

PARENTS' PAGES



Blue Hills Regional Technical School
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BHR'S FIFTY ADAMS SCHOLARS RECEIVE CITATIONS AT CEREMONY ATTENDED BY PARENTS, LEGISLATORS



Vice Chairman of the Blue Hills Regional District School Committee Joseph Pascarella of Dedham, left, and State Rep. Paul McMurtry present senior Joseph LaRosee of Dedham with a citation in honor of his Adams Scholarship. Photo by Judy Bass.

An enthusiastic audience of parents, friends, staff and others filled the cafetorium at Blue Hills as the school honored fifty members of the Class of 2011 who are recipients of John and Abigail Adams Scholarships from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

To be eligible for this distinction, a student must score Advanced on the English Language Arts or Mathematics portion of the MCAS test, and earn a score of Proficient or higher on the other portion, plus have a combined score that places them in the top twenty-five percent of the graduating class in their district. The Blue Hills Regional school district includes Avon, Braintree, Canton, Dedham, Holbrook, Milton, Norwood, Randolph and Westwood.

The scholarship provides tuition for four years at any Massachusetts state college or university.

Since the inception of the Adams Scholarships in 2004, Blue Hills has had a steadily increasing number of students who have earned them. The first year, there were seven recipients; this year's number is the

most the school has ever had.

Present at the ceremony were State Representatives Bruce Ayers, William Galvin, Paul McMurtry, Walter Timilty and a staff member from State Sen. Brian Joyce's office, Nick Doherty. In addition, Blue Hills Regional District School Committee Chairman Francis Fistori of Avon and Vice Chairman Joseph Pascarella of Dedham were in attendance. Both men are Blue Hills alumni.

The legislators presented the students from their districts with handsome citations to commemorate their scholastic achievement. State Rep. John Rogers could not attend, but sent citations for the students in his district.

To begin the program, Assistant Superintendent / Principal Michael Barrett welcomed the guests and congratulated the students on their milestone. Chairman Fistori echoed those sentiments, as did Superintendent James Quaglia, who said to them, "I believe that you showed a true love of learning. The poet William Butler Yeats once said, "Education is not the filling of a bucket, but the lighting of a fire." Filling a bucket is methodical, joyless and dreary. Lighting a fire suggests beauty, dynamism, and excitement. I hope that we have instilled in you that flame which represents a deep love of learning which will last your whole life."

Rep. Timilty and Rep. McMurtry also spoke, congratulating the students on a job very well done.

ADULT COSMO

Want an exciting new career in Cosmetology? Then think about enrolling in our Adult Cosmetology program! It is a 1000-hour program fully licensed and approved by the Commonwealth of Mass. Division of Professional Licensure / Cosmetology that prepares students to take the Mass. Board of Cosmetology licensing exam. Class meets Mon.-Thurs. from 5-9 p.m. and the program lasts about 14 months. For info, including applications and tours, please contact Deborah Lowrance at 781-828-5800 x220.



PARENTS' PAGES

BHR District School Committee Members:

Francis J. Fistori, Chmn....Avon
Germano John Silveira..Braintree
Aidan G. Maguire, Jr.....Canton
Joseph A. Pascarella....Dedham
Robert S. Austin.....Holbrook
Festus Joyce.....Milton
Kevin L. Connolly.....Norwood
Richard Riman.....Randolph
Charles W. Flahive.....Westwood

James P. Quaglia
Superintendent-Director

Michael J. Barrett
Assistant Superintendent-Principal

Judy Bass
Editor

A MESSAGE FROM ASST. SUPT / PRINCIPAL MICHAEL J. BARRETT

Hello Blue Hills,

As we begin 2011, I would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome I have received when taking over as the Blue Hills Principal. In the past four months, I have quickly realized how lucky I am to be part of the BHR family. The true commitment and dedication I have seen with the faculty and staff is awesome. Our students at Blue Hills are top notch and the support from the community is outstanding.

As we continue into the New Year, there are a few things that I would like to mention to you. First, I would like to remind you about our District Bullying Policy. Our Policy has been adopted by the DSC and was passed on to the Department of Education back in December 2010. Next, our Self-Study for our next NEASC visit has been postponed to next year, per the DESE. And finally, I would like to let you know that within the next couple of weeks we will be unveiling a new Blue Hills Regional Technical School Website. For the past few months, Blue Hills has been working with a company called Brown Bear to help bring our website into the 21st century. I hope you like the new look of the BHR Website and as we continue to update, if you should have any comments or suggestions, please let me know.

As for now, as we continue to work with Mother Nature, I would like to wish you all a quiet and restful winter....and if possible, enjoy the sun.

Regards,

Michael J. Barrett
 Principal
 Blue Hills Regional



BHR EARNS MARKHAM AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ATHLETICS

Blue Hills has received a major honor as part of the Boston Globe's Scholastic Awards, which go to schools with the best won-lost records in athletic competition. For the third time, Blue Hills got the prestigious Markham Award for athletic excellence among vocational schools.

Established in 1997, the award is named for Walter Markham, a native of Lowell who initiated the state's regional vocational and technical high schools and served as president and treasurer of the American Vocational Association. The Markham Award is based on the entire 2010 records and achievements the students have accomplished. The importance is that all the teams in the athletic program at Blue Hills won 52 percent of their games, therefore Blue Hills was selected as the Division 2 Markham Award winner, according to Athletic Director Ed Catabia.



"This is a pretty remarkable feat," he said. "BHR's athletic teams have been competitive with comprehensive schools as well as other vocational schools." Assistant Superintendent / Principal Michael J. Barrett said, "The coaches and players here at Blue Hills should be proud of all their accomplishments both on and off the field."

