

Dr. Norman Bethune C.I. Newsletter

December 2017

Principal S. Kaskens

Vice-Principals L. Pagnotta, C. Wilson



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Principal's News

All parents are invited to attend our school council potluck on Monday, December 4th at 7pm. Bring a small appetizer and enjoy some conversation. A small group of Bethune students have planned a presentation for parents focused on the pressures of being a grade 12 student. Please consider attending. 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", our Winter Music Night and Feeder School Winter Concert, as well as our annual SAC Talent Show, plus so much more. Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season.

Ms Kaskens

Grade 8 Parent Information Night

Bethune's staff and students worked together to showcase the school on November 15th, 2017 for Grade 8 Parent Information Night. The evening started with a whimsical musical performance by the wind ensemble which was then followed by student led school tours. Our REPs and ESL Mentors impressed prospective families with their knowledge about our award-winning programs, course offerings and enthusiasm for Bethune. The families also appreciated the opportunity to connect with our department leaders at their subject booths. With over 400 people in attendance, it truly was a wonderful night to be a part of our school community. Thank you to the REPs, ESL Mentors, Wind Ensemble, SAC, Guidance

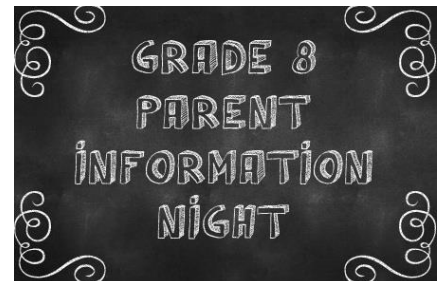


Department, ACLs and Administrators for helping plan this evening. Your contributions made the evening a success and I look forward to welcoming Bethune's future families with you.

Ms Villamin-Arenas

Upcoming Events

- ◆ PA Day
- ◆ Winter Music Concert
- ◆ SAC Talent Show



Bethune Celebrates 5 Years of Movember



This year marks the fifth year that Bethune staff and Bethune students have participated in the Movember Foundation campaign to raise awareness of men's health – emotional, mental, and physical. During the month of November, staff and students participated in a number of fun activities, with a focus on men's health. Growing a moustache during the month of November is a way to publicly support the Movember Foundation. This year I was very proud to see the members of the Bethune Camping Club (BCC), organize and manage a lunch time Movember

awareness Kahoot in the cafeteria and a Movember information/donation table. Well done gentlemen. This year we dedicate our campaign to the Bethune community and their families who are coping with prostate cancer.

On behalf of Bethune Grizzly Bears, Bethune's Movember Foundation team, thank you to members of BCC, Mr. Harrop, Mr. Palsetia, Mr. Parmer, Mr. Petric, Mr. Ross, and Mr. Cullum for another successful year. Bethune Grizzly Bears looks forward to growing with you for next year's campaign.

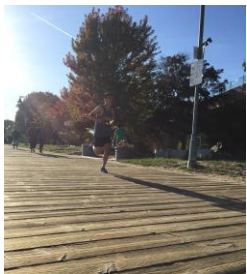
Mr. Mueller

Cross Country

Sun, heat, cold, and snow! This cross-country season had it all! Over the fall season, Bethune had 22 runners participating in 6 meets. We had our most successful season to date with 13 runners qualifying for the TDSB City Championships - a Bethune record! Highlights of the season include: Our senior girls - Alicia, Dong, Rainbow, and Sammie - finishing in 3rd place as a team at regionals, earning a bronze medal. Matthew Cheung qualifying for OFSAA and running through a blizzard in Petawawa. Heidi, Nicole, and Anson dressing up as scarecrows for the annual Halloween Relay at the Beaches. Running the crazy steep hills at practice. And the team

dinner at Frankie Tommato's. The coaches - Ms. Fisher, Mr. Till, and Mr. Scriven - would like to thank all the runners coming out to morning practices, running their best at every race, and cheering on their teammates at every race. Good luck to all our 7 graduating runners and we hope to see the rest of you back next fall! Happy running!

