

FALCON FLASH

December 1, 2017

Upcoming Events:

12/2-BHM Craft Fair

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

12/22-Jan 2 – Holiday Break



THE PRINCIPAL CONNECTION

@mrlajoiebham

Have you noticed the cool new seating area nestled amongst the pine trees in front of the gym? Those concrete benches, that new gathering space, was created by former student and Eagle Scout, Richard Mann. Richard saw the process through from conception to completion, and now it is available for our classes and community to use. Thank you, Richard. Job well done!

Parents of students on Team 2/3 – did your child tell you about my epic coffee spill in Ms. Caswell's classroom this week? We all make mistakes!

HOT TOPIC: REPORTS

Report cards for the first trimester will be going home in backpacks next week. Depending on your experience with our Empower reporting system, these reports might look different than what you are used to. A key feature of our report cards is the use of a "scale" to measure student performance toward a specific learning goal. A score of "3.0" on the scale means the student has shown proficiency in that particular skill or content. A student might also receive a pacing score – OP means "on pace" – indicating that the teacher is still actively teaching that learning goal, but the student is right where she should be in her progress toward meeting that goal by the end of the year.

These report cards help us share with you in better detail what exactly your child knows and can do, and also where they might need some more practice. A parent guide will be included in the envelope that goes home with the report cards next week. I also will host a Report Card Q & A session on Monday, December 11 at 5:30, right before this month's Parent Partnership meeting. This is one opportunity to ask questions that you have, and we invite you to stay for the Partnership meeting afterward. Thanks for your continued support. Have a great weekend!

Yours in meaningful learning that lasts,

Mr. Lajoie ☺

Driveway Safety Alert:

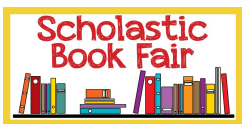
Parents dropping off or picking up students from school will have noticed the white safety sign in the driveway. It is against the law to drive around a bus that has its lights flashing. Flashing lights mean that students are moving either onto or off the bus. When approaching a bus, please watch for the flashing lights, and wait to proceed until you see the lights turn off. Thanks for paying extra close attention.

A second safety issue is when students are dropped off along Cemetery Road and must cross the driveway to enter school. We ask that when possible, parents drop students off at the Ridge Road end of the bus roundabout, where students can step right onto the sidewalk to walk into the building, without having to cross the driveway. Please coach your child about looking both ways and walking directly to the sidewalk. And please also pass this word along to grandparents or other helpers who drop off or pick up your child at school. With your help we will never have to see the day when a student is struck by a vehicle in our driveway. Thank you so much.

- Mr. Lajoie



Don't forget the school's Holiday Craft Fair this Saturday from 10am-2pm. With over 20 vendors, including some of our very own students, there is sure to be something for everybody! As always the BPP will have the cookie/bake sale going on. Santa will be joining us at 11 so remember your cameras!!



The Scholastic book fair will open Wednesday Nov 29 at 12:45PM and close Mon Dec 4 at 11AM. We will also be open from 10:00-2:00 during the Bowdoinham Craft Sale on Sat Dec 2. Children will be visiting the fair during their regular Learning Commons class where they'll be making wish lists, which they will bring home. Students may return to the fair at a later time to purchase books with either cash, or a check made out to Bowdoinham Community School. The Learning Commons has a very tight schedule on Thursday and Friday, so teachers will be informed of the best times to send students to make purchases on those days. The fair will also be open until 6PM on Thursday. If the fair has sold out of a book or you want to see a bigger selection you can shop at the online fair.

<http://www.scholastic.com/bf/bowdoinhamcommunityschool1>

We're always looking for volunteers to help with the fair, so if you would like to help with your child's class or at any other time, please let us know. The Learning Commons will be able to purchase additional materials with the profit from the fair. Sat. Dec. 2 – 10am-2pm and Mon. Dec 4 9am – 11am.



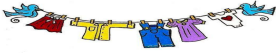
Chorus & Instrumental Music Concert – All Bowdoinham Community & Bowdoin Central 4th & 5th Grade Chorus members as well as selected 4th & 5th Grade instrumentalists will be performing on Monday, December 18th beginning at 6:00pm in the Bowdoinham Community School gym. All students performing should be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



Community News



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.



Holiday Giving Tree - At the Town Office we are beginning preparations for the start of the Giving Tree. Same as last year we will have two businesses hosting our giving tree. The Town Landing Café, with new owner Regina Bartholomeu and the Bowdoinham Hardware Store. If you would like to help bring some holiday cheer to our fellow residents all you need to do is go to the Town Landing Café or Bowdoinham Hardware Store starting November 17th and choose a gift tag from the tree. The gift tag will have all the pertinent information that is needed. **We ask that you bring the unwrapped gift (along with the gift tag) back to the Town Office by Monday, December 18th.** The purpose of this giving tree is help out any resident, family, or elderly person who may need a little help this time of year. Please know that all names are kept strictly confidential. If you know of someone who needs help this season, please call Pam at the Town Office at 666-5531 or email pross@bowdoinham.com



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Bowdoinham Guild of Artisans – Holiday Sale – Food, Live Music, Finely made Art at the Bowdoinham Town hall. Fridays, Dec 1, 6-8pm; Sat. Dec 2 10-3pm; Sun. Dec 3 10-1pm.
FMI-www.facebook.com/bowdoinhamguildofartisans.



Annual Holiday Pony Parade – Please come watch the horses parade through Town spreading Holiday cheer to young and old. Good places to see the horses would be the parking lot at the Waterfront and the Community School. These are safe areas where we should be able to stop the horses and let people come up to visit them. The rest of the time we'll be in motion and it's hard to stop and visit on the roads. Hope to see you on the 9th of December. Candy canes and toys for the kiddos.



Little Dribblers Basketball: 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 Topsham town offices. **Please take forms to Topsham town office; they are open until 6pm Thursdays.**



“A Community Christmas” – Bowdoin Community Cares is sponsoring this event Friday, Dec. 1 6-8pm; and Saturday, Dec. 2 10am-2pm at FHC, Inc at 1202 Main St. Bowdoin. Everyone attending is asked to bring a non-perishable item for the food pantry. There will be crafts, food, kids make & take it corner, Santa will be there and a Celebration of Trees. Come join the fun!

