

## FALCON FLASH

September 7, 2018

### Upcoming Events:

9/7 – Chicken Run-5:30pm-Fun Run; 6pm-5K  
9/10-Bowdoinham Parent Partnership Meeting-  
6:00pm-7:15pm

10/5-No School-Professional Day  
10/8-Columbus Day Holiday-No School  
10/9-Fall Pictures



### THE PRINCIPAL CONNECTION @mrlajoiebham

Dear Parents,

You have some incredible kids! It has been a wonderful (if hot and sticky) start to the school year. As a school community of 170 students – yes, we've grown! – we are continuing toward our Shared Vision – *In It Together: Meaningful Learning That Lasts*. We are all committing to doing our best to follow our Code of Cooperation to make the best possible school: *Caring, Responsible, and Focused on Learning*. And as the year goes on we are excited for our students to share with you all they learn.

My Principal Connection in the Flash is the place where I share ideas or school successes with you. When you read it you will hopefully get to know me a little better, and feel that connection to Bowdoinham Community School. A key idea at the school this year is **alignment**. Throughout the year in my work with teachers, students, families and community members, I will seek to align our values and goals with the decisions we make about teaching and learning, as well as resources like time, funding, and focused energy. I hope the Principal Connection is one resource you can utilize to feel aligned to the big work of our school.

### HOT TOPIC: PARENT RESOURCES

By the end of the month you will receive the updated version of our Handbook for Families. It includes quite a bit of important information about the school including staff contact info, our philosophy and approach to instruction, discipline, and links to key policies and procedures.

In the meantime, I wanted to share a couple of resources that you might find interesting:

Last year we completed a [Comprehensive Needs Assessment](#) for the Maine Department of Education, a process that included me, some teachers, a Bowdoinham parent (thank you Gallit!), a community member and some district office staff. In this document we took stock of where we are as a school, and set some goals for the coming year. We can make a paper copy of the document available to you if you'd like. You can also access a digital version [here](#).

Regular student attendance is a priority of our school and district. Students who miss ten or more days in a school year are at risk to fall behind academically and socially – even beginning as early as Kindergarten. We monitor student attendance closely, and if your child has missed more than a couple days of school early in the year, you can expect that someone at the school will check in to see how things are going. If you are curious about the link between attendance and student achievement, you can peruse some of these [resources](#) at [attendanceworks.org](#).

Yours in meaningful learning that lasts,

Mr. Lajoie ☺

**Start your Celebrate Bowdoinham weekend off right – tonight at the Community School!**

**Kids 1-Mile Fun Run 5:30pm**

**Chicken Run 5K 6:00pm**

[www.enrichbhm.org](http://www.enrichbhm.org)



**Please send in the packet of completed information on Monday – it is very important that we receive this information as soon as possible.**



**MUSIC** From the Music Room - Hello and welcome back! My name is Adrian Morneau and I am so thrilled to be joining the Bowdoinham community as your new music teacher!! I am looking forward to a wonderful year of music making. Please feel free to visit the new Music Room website at [bit.ly/bcsbhmmusic](http://bit.ly/bcsbhmmusic) to check out all of the exciting things that will be happening this year! I also encourage parents to join their children in music class! Just be prepared to sing, dance, play instruments, and have lots of fun! If you have any questions or would like to come to Music with your student, please email me at [stpierrea@link75.org](mailto:stpierrea@link75.org) Musically yours, Mrs. Adrian Morneau



**Notification to Parents That They May Request Teacher Professional Qualifications** - Dear Parents: As a parent of a student in a school supported by Title IA funds, you have the right to know the Professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher. As part of Federal law you may request: Whether your child's teacher is qualified for the grades and subjects taught or whether due to special circumstances Maine has granted your child's teacher permission to teach without meeting state regulations; Your child's teacher's college major, and advanced degrees; whether any teachers' aides provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications. If you would like to receive any of this information, please contact Mr. Lajoie.



**Student Accident Insurance Available** - Parents can purchase up to \$25,000 in voluntary student accident medical insurance protection through Maine School Management Association. Coverage options include full time (24 hours), school time, football (grades 9 - 12), and dental. A brochure/registration form can be picked up at the school office, or you can print it by going to the MSAD No. 75 website ([www.link75.org](http://www.link75.org)) and clicking on the "District" tab, then "Departments", then "Business Services", and scrolling down the Business Services page to the Student Accident Insurance form. MSAD No. 75 is not endorsing this plan. Other insurance companies provide similar coverage options for students. Please see attached information.



**Attention parents of 4th and 5th graders!** The Team 4/5 teachers have created a closed Facebook group as a way for teachers to communicate with 4/5 families about what Team 4/5 is up to. This will include important information, updates and celebrations. Please search "Team 4/5 Bowdoinham Community School" and ask to join the group.

**Bowdoinham Community School** also has a Facebook page. It is a closed group - please ask to join.



## COMMUNITY NEWS



**Bowdoinham Food Pantry's** hours of operation. The pantry will be open from 3pm - 5pm every Wednesday. For more information please call 751-7779, Lily Montgomery.



**The Clothes Closet** is open the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 3pm-6pm at the Church of the Nazarene at 7 School St. Come to the house behind the church. A donation of \$1 a bag is welcome but not required.