Ms Fisher



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

~ Mahatma Gandhi

No School - PA Day - December 1st

This is just a reminder that there will be no classes for students on Friday, December 1st as it is a PA Day. We look forward to seeing student back at school on Monday, December 4th.

Mrs. Pagnotta

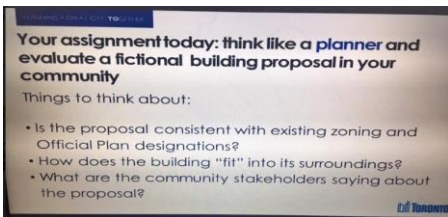


Grade 9 Geography: RU a Planner?

In celebration of World Town Planning Day in November, Bethune's grade 9 Geography students participated in *RU a Planner?* workshops, a joint initiative between Ryerson's Urban Planning students and the City of Toronto Planning Department. The goal of *RU a Planner?* is to empower students to realize their capacity to change the cities in which they live. Students participated in an interactive presentation on the elements that make a living in a city enjoyable. Students explored topics such

as walkability, heritage projection, building at a human scale, the tree canopy, and transit infrastructure. Students worked on local case studies which kick-started their thinking on how to plan for the future, excellent urban design, and how we make our city beautiful. A big thank you goes out to the Ryerson Students and City of Toronto Planners who did an excellent job inspiring the next wave of engaged urban citizens!

Ms Tutchener



Next Generation

DAY 1 - At first, we didn't know what to expect from the Next Generation Conference. Everyone sat in the audience eagerly waiting for something to happen, until the singing began. The First Nation woman's prayer song filled the commons with her powerful yet beautiful voice. It felt like we had been teleported into a place of peace and serenity. Some of us felt a heart-warming and chilling feeling as if the song was speaking to us. After the song, she went on to talk about how First Nations people are still being mistreated today. She mentioned how people are misconceived about First Nations people and their culture.

After the workshops ended, we all gathered in the commons and watched a short student-made documentary that talked about Syrian refugees. The conference leaders highlighted what each group had done during the day. By the end of the day, we all learned something new about current world issues. We looked forward to the next conference.

DAY 2 - Day two of the conference started off very strong. After a brief recap of what we did last conference day, we were given an overview of what was going to happen throughout the day.

The facilitators placed blankets around the room, and asked everyone to stand on a blanket close to them. Roles were assigned to us based on the cards they gave us before the activity began, for example some of us were children sitting in the middle surrounded by adults of the community. Each blanket represented an Indigenous people's community. The activity was designed to show the story of what has happened to the Indigenous communities in Canada over the last 500 years. As the activity progressed, communities started to diminish over time. People were called to leave their blankets when certain events occurred, for example some children were forced to leave because of residential schools. By the end of the activity most of the blankets were either empty or close to empty, meaning that most Indigenous communities have been destroyed. This activity conveyed a powerful message and it taught us the hardships that Indigenous people had to endure.

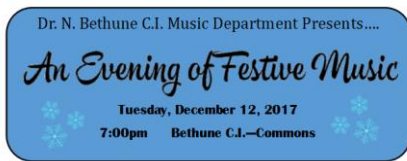
DAY 3 - Day three started off with the facilitators giving a brief review of what was done last conference day. We were

then showed videos of some social action campaigns. An example of a campaign was a commercial that showed how young women are being negatively influenced by "ideal body types," that are portrayed in the media. They wanted to show us how we can use positive media to counter the negative type of media being put out. The topic of the day was then presented to us, and it was about understanding, and sharing our history. Before we were given the opportunity to learn about the unspoken Canadian history, we got to share the histories of our parents, and grandparents. Some of us had the opportunity to learn about history that was never spoken of in our Canadian history classes. One of the events that they highlighted was the Komagata Maru incident in 1914. The incident involved the refusal to allow refugees from Punjab, and British India into Canada. The passengers were held in their ship for two months, and were not given any food. Eventually the ship was forced to leave, and go back to India where upon arrival, 19 people were killed. Many of us were shocked to learn of the details of the actions the government took to try and make Canada an "all white society." Overall, everyone went through a very eye opening experience.

