

Bowdoinham Community School

September 8, 2017

FALCON FLASH

Monday 9/11	Tuesday 9/12	Wednesday 9/13	Thursday 9/14	Friday 9/15
Popcorn Chicken Bosco Sticks Green Beans	Fr. Toast Sticks Ham or Egg Salad Sdwh Banana	Hot Dog Veggie Sub Baked Beans/Cole Slaw	Shepherd's Pie Turkey Sandwich Fruit Cup	Pazzo Bread Ham & cheese Sdwh Mixed Veggies

Upcoming Events:

- 9/8-Kids 1 Mile Fun Run-5:30pm
9/8-5K Chicken Run-6pm
9/11-National Day of Service & Remembrance
9/11 – BHM Parent Partnership Meeting-6pm-7:15pm
- 9/17-Constitution Day
9/22-First Day of Fall
9/22-Grs 4&5 Field Trip



THE PRINCIPAL CONNECTION @mrlajoiebham

This is the fourteenth Opening Week of school in my career, and I honestly can't remember a more joyful one! As a school community of 163 students, we are continuing to work 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 are learning.

HOT TOPIC: WELCOME

Our world-class teachers worked their tails off to be ready for the start of this year, and gave their all this week to make it a successful launch to the year. If you get a moment, consider dropping your child's teacher a line to thank them for all they do. It means more than you might realize!

In my last summer letter to families I let you know about two very popular Bowdoinham teachers who have moved on to new roles in public education. We already miss Mrs. Cathy Curtis, the new Special Services Coordinator at Mt. Ararat Middle School; and Mrs. Annie Young, the new Literacy Teacher at Coffin Elementary in Brunswick. At the same time, we are thrilled to welcome to our BHM team:

Jolene Randall - RTI Learning Strategist Leah Hayes - Title I Teacher

We also have many new students to our school this year, and what an impressive group of kids they are! A special welcome to our new Bowdoinham families. I hope to see you at school sometime soon.

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**



From Mrs. Russell's Office: A few things to remind you about – **1.** *If your student is being dismissed or picked up or sent on another bus, please contact the office before 3:00pm. It is extremely hard to make last minute changes during the last 20 minutes of school and I very much appreciate the communication.* **2.** *If your child is sick, out for an appointment, or will be on a trip please let the office know by calling and leaving a message on my voice mail or by emailing me at russelly@link75.org It is very important that this information is relayed to me as soon as possible – I have to make contact or leave a message on a voice mail for every absence daily; by having your student's absence reasons before 9:30am; it helps me to eliminate numerous phone calls.* **3.** *A reminder that school begins promptly at 9:05 daily (10:05 on Wednesdays). Students may be dropped off at 8:45am (9:45am on Wednesdays). We do not have anyone on duty before that time and I am not always in the office.*

ALL VISITORS: Our office is instituting a new visitor sign in protocol to improve security. You will now be required to stop by the office upon arrival and sign yourself into our new Visitor Pass Registry Book which you will find in the same place where the student sign out book is. **1. Complete** the badge by listing your name, your destination, the date and your time of arrival (time in) **2. Remove** the badge and apply it to our clothing in a visible location. Our staff have been trained to look for badges identifying all visitors to insure our protocols are being followed. In the event of an emergency, it is critical that everyone in the building be accounted for. Thank you for your cooperation and support.



Attendance – It is Being Present and So Much More -As a new school year begins, so do the routines across the country, such as taking daily attendance. Taking attendance is a way of checking to make sure every student has arrived, and is present for the day. Records are kept for each student and patterns of absences are tracked. Most people know that the more days a student misses, the greater the risk for the student falling behind academically. In fact, students who miss 2 or more days a month throughout the year are likely to end up testing a full grade level below their peers who attend school regularly. What people fail to recognize about school attendance, is the impact it has on a student's emotional level. Students want to be part of their school community; to feel they are part of the whole group. Staying at home isolates students from that sense of belonging. There are definitely days when students run fevers, are contagious and need to stay home until they are well. But, there are days when going to school may provoke feelings of anxiousness. This is normal and there are school staff trained to help. But we cannot help if you keep your child at home. This year, encourage your child to attend school every day. In the wise words of Olivia Kierstead, age 17 from South Portland High School and winner of the Maine Count ME In Attendance Matters Poster Contest, "Attending School Is the First Step to Unlocking the Key to Your World."



Spotlight on Health and Wellness - "We believe healthy people make better learners – when we feel well, we work and learn well." **MSAD No. 75 Administrative Team** - Welcome back to school and welcome wellness! Throughout the country, school systems are embracing new requirements from the United States Department of Agriculture that impact all foods and beverages offered or sold to students throughout the school day. More information will be coming but it is important to think in terms of "healthy snacks" whenever you send any food item into school. And as always, make sure you always check with the classroom teacher or the school nurse to see if any students have food allergies or intolerances before sending in any food or beverage item to share.

