

FALCON FLASH

September 21, 2018

Upcoming Events:

09/25-4/5 Bay Day Field Trip-9:30am-1:00pm

09/27-District School Board – Gym – 6:30pm

10/5-No School-Professional Day

10/8-Columbus Day Holiday-No School

10/9-Fall Pictures

10/11-Harvest Supper/Open House – 5pm-7pm

10/26-Halloween Parade @ 4pm



THE PRINCIPAL CONNECTION @mrlajoiebham

Thank you to all of our great Chicken Run volunteers and sponsors for making the 2018 event incredibly successful. We had a lot of fun, and raised nearly \$6,000 to support field trips and enrichment activities at the school this year! These are special opportunities we provide at the school that are above and beyond the regular school experience. Sally Cluchey, our volunteer coordinator of the event and sponsorships, deserves special honors for the success of the event. Thanks for all your hard work, Sally! We are continuing to accept sponsorships through this school year, from individuals and organizations. Please visit enrichbhm.org to see a complete list of our 2018-19 partners, or to make a financial or time donation to our school.

Thank you also to the Bowdoinham Community Development Initiative (visit bccdimaine.org) for organizing Bowdoin College volunteers to work at the school as part of Common Good Day on September 15th. A handful of Bowdoin students helped spruce up the basketball court, rake the softball infield, and catalog and label hundreds of new books for our Learning Commons. Mrs. Lemieux, Ms. Suthers, and Mrs. Mitchell were the school staff on hand to work with our volunteers, along with Allen Acker, our Town Recreation Director. Thanks to all for helping accomplish some important work for the school!

HOT TOPIC: ATTENDANCE

I try to hit the topic of attendance with more focus at the start of every school year. So far student and staff attendance has been excellent, which means more and better learning for everyone. While most students miss no more than five days of school in a whole year, a very small number of students miss ten or more days, at which point learning progress is seriously affected. And research shows that students who miss eighteen or more days in a school year are much more likely to eventually drop out of school.

Of course a missed day of school here and there is inevitable. In those cases, we need to hear from you about the reason for your child's absence – whether it be illness, a health appointment, a family emergency, or observance of a religious holiday. This year at every elementary school in our district, we are keeping track of "unexcused absences." When we have not heard from the parent within a few days about the reason for a student's absence, we will log it as an unexcused absence. This is in keeping with Maine state statute regarding truancy. Thank you for working with us to keep the lines of communication open between the home and school, as well as reinforcing the importance of good attendance in school. If you have any questions or concerns about this new practice, please reach out to me.

Yours in meaningful learning that lasts,

Mr. Lajoie ☺



Harvest Supper and Open House – Will be held on Thursday, October 11, 2018 with the supper beginning at 5pm and the Open House beginning at 6pm. More information will be going home with your child/ren next week.



The Bowdoinham Parents Partnership (BPP) is off to an active start for this new school year. Please find the September meeting minutes and the September treasurer's report included with Flash email. All families are welcome to participate in the BPP and encouraged to get involved. The work of the BPP supports school activities for all grades. Parent volunteers are needed from each grade level. To start receiving email notices about activities of the BPP, please email Coordinator Kathy Montejo at kmontejo@comast.net



Bowdoinham Community School Cares – We are conducting a spare change drive from September 24- October 5 to support Communities in Schools' North Carolina and South Carolina Affiliates All in Relief Fund. 100% of your donations will be used toward disaster relief for students impacted by Hurricane Florence. **Communities in Schools** is the nation's largest organization dedicated to empowering at-risk students to stay in school and follow a path to a brighter future. We thank you in advance for sending change in with your students. Bowdoinham Cares!



The School is participating in the 2018 Hannaford Helps Schools program again this year. Help earn money for our school by shopping for participating products. Here is all you have to do: 1) SHOP - Look for shelf tags on more than 1,500 in-store products including breakfast and lunch items, household and cleaning supplies and more. 2) CHECKOUT - Get \$3 in "school dollars" for every 4 qualifying products you buy. 3) SUBMIT - Place your school dollars slip in the collection tower. For every 4 qualifying products you buy, our school earns \$3! The collection tower for Bowdoinham is at the Topsham Hannaford. Relatives who shop out of town can mail you their slips from other Hannaford stores and you can put them into the BHM slot at the Topsham store. This program runs until December 1, 2018. Thank you and please help to spread the word.



PARENT MEETING

4th & 5th Grade Parents meeting – Mrs. Marc-Aurele will be hosting a Parents Meeting for all families of 4th and 5th grade students on Monday, October 15 at 5:30pm in the Learning Commons. This meeting will last about 30 minutes and will outline information regarding the annual fifth-grade trip to Boston and fundraising goals related to the trip.

WE NEED YOU! TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

Looking to make a little extra money, making a difference in our schools and having fun while doing it? Consider being a Substitute in our kitchens! Flexible, school day hours, great coworkers and a lot of fun! Please call the Nutrition Director today for more information. 207-729-9961 x 238.



School pictures will be taken of every student on Tuesday, October 9th, 2018 – order forms should be going home sometime next week.



COMMUNITY NEWS



DO YOU WANT TO LEARN TO PLAY THE PIANO? - I am an experienced piano and organ teacher. I offer piano and organ lessons at my home which is near the school. For more information, please contact Ann Hartzler: ann.hartzler@gmail.com or 837-3416.



Bowdoinham Food Pantry's hours of operation. The pantry will be open from 4pm – 6pm 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.

