

# FALCON FLASH

December 1, 2017

## Upcoming Events:

12/18-4&5 Chorus Concert-6pm

12/22-01/2/18 – WINTER BREAK I

*WINTER BREAK will begin on Friday, December 22, 2017 (No school)!  
School will begin again on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.*



THE PRINCIPAL CONNECTION

@mrlajoiebham

Thank you, parents, for bringing us your questions and feedback on the first round of report cards. Our district is continuing conversations about how our report card can even more effectively communicate what your child knows and can do.

At the Partnership meeting Monday I mentioned a statistic on the high number of Maine high school graduates who then go on to need remedial courses in college, at a high cost. I found the exact numbers from the January 2016 study by the Maine Education Policy Research Institute through the University of Southern Maine. Its report showed that of Maine's high school graduates from 2012-2015 who enrolled in a University of Maine system college, 28% needed to take at least one remedial course in Math or English; that number was 48% for Maine students enrolled in a Maine community college. And of students who took a remedial class, the college drop-out rate two years down the road was a whopping 56%.

One of the most promising aspects of a proficiency-based education system is that more and more students will be graduating without important gaps in their knowledge and skills. We don't want a single graduate to need remediation once they have spent thirteen years in our schools.

### HOT TOPIC: SINGING

As we head into another Winter Break next week, our school will start a new tradition. On Thursday afternoon we will be gathering out on the leach field behind the playground for a school wide morning meeting. This will be the first time we bundle up to do an outdoor school meeting all together. Ms. Atkins and her students will lead tours of their outdoor classroom, and classes will have some optional activities they can try, like a hike through the woods back to the school. And at that meeting we will plan to sing together.

Singing has a foundational role in my life, and I have come to realize how singing has been foundational to communities for centuries. We sang together at our end of year staff lunch, and we now have a school song that we sing at most of our school wide meetings, "We Are Bowdoinham." Research on the neurochemistry of singing has revealed incredible health benefits, just a few of which are: increasing levels of antibodies; decreasing blood pressure and cortisol levels; and even increasing levels of oxytocin, which alleviates anxiety and promotes social affiliation. The community that sings together is In It Together.

Yours in meaningful learning that lasts,

Mr. Lajoie ☺

We want to again recognize important community sponsors, who have donated to our school this year at the "In It Together" level of \$350 or more:

Cathance Children's Center and FHC – Bowdoin

Innovative Physical Therapy and Wellness Center – Richmond

Country Fare, Inc. – Bowdoin

We are so incredibly thankful for the support of these and all of our community partners. Please consider giving these organizations your patronage!



**REMINDER:** We have **Meaningful Brewing Medium Roast** bags of ground and whole bean coffee (made by Wicked Joe Coffee) for sale in the office. \$10. Per 12oz bag. We keep \$4.00 from every bag. They make great gifts for the holidays.



**Chorus & Instrumental Music Concert** – All Bowdoinham Community & Bowdoin Central 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus members as well as selected 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade instrumentalists will be performing on Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00pm in the Bowdoinham Community School gym. All students performing should be at the school by 5:40pm.



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## Community News



**Bowdoinham Recreation:** -Lost Valley Ski/Snowboard Program is for 3rd graders to adults!

Go to [LostValleySki.com/Bowdoinham.html](http://LostValleySki.com/Bowdoinham.html) for your discounted tickets. Bus transportation is available.

Informational letter is available on the Recreation Wall in the town office as well as

<http://www.bowdoinham.com/2018lostvalley>

-6 Lessons \$140 and covers the 3-8pm ski time; -Ticket only option \$85

Dates: Fridays Jan 12-Feb 16th. Registration after Dec 15th may be taken but with a \$15 late fee as per Lost Valley's registration process

**-Little Dribblers:** Join the Varsity coach & team for a 6 week, skill and fun packed program for 1st & 2nd Graders within the School District. Program starts Saturday Jan 6th & runs to Feb 10th. Deadline to register is Dec 14th. Registration forms in Bowdoinham school and B'ham & Topsham town offices. Please take forms to Topsham town office, they are open until 6pm Thursdays.

**-Community Swim** will start back up Jan 7th.

**--Indoor Winter Soccer Tennis!** Registration now available for 6-8th graders within our district. Program runs inside Feb 7th then moves outside until June 8th. Form available in B'ham, Bowdoin & Middle school as well as Bowdoinham town office & <http://www.bowdoinham.com/recreation>



All are welcome to a violin and viola concert by students of Kate Gray, on Thursday, December 28th, at 4 PM, at the Bowdoinham Historical Society Meeting House, at the corner of Rte. 24 and the Brown's Point Road. We will perform Christmas tunes and other pieces. Please join us for some after-Christmas cheer! Admission is by donation to the Historical Society, in any amount. For more information, please call 666-5750 or send email to [kategray@projectpluto.com](mailto:kategray@projectpluto.com).



American  
Red Cross

**Community Blood Drive** - FHC, Inc will be hosting a Blood Drive on Wed. Jan. 3, 2018 from 11am to 4p, in their Community room at 1201 Main St., Bowdoin. Please contact Sydney Wall at [SWall@fh-co.com](mailto:SWall@fh-co.com), 666-5651 x 1000, call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter FHC to schedule an appointment.



**Bowdoinham Food Pantry** has new hours of operation. Beginning Wednesday, September 6, the pantry will be open from 3pm – 5pm every Wednesday. For more information please call 751-7779



**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.