DAY 4 - The fourth day began with a Tobacco Ceremony that was meant to welcome in spirits that would help guide us throughout the day. After the ceremony, we watched two short student-made documentaries which summarized the events of the first few conference days. In our core workshops, we shared our "I Am" poems within small groups. We participated in an activity where we had to choose between four corners of a room and decide if different stereotypical statements are either: not harmful, somewhat harmful, harmful or very harmful. We focused on the many types of discrimination that are present in today's society, such as ableism, sexism, racism, and heterosexism. In the afternoon, we took part in our elective workshops that described discrimination towards cultural and social groups. In our workshops, we brainstormed ways to support our groups through allyship. We are looking forward to the youth summit on December 18.

*Lucas Montano-Dong
Grade 11 Student*





Arts Department News

During the week of November 27 - December 1, over 300 students from Music, Visual Art, and Drama travelled north to Jackson's Point. The students were participating in our annual Music Retreat and first annual Arts Retreat. The purpose of the trip is to give students an opportunity to work together towards a common goal, learn new skills, work with professionals in their field and to develop teamwork and leadership skills. Our junior Art and Drama students were treated to a puppetry workshop and our grade 9 music students worked with 2 Toronto conductors. The senior Visual Art students worked with a representative from The Varley Art Gallery, the Photography students were able to capture some beautiful late fall photos off

the shores of Lake Simcoe. Our senior Drama students worked closely with a playwright to develop their own monologues into an original play. The senior music students hosted 6 different conductors over 3 days.

Please join us for "An Evening of Festive Music" on December 12, 2017 at 7:00pm in the Bethune Commons to hear 10 of our fantastic ensembles.

Ms Kilbride



SAC News

As the orange, yellow and red fill our vision with the feisty winds of fall, we realize that winter is almost near - as November has passed, and it is now December instead. As compared to last month's school events, November has been relatively tame if we are talking about student activity.

SAC Twin Day is a day in which students are able to get at least one other partner and dress up the same to match each other. SAC's incentive was that we would give out Twix bars to anyone we saw who partook in twinning on this collaborative day. We were astonished to see over 50 groups of two (and sometimes three!) take a photo for memory's sake in front

our hand-drawn backdrop by our incredibly artistic SAC members! The day turned out to be wonderful.

The next SAC related event may actually be the biggest one; the one that everyone gets excited about; the one everyone is involved in. This event is the 12 Most Wonderful Days of the Year! In celebration of the holidays approaching, SAC is collaborating with just about every other club in the school to fundraise towards our charity. We are looking forward to expressing the success of the 12 Most Wonderful Days. See you in the January Newsletter! Until then, stay warm (and cool for the random heat spikes)!

Janet Wei
SAC Secretary

BEAT in Action

This month, Bethune's environmental action team held the annual waste reduction week. Throughout the week of November 13 - 17th, there were events held to raise awareness for reducing waste!

To start off the week, a fun game of Kahoot was hosted, with over 70 participants. We tested the knowledge of Bethune students with 15 questions about waste reduction. The winners, grade 12 William Y. and grade 11 student, Tinson C. both finalized, placing top two! They won a reusable tumbler and a reusable ice pack.

The fast fashion industry is unsustainable causing pollution to the environment and

creates waste each year. To bring awareness about this current issue, we held an upcycling workshop. Turning an old t-shirt to a new reusable tote bag. In addition, these bags can help reduce the annual waste of plastic bags.

To wrap up the end of a successful week, BEAT held a "Trash art competition". The name says it all; we took ordinary household garbage and recyclable items, and turned them into pieces of artwork. Not only that, but there was a trivia component about ways to reduce waste. Whenever a question concerning waste was answered correctly, they were rewarded with bonus incentives.

Emily Ma
Grade 12 student

