



## PAGING FUTURE PROVIDERS . . .

### Blue Hill Memorial Hospital Introduces Children to Healthcare Professions



*April Chapman, Blue Hill Family Medicine practice manager, shows children from the Blue Hill Consolidated School the inside of an ambulance.*

experiences, the hospital hopes to spark an interest in healthcare that will lead to these students becoming future healthcare providers in our local communities. Also, a hospital can be an unfamiliar place for young children, which can leave them feeling nervous and scared. Organized visits help the students become more comfortable with the hospital, the staff, and the types of services the hospital provides. So, if a child ever needs to visit the hospital to receive medical treatment, having this familiarity can help the child feel more at ease.

April Chapman, mother of six year-old Evan, serves as the practice manager in the neighboring Blue Hill Family Medicine. “It was a treat to bring my son and his classmates to see my workplace. It is a challenge to recruit for many professional positions in the healthcare area. Maybe something about the day’s activities will inspire one of these boys or girls to consider a career in healthcare. I don’t think there’s a more rewarding way to make a difference in our community.”



Where can children complete an obstacle course, blow bubbles, make faces out of vegetables, and have a lady bug remind them to cover their mouths when they cough? In May, 24 kindergarten students from the Blue Hill Consolidated School visited Blue Hill Memorial Hospital for these experiences and others.

Staff from more than seven different departments created activities for the children. Beth Wagstaff, an occupational therapist, took the lead on behalf of the hospital’s rehabilitation services unit. “We work with a lot of children in our primary care practices, area schools, and right here in the hospital. It was fun to think about how to engage an entire class in learning more about what we do.”

These visits are mutually beneficial for both the children and the hospital. Maine’s rural hospitals face a shortage of healthcare providers. By providing students with entertaining hands-on



*Children enjoy many games created by the hospital staff.*

TOGETHER We're Stronger