

# Dr. Norman Bethune C.I. Newsletter

December 2018

Principal : S. Kaskens

Vice-Principals: L. Houghton, C. Wilson



## Upcoming Events

- ◆ Parent-Teacher Interviews
- ◆ P.A. Day
- ◆ Winter Fundraising Campaign
- ◆ Winter Music Concert
- ◆ SAC Talent Show

## Principal's News

All parents are invited to attend our Parent Council meeting on Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. We will have a guest speaker who will do a presentation for parents on "Digital Intelligence" and how to manage your child's use of social media. A flyer was emailed to all parents on November 26. Please consider attending and feel free to bring a small treat to share. Coffee and tea will be provided.

The month of December will be a busy and exciting time at Bethune. We look forward to the "12 Most Wonderful Days of the Year Campaign", where all proceeds will support "Second Harvest". Our Winter Music Night is on December 13<sup>th</sup> and we've invited students from our feeder schools to a Concert on December 14. Our annual SAC Talent

Show will take place on the last day of school before the winter break: December 21. Finally, on behalf of the staff at Bethune, I'd like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season.

*Sandy Kaskens, Principal*



## P.A. Day - Friday December 7th



Drama students doing improv  
(see article on page 3)

There will be no classes for students on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> as it is a P.A. Day. We look forward to seeing students back at school on Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.



*Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.*

*~ Gandhi*

## Remembrance Day 2018

This year's Remembrance Day Ceremonies took place on Friday, November 9, 2018. There was great collaboration from several teachers and classes throughout the school. Thank you to Ms. Blom for taking the lead organizing and preparing this ceremony.

Mr. Chard's Digital Art Class created some fantastic posters in honour of the 100th anniversary of the Armistice. Ms. Soni's ESL A classes recited "In Flanders Fields" with parts of the poem translated into Mandarin, Tagalog, Spanish and Arabic. Ms. Lacey worked with students to share war stories and experiences to be read over the morning announcements during Veterans week, and helped created

some slideshows played throughout the ceremony.

Mr. Scott worked with Matthew Hernandez to create a moving 2-part monologue about a soldier struggling with PTSD after returning from war in Afghanistan. Our student speakers, Gaya Suweenthiran, Satya Sarma, Anika Edward, Hannah Glowacki, and Ben Liu shared stories about Canadian involvement in wars and peacekeeping missions abroad. In particular, the story of Chinese-Canadians involved with Force 136 and Operation Oblivion in World War Two was featured in the ceremony. The Festival Singers, under the direction of Ms. Willoughby, and the Symphonic Band, under the direction of Mr. Ross, performed

beautiful pieces of music to help accentuate the ceremony.

Mr. Ishiguro and Blaze helped to ensure that we had appropriate sound and lighting for the ceremony, and Mr. Ishiguro worked with Reps to help ensure the Commons was set up for the assembly. BCI Alum, Benson Ma, was unable to join us this year, however he participated in a filmed interview where he discussed his experiences in the Canadian Armed Forces. Another BCI Alum, Jayson Lam worked with our Cadets, Leo Lin, Angela Chen, Victor Sun, Eric Shaw, and Tina Chen to help enhance the ceremony with a small military parade at the end of the ceremony and laying of a ceremonial wreath to honour our veterans.



## Senior Girls Golf Team

Our GIRLS GOLF TEAM braved through rain, high winds, and cold at the TDSB REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Not exactly golfing weather! All that was missing was snow, and some of that did in fact fall once all the golfing was done. Despite the conditions, our girls had faith in their abilities and outperformed all the other golfers! Their hard work and dedication paid off! Our LADY BEARS are the 2018-19 TDSB TEAM REGIONAL CHAMPIONS!!! This extends our streak of winning medals to 15 consecutive years and for 3 of those years we were Regional Champions!

They all learned to golf right here at Bethune, and never gave up learning no matter how many blisters they suffered or how frustrated they felt! Although everyone did very well in the competition our TOP FOUR golfers

were: **MERRY GAN, JACKIE FANG, JENNIFER WU AND PEIYI SHEN.** Incidentally, this was Jennifer's first year of golfing. Also, six of our 13 golfers on this year's team are new to golf. Finally, one of our golfers earned an individual honour after only 2 years of golfing! **MERRY GAN** won the 2018-19 BRONZE MEDAL for Individual Play at this year's Championships.

Congratulations to Merry and to the entire team for a fantastic ending to a

perfect golf season. Unfortunately, we have to say good-bye to two of our girls who will be graduating: LUCYYA NI and ALICIA GAN. Thank you for the memories girls and I hope golfing will be in your future. Treasure the win girls! See you all next year!

*Ms. Cecool,  
Teacher-Coach*

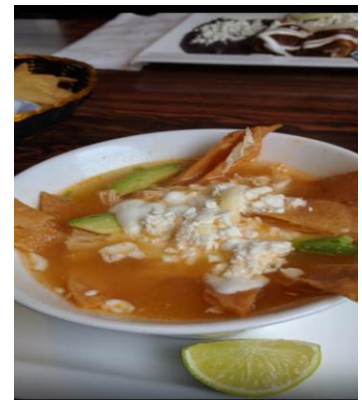


## La Vida en Español!



Hola Bethune! November was another exciting month for 'la vida en español'. Our grade 11 and 12 Spanish students had the opportunity to join other students from across the GTA, for the Sí-Sí-Cine Toronto Latin Film Festival, where we saw a beautiful Argentinian film called Hunabkú. Following the film we continued our Latin journey as we made our way to Chachos restaurant, where we enjoyed the wonders of Mexican cuisine and culture. Gracias por una experiencia fantástica!

*Ms. Tibbet*



## Drama News



This fall our junior Drama students have been working with professional actors from The Theatre Circuit. The grade 9 students have studied improvisation skills, and the grade 10 students have been practising Clown. These skills help students to learn performance skills, concentration, as well as the very important skills of taking a risk and collaborating with peers. In the meantime, they also managed to have some fun!



Bethune's Drama students have also been engaged in a variety of learning opportunities to prepare for next spring's performances. On Monday November 12th all grade 10 students at Bethune were invited to attend a Spoken Word Assembly, where guest speaker Patrick de Belen introduced our students to the art of writing and performing poetry as a means of self-expression. Patrick was the

first ever recipient of the Poet of Honour award from YouthCanSlam, which is Canada's national youth poetry festival. His work has been featured on CBC, TED and Sportsnet. He was featured in a TV commercial for the Toronto Raptors.

Patrick is passionate about culture and community and he has facilitated programming in conjunction with The Toronto Public Library, the 2015 Pan Am Games, and many other community groups and national institutions. Patrick will mentor Bethune's Grade 10 Drama students, as they prepare to perform their own poetry in front of audiences. Our students, along with hundreds of teenagers from schools in Toronto, will be performing Spoken Word Poetry in front of adjudicators at TDSBCreates, in March 2019.

*Ms. Rzezniczek*

## Pineapple Week at Bethune



Our student-teachers with Ms. Selvam

For one week in November we recognized Pineapple Week. The pineapple was chosen as a symbol for teachers to put on their door to invite others into their space. Pineapples have historically represented hospitality. It is one way to say: "Aloha! You are welcome to come into my classroom and see what I'm doing. I would like you to feel welcome to

walk in, check-out what is happening, and then we can chat about it. Let's get to know each other better and learn together". The week culminated in an opportunity on the P.D. Day on November 16<sup>th</sup> for more teachers to visit each other's classrooms and share what happens there, and for us together to enjoy some fresh pineapple together!

*Ms. Wilson & Mrs. Houghton*