IMPORTANT NOTICE IMPORTANT NOTICE IMPORTANT NOTICE IMPORTANT NOTICE

The envelope that was sent home on Tuesday has very important information in it that needs to be completed and returned to the school office as soon as possible. Please return all paperwork and the envelope also!



- Parent Partnership Meeting – The first meeting of the year will be this Monday, September 11, from 6pm -7:15pm in the Learning Commons (Library). Please join us! All school families are welcome to attend and participate. At the meeting, we will discuss our upcoming activities and make plans for the coming school year. Volunteers are always needed to make the projects and programs a success for all of our students. Please see the blue flyer that was sent home separately for additional information about the Bowdoinham Parent Partnership (BPP) group.

SPECIAL EDUCATION CHILD FIND SERVICES IN SAD 75 - The purpose of this public notification is to ensure that MSAD 75 locates, identifies, and evaluates at public expense any resident child of Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Topsham or Harpswell who may be in need of special education services. This notification addresses the Child Find requirements of Chapter 101, Maine Unified Special Education Regulations. This notice includes children who may be homeless; wards of the State of Maine or state agency clients; children who are suspected of having a disability attending private schools or are home schooled; highly mobile children [including migrant and displaced youth]; children who have the equivalent of 10 full school days of unexcused absences or 7 consecutive school days of unexcused absences during a school year; children incarcerated in county jails; and any child potentially in need of special education and related services, even though they may be advancing from grade to grade. Parents or guardians of children ages 3 to 20 who reside in the four towns of SAD 75 may refer their child for a comprehensive individual evaluation if they suspect that their child might have a disability. Referral is accomplished by contacting the building principal of your local school of residence or the Director of Special Services for SAD 75, or Child Development Services for children aged 3 to 5 not yet attending public school. Final identification of children with disabilities and special education programming occurs only after an appropriate evaluation and a determination by the student's IEP team. Parents are members of that IEP team. Parents of eligible children with disabilities who are home schooled have the right to access district sponsored special education services if they so choose. If there are any questions regarding this policy, please contact Patrick Moore, PhD, Director of Special Services, at 729 1557.



Celebrate Bowdoinham – Come Celebrate Bowdoinham. For a complete schedule please log onto

www.bowdoinham.com.



Girls on the Run – Bowdoinham girls (Grs. 3-5) have been invited to join Bowdoin Central's Girls on the Run Program. Girls on the Run is designed to allow every girl to recognize her inner strength. This program starts on Tuesday, 9/12 at Bowdoin Central School and will meet every Tues and Thurs from 3:30-5:00. Please register at the following link <https://www.raceplanner.com/register/index/GOTRME-Fall-2017-Program-Registration?sid=78fc9f34ad314a4b8baa971f84fc7665> Please contact Amy Petitti if you have any questions or email Coordinator Jessica Theberge at thebergej@link75.org. Scholarships are available.



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.

Bowdoinham Historical Society - 7th Annual Super Stuff Sale - Saturday 9/16 at the BHS Meeting House (corner River Rd. & Browns Point Rd) • Call Lara 666-8161 to reserve a table space and sell your unneeded treasures • Drop off donations for BHS to sell Sundays 1-4; Tuesdays 2-5; Wednesdays 10-12 • Come to the sale and shop! (Antiques, furniture, household goods, crafting, tools, toys, etc...Proceeds go to the BHS *Phoenix* fire hand tub Restoration Fund (Built in Boston in 1798 and given to Bowdoinham in 1802)



Calling all youth! If you are interested in being IN the Celebrate Bowdoinham Parade, you are welcome to ride on the float being organized by the Public Library. The theme of this year's Parade is Farming, so the Library is encouraging riders to dress up as animals, farmers or vegetables. Or just come as you are! If your child would like to be in the parade and ride on the Library float, they should meet at the Fire Station by 9:45am on Saturday (Sept. 9). The Parade leaves the Fire Station at 10am and goes through downtown, past the school and back to the Fire Station. The float should be back to the Station around 10:45am, but will stop along the route to let kids off IF they have an adult to meet them along the route.



Folk Fun For Little Ones - Folk Fun is an hour-long class led by Susan Brown that includes finger-plays, folk songs, puppet play, musical games, small percussive instruments & creative movement. What: A sing and play class for babies and children ages birth to five and their parents or caregivers. Where: Merrymeeting Art Studio When: 9 to 10 a.m. for six Saturdays beginning on September 16th through October 28th. Cost: \$25 for one child, \$35 for 2 or more siblings, for the full six weeks. Registration is on a first come basis with a maximum of 12 children. To register contact Susan Brown at 837-0401 or brown_531@myfairpoint.net or the Merrymeeting Art Studio

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 brochures/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) 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.