**THE CLUB CONNECTION**

**THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF BANGOR**

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**WELCOME BACK LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR!**

I don't know about all of you, but I absolutely love this time of year! It's always bittersweet saying goodbye to summer, especially when we have been so busy creating wonderful memories filled with sunshine, beach trips, relaxation, and friends, but fall is such a wonderful time of change. Our club kids are another year older and we feel so much pride seeing them get off the school bus on that first day back to school. Their smiles and laughter give us a sense of relief and happiness, knowing that they are successfully navigating these big transitions and are feeling ready to learn, work hard, and accomplish great things! We're also always so excited to meet new friends and learn new faces and personalities. We're very lucky this year to have an amazing group of staff who will make it their number one priority to make sure all of our members feel like they are safe, supported, and belong here. Please feel free to introduce yourself to our staff and get to know them, as they will undoubtedly become very important people in your child's life.

- Cat Myatt
  Club Director

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**NEW PLAY PARK & SPLASH PAD:**

We are so excited about the opening of the new playground and splash pad right here in our neighborhood. The kids have been enjoying the basketball court, playing on the playground, cooling off on the splash pad, and using the fitness equipment that boarders the park. There is something for everyone at this amazing new space and we hope all families enjoy it together.

The Splash Pad (not the playground or basketball court) will be closing for the season starting October 1st. BangorHousing has a target re-open date of May 1st, 2020.
**EXPEDITION 61: INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION:**

The 5th graders and teens had such a great time at the Emera Astronomy Center & Jordan Planetarium at UMaine! They watched footage of the Expedition 61 Crew launching into space and cheered on Maine native, Jessica Meir, who was one of the three astronauts on the mission! Also, several UMaine students teamed up with The Challenger Learning Center of Maine and put together fun activities for our members to learn about food in space. We learned that their food comes in airtight bags, meals have to be 700 calories or less, and astronauts get their vitamin C from the drink, “tang!” Members were able to make their own tang (and drink it!).

**TEEN CENTER: VOLUNTEERING AT THE HUMANE SOCIETY:**

Our teens have started volunteering with the Bangor Humane Society again, and it is going great! This has been a fantastic opportunity for the teens to develop volunteering and life skills while spending time with animals and helping animals socialize with humans. On Friday afternoons we go to the shelter and begin by doing some chores and helpful tasks such as; organizing the donation closet, washing dishes and bins, sweeping, and cleaning walls. The other half our time there is spent socializing and bonding with animals, getting them more comfortable with humans, playing with them and making them feel loved. We feel very lucky to be able to volunteer for this organization and support their hardworking staff and of course their sweet “temporary” residents. For more information on how you can adopt or support an animal in need of a loving home, please visit https://www.bangorhumane.org/.
FAMILIES FORWARD FEATURE:

Families Forward is a two generation program at Bangor Housing, designed to help put families on the path to a better future. Families Forward participants work one on one with a coach who will help support them as they work towards their goals, and connect them with services and partners who can help them achieve these goals. Each participant is expected to meet with their Families Forward Coach at least once a month so that they can help identify needs, set goals, and track the families progress.

"Families Forward is a program designed to help put families on the path to a better future. We do this by providing parents with pathways to higher paying jobs; the tools to better support their children socially, emotionally, and academically; and the opportunities to participate in community activities and services that support healthy child development, positive parent-child interaction, and increased social networks."
-Liz Marsh (Director of Resident Services at Bangor Housing)

To learn more about this wonderful program, call Bangor Housing at 942-6365 and ask to speak to someone on the Families Forward Team!

PRIORITY OUTCOMES:

The Club has three priority outcomes that are incorporate into our daily schedules through specific BGCA programs:

Academic Success: Power Hour is an engaging homework help program that encourages members to become self-directed learners. The club provides the tools, resources, mentors and encouragement needed to help youth achieve academic success.

Healthy Lifestyles: Triple Play is a program that strives to improve the overall health of Club members by increasing their daily physical activity, and helping them develop healthy relationships. Members engage in physical activities through sports, team building exercises, outdoor education, and games.

Good Character & Citizenship: Through our Teen Center and Character and Leadership programs, Club members develop leadership skills through planning, decision-making, and contributing to our Club and our community.

| Josiah working on homework with Bobbie | Logan and Brayden working on homework with Kayla |
MEMBER OF THE MONTH

JAYDAH

What do you like to do for fun?
"I like free time and playing with my dolls"

What is something people don't know about you?
"I am good at gymnastics"

If you could be any animal, what would it be and why?
"A Horsey because I play pretend horsey with my sisters at home."

What is your favorite thing about the Boys & Girls Club?
"Playing all kinds of games!!"

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

We would like to recognize the following community members, organizations, and businesses for the contributions they made.

THANK YOU!

HANNAFORD: FOOD TOWARDS THE PANTRY
THE PRAYER FAMILY: CLUBHOUSE SUPPLIES
TYLER JOHNSTON & FAMILY: CLOTHES

KIM WILLEY: HALLOWEEN COSTUMES
CHRISTAL CURTIS: SCHOOL SUPPLIES

SAVE THE DATE:

BANGOR HOUSING TRUCK OR TREAT & HAUNTED HOUSE
Wednesday, October 30th
5:30-7:30pm

CLUB HALLOWEEN PARTY
Wednesday, October 30th
3-5pm *** All Families Invited***

HALLOWEEN COSTUME DRIVE
Wednesday, October 23rd
@ Bangor Housing Gym

INDIGENOUS DAY
Monday, October 14th:
CLUB CLOSED

FOOD PANTRY
The Pantry will be OPEN FRIDAYS during pick ups

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