge" to describe the technology program here that I am extremely proud of. Actually, I *definitely* overused the term in my nervous attempt to defend the budget to the entire gym full of people, because Selectman John Bannister rebutted my argument and poked fun at my overuse of "cutting edge" as he described why we maybe should *not* always try to be cutting edge. (Fear of public speaking = justified!)

I've decided to respond to the idea of our "cutting edge" school and what that means here, in writing where I feel the most comfortable being heard, but first, I have great news! The school board's proposed budget was passed by the town! It was awesome to see people stand up and discuss their feelings about our school and how we educate students. It was also interesting to hear how many families actually move to Blue Hill *because* of our school.

So, what does it mean that we are "cutting edge" at BHCS? It means that we are forward-thinking educators that use research-based best practices. And that's not just a lot of jargon! Teachers at this school are committed to improving the education of our students. That means that if we are aware of curriculum or materials that would be better, we pursue them. Tara McKechnie brought our new science program, STEMscopes, to K-5 teachers a few years ago because we agreed this was an area we really needed improvement. Vicki Davis and Rachel Nightingale are piloting *Assistments*— a math tool that allows students to do homework and extra practice online and receive immediate feedback.

And Matt Jurick and Tracy Gandy have brought in our IDEA Center where students learn to use a laser cutter, 3D printer, a milling machine and a variety of hand tools to solve problems and create things. One of the most important jobs we have as educators is to teach our students to identify and solve problems. These engineering tools and strategies will help our students be prepared for a variety of jobs that now require these types of technical skills.

Thank you, Blue Hill, for your continued support of our school staff and programs!

Warmly,
Shelly

Kudos

Kudos this week go to Penny Ricker! She has been working 11-hour days this week; first she teaches and then she moves on to setting up for the Student Art Show at the Blue Hill Public Library! I hope you'll join me as we enjoy the amazing art our students have on display there tomorrow evening from 4-6. Thank you, Penny!

Reminder

Jump Rope for Heart fundraising continues. All envelopes are due back at the end of April vacation.

Lost and Found

Once again, the lost and found bins are overflowing. Next week there will be tables set up in the lobby to hold all the lost items. Be sure to check it out. All items not claimed before April vacation will be donated

Hannaford Card Orders

Hannaford card orders are due Thursday, April 14. This is a wonderful fundraiser organized by the PTF that does not cost our families anything. So far, we have raised over \$500. Attached is a flier with more information in case you want to join this program.

BEEM Auction

Don't forget to bid on the wide assortment of treasures in the BEEM Auction. Bids close at 9:00 PM at the BEEM Bash. See you there.

Conference Hours

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

Kristin Burch is available by appointment.

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

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 [374-2202, ext. 104](tel:374-2202) or email mgranger@bhcs.org.

Student Art Show

Be sure to stop by the Blue Hill Public Library to see all the amazing artwork created by the students at BHCS and the other schools on the Peninsula. Opening night is Friday, April 8 from 4:00 - 6:00 PM and features live music by the Brooklin School and refreshments. The exhibit will be on display until April 29.

Miles of Quarters Fundraiser

Don't forget that we are raising money for Making Strides during this month of Autism Awareness. Students have been bringing in quarters to contribute. Keep those quarters coming!

PTF News

The PTF is starting to plan for Screen-Free Week and Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week. Both of these events happen in early May and there will be many opportunities to help.

If you have an idea for an activity to host during Screen Free Week, May 2-6, please contact Heather Nelson.

The following week, May 9-13, the PTF will be honoring all the Teachers and Staff that make BHCS so special. Sarah King, Liz Conlon, and Rebecca Conable will be heading up the committee organizing this week-long celebration. Stay tuned to find out how you can help.

Dates to Remember...

Fri., Apr. 8	BEEM Bash, 6-10 PM Murder Mystery at the Barncastle
Fri., Apr. 8	Dance at Penobscot Gr. 6-8, 6-9 PM
Apr. 11 & 12	BHCS Production of <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> , 7:00 PM
Apr. 11-14	Conferences
Fri., Apr. 15	No School
Apr. 18-22	Vacation
Apr. 4-29	Student Art Show at BHPL

Graduation June 14, 7:00 PM

Last day of school June 17.



Sedgwick School is hosting a movie night to benefit their 8th grade class trip. They will be showing Star Wars: The Force Awakens on Saturday April 9, at 5 PM. Admission is free and there will be refreshments for sale. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Bicycle Safety Rodeo - Saturday, April 30, 1:00PM - 3:00PM. Children should bring their bicycles and helmets. There will be a bicycle condition check, helmet check, and a skills course.