SPRING 2011 CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Blue Hills Regional Continuing Education program offers adult education classes in the following areas: medical, language, culinary, computers, technology and enrichment.

We also have programs that cater to specific populations: children, teens, seniors and individuals who want to retrain for a new career or update their present job skills.

Many institutions, comprehensive public and private schools, and private companies come to our Continuing Education program to customize specific courses and programs suited to their employees' needs.

Our 14-month, 1000-hour Evening Cosmetology licensing program prepares students to take the Massachusetts Board of Cosmetology licensing examination. This program is fully licensed and approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Division of Professional Licensure. All students participate in hands-on clinic experience with licensed, professional instructors.

Course offerings include the following: welding, CPR, creating web pages, Excel/Word, Cooking Cubs (children ages 6-13), SAT prep, auto damage appraisal, small engine repair, carpentry, basic home improvement, CAD, LPN prep, electronics, HVAC, sewing, digital photography, estate planning, party planning, film acting, real estate, Italian, Spanish and much more!

Classes start in March for the Spring semester, and in September for the Fall semester. The full catalog is available on the Continuing Education link on the homepage of our website, www.bluehills.org. Students may also register online at our registration website, www.activityreg.com.

In addition to the above classes and programs, Blue Hills also rents our facilities, classrooms, cafeteria, gyms, and pool for private functions, meetings and training programs.

For more information on any of the above programs, contact Deborah Lowrance, Continuing Education Director at 781-828-5800, ext. 220.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

FEB. 21-25 Winter vacation

FEB. 28 School reopens

MAR. 11 Professional Development Day, no school

MAR. 15 Progress reports issued

MAR. 22-24 MCAS ELA, seniors late arrival 11:55 a.m.

MAR. 31 MCAS ELA Comp make-up

APR. 8 Term three ends

APR. 12 In-service, student arrival at 10:40 a.m.

APR. 18-22 Spring vacation

APR. 22 No school - Good Friday (Admin. staff)

APR. 25 School reopens

APR. 27 Report cards issued

MAY 11 In-service 11:35 a.m. dismissal

MAY 16 Senior Awards Night, 7 p.m.

MAY 17-18 MCAS Math, senior late arrival, 11:55 a.m.

MAY 20 Progress Reports issued

MAY 30 No school, Memorial Day

JUNE 1-2 MCAS Science

JUNE 14 Graduation

JUNE 29 Practical Nursing Graduation

NOTE: The MCAS history test will **not** take place on May 23 and 24. There is no late arrival for seniors those days. It is a regular school day for all students.





If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to Adopt-a-Shop, make your check payable to The Blue Hills Foundation. Send it to The Blue Hills Foundation, 800 Randolph Street, Canton, MA 02021. All donations are tax-deductible. Adopt-a-Shop is a program that provides funding for tools and equipment for the students of Blue Hills. Any contribution, be it large or small, is very welcome and greatly appreciated. Visit www.Adopt-a-Shop.com to learn about it. Thanks to all!

BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM SHOE DRIVE A BIG SUCCESS

The Shoe Drive sponsored at Blue Hills recently by the boys' basketball team has been a huge success. According to Mr. Brian Gearty, coach of the team and lead teacher in the Metal Fabrication and Joining Technologies program, over 1500 pairs of shoes were collected as of Feb. 8, with three more days to go.

For a limited time, Blue Hills, in conjunction with an organization called Soles4Soles, Inc., a Nashville-based charity that collects shoes and distributes them for free to people in need, collected gently worn footwear from anyone wishing to donate. It is estimated that Americans have 1.5 billion pairs of unused shoes lying in their closets. Soles4Soles, Inc. can use each and every one of these pairs to make a tangible difference in someone's life.

"I happened to see this on the news," said Mr. Gearty. "We also have been involved with coat drives and I thought that this was something different and maybe this could be something that the kids would love to get involved with."

Gearty continued, "Last year we raised some money for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. We have several players in the basketball program with family in Haiti and many of them understand what a drive like this could do for people like those in Haiti."

"The students [involved] have been great," Gearty reported. "They are talking about this all the time."



BLUE HILLS REGIONAL IN THE HEADLINES

Angela Federico, a BHR grad, has opened a salon and spa called Vanity at 351 Turnpike Street in Canton. Her exciting new venture was the subject of a front-page profile in the *Canton Citizen's* February 3 edition. The article states that three of the stylists are people that Angela met at BHR while they all studied Cosmetology.

Sophomore **Vincent Burton** and junior **Torey Johnson** were profiled on a new web site called *Canton Patch*. The highly laudatory features about them described Vincent's success on the football field and Torey's leadership as a State Officer of SkillsUSA. They truly represent themselves and this school with great distinction and pride.

We also had a reporter from another web site, *Braintree Patch*, come to do a story on the **Adult Cosmetology** evening program. One of the teachers is BHR grad **Jen Houle**.

Our own **Mark Laracy**, a senior in Drafting / CAD, was also profiled recently in *Braintree Patch*. Mark has been accepted to Mass. Maritime, where we wish him the greatest success.

THINK SPRING, IT'S TIME FOR DAFFODIL DAYS!

Please consider supporting the freshmen in Health Occupations who do this great fundraiser for the American Cancer Society every year. Put a touch of spring in your home or office while you help this worthy cause!

- Single daffodil \$1**
- Bouquet (10) \$10**
- Bear and A Bunch \$25**
- Potted daffodils (3 per pot) \$15**
- Gifts of Hope or Bear Hugs for Hope \$25**

Last day to buy is March 1, flowers delivered on March 16

