

FALCON FLASH

March 16, 2018

Upcoming Events:

3/19-Elective #4 – 2:15-3:15

3/20 – 4th Grade to ME State Museum

3/23-Coding club – 8am

3/26/18- Spring Pictures

3/30-Coding Club – 8am

4/7-BHM School Play – 3pm and 6pm

4/13-Early Release Day – 12:05pm

4/16 – 4/20 – April Vacatio



THE PRINCIPAL CONNECTION

@mrlajoiebham

One of the great pleasures in my regular life is popping open a fresh bag of whole-bean, Meaningful Brewing from our friends at Wicked Joe Organic Coffees. There is a rich sweetness to the beans – almost chocolatey – and I know I'm in for an exceptional cup of coffee that morning.

Largely through our coffee sales we have been able to support the cost of two school plays, including purchasing staging for the school. Our third annual theatre production goes up the weekend of April 6th and 7th. Will you pick up some coffee next week to help us support *A Midsummer Night's Dance Party* at BHM? At \$10 a bag for organic coffee, you are making an easy four-dollar investment in exceptional opportunities in the arts for our kids. And if you drink it black and in moderation, you just might be in for some added [health benefits](#).

HOT TOPIC: PROFICIENCY

I've seen and heard a lot of scuttlebutt recently about proficiency-based grading. Sure, it is a different way to think about grades, and any change takes time to understand and feel comfortable with. Luckily, at the elementary level, we have been using grades that reference standards for well over a decade, so it is not such a shift for us as at, say, the high school level. It's not a perfect report card, but it should give you a good sense of what your child knows and can do, and what he or she will be learning next. As always the BHM teachers and I are eager to help answer any questions you have about grading or the report card.

But there are some important elements to proficiency-based learning that we as a school feel strongly about. No matter what the grading looks like, we value proficiency-based learning because it:

- * Makes clear and visible to students what they need to know and be able to do – no secrets;
- * Allows students to work in their "just-right" zone of learning – not too hard, not too easy;
- * Ensures that our kids will have the knowledge and skills they need to be successful after graduation: in college, work, and citizenship – no expensive remediation after high school.

In our fast-paced world bad news tends to travel many times faster than good news. If you are interested in seeing the beautiful benefits of a proficiency-based learning model in action, stop in to volunteer and see some of our classrooms in action!

Yours in meaningful learning that lasts,

Mr. Lajoie ☺

Congratulations to Bowdoinham students whose art will be exhibited for Youth Art Month in the lobby of the Orion Performing Arts Center!

Rose Cluchey, Kindergarten

Gregory Johnson, Kindergarten

Emily Montejo, Grade 1

Andrew Taylor, Grade 1

Reuben Wood, Grade 1

Annabelle Woodbrey, Grade 1

Rufus Hinkley, Grade 2

Jacob Roughgarden, Grade 2

Lyra Legawiec, Grade 2

Milania McKinnon, Grade 4

Sebastian Fiori, Grade 5

Theo Forcier, Grade 5

Ryan Sweet, Grade 5



Incoming Kindergarteners - It is that time again - we are looking for any possible incoming Kindergarten student who will be turning 5 on or before October 15, 2018. Please contact Mrs. Russell in the school office at 666-5546 or russellv@link75.org.



Spring Pictures (Rescheduled) – Spring Pictures will be taken on Monday, March 26th.

Again, all students will have their picture taken. If you do not want the proofs sent home, please let me know at russellv@link75.org and I will keep them here.



Community News



You are cordially invited to Pack 699's annual Pinewood Derby on Saturday 3-17-18 at The Bowdoinham Community School Gym. Official Weigh-in is at 9:15. Race starts at 10:00 AM-A great way to see what scouting has to offer.

Bowdoinham Recreation: 1. Richard A. Ferrier Scholarship for Bowdoinham residents age 13-18yrs. Paperwork in town office and Bowdoinham.com/recreation. The deadline is April 1st 2018 . **Baseball/Softball/T-ball registrations due by March 20th.** Forms went home in K-5th gr backpacks & are available in the Bowdoinham School, Town Office and Middle School for your middle schooler to pick up. 3. More info to come for our March 23rd baseball assessments for players looking to play up on the next league level. 4. **DICK's Sporting Goods Bowdoinham Appreciation** 20% off weekend is March 24th & 25th. See an additional coupon sheet good until Nov2018 on baseball link at Bowdoinham.com/recreation 5. **Community Swim** last date is March 25th. NO SWIM March 18th.



Perry's Garden- Bowdoinham's NEW community garden! We are still taking applications for the 2018 season! Come join your neighbors and grow your own food this year in Bowdoinham's new community garden, located on Sadie Lane (behind the Farm Cart). Plots are \$25 for a 10' x25' space. Compost, water, tools and expert gardening advice available! Organic and conventional gardeners welcome. Contact Lily Montgomery for more information at lilypmontgomery@gmail.com or find us on Facebook



Midcoast Maine Community Action – Head Start & Early Head Start-Help your child get ready for school with Head Start. Please contact us at 1-800-221-2221 or go to www.midcoastmainecommunityaction.org for more information.



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.