

Dr. Norman Bethune C.I. Newsletter

February 2019

Principal: S. Kaskens

Vice-Principals: L. Houghton, C. Wilson



Principal's News

Dear Bethune Parents/Guardians,
There are many important dates coming in February. All parents are invited to attend our Parent Council meeting on February 11 at 7:00 p.m (new date). This meeting will include a presentation from our Guidance department on the course selection process for next year, and important factors you and your son/daughter should consider. We are also interested in getting your input with respect to the school bell schedule, as well as the student dress code for next year. Please complete the survey in this newsletter!

On February 13th, parents are invited to attend our Parent-Teacher Interview Evening. Please note that there will not be an interim report card distributed prior to Parent-Teacher Interviews. Teachers have informed students of their "mark-to-date". If you are concerned about your son/daughter's progress, please consider scheduling an interview for February 13th, or contact the guidance department. Every effort will be made to contact the parents of students who are at risk of not earning all their credits. The next official report card will be distributed on April 11th.

Ms. Kaskens

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PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

Let us know what you think about our dress code and the school bell times. Please complete this survey.

<https://goo.gl/forms/eqD0031cwkjnUZgg2>

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Parent-Teacher Interviews - Wednesday February 13th
- ◆ P.A. Day - Friday February 15th
- ◆ Family Day Holiday - Monday February 18th
- ◆ Semi-Formal - Friday February 22nd

Parent-Teacher Interviews

Our second set of Parent-Teacher Interviews will be held on Wednesday, February 13th from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. From February 6th until February 12th at 4pm, parents will be able to book appointments with teachers online at www.bethuneci.com.

Alternatively, parents can call the main office before February 13th to book an appointment. We look forward to seeing you on February 13th.



No School - February 15th & 18th

This is just a reminder that there will be no classes for students on Friday, February 15th as it is a P.A. Day and that the school will be closed on Monday, February 18th for the Family Day holiday.

Course Selections for 2019-2020

It is Course Selection time and we kicked it off with our Course Selection Assemblies on Jan 30th. We have many upcoming opportunities for students to find out more about Bethune's courses and get help choosing their courses:

Jan 30 – Course Selection Assemblies

Feb 6 – Course Selection Marketplace @ Lunch

Feb 13-21 – Counsellors available in Library for help with MyBlueprint.ca

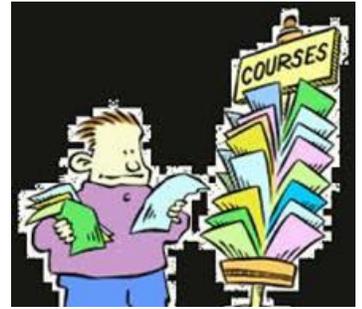
Feb 19 – Course Selections due for Gr. 9 & Gr. 12

Feb 21 – Course Selections due for Gr.10 & Gr. 11

We encourage all students to talk to

their parent(s) or guardian(s) about their choices and ask questions of their teachers and counsellors so that they can make good choices for next year. Students that want to connect with their counsellor can book time in the guidance office. Students can sign on to www.MyBlueprint.ca/TDSB to select and submit their courses for next year.

Mr. Ng



Self Defense Month

The month of January means it is Self-Defense time for our Grade 9 students. Both our males and females participate in a 4-5 day program where they learn about conflict resolution, discipline, personal safety and injury prevention which are valuable in helping them to become confident and effective problem solvers. They learn and demonstrate basic self-defense and martial arts techniques throughout and by the end of the program, have increased their confidence.

Ms. Aziz



Bethune's Drama Retreat

The Bethune Drama Retreat took place on Nov 28-Dec 1, in Studio T102. Ms. Rzezniczek invited Dennis Bush, an accomplished playwright, to give us three days of workshops about writing and performing theatre. As soon as we walked in the room and met Mr. Bush, that was when the magic of the retreat began!

Mr. Bush wanted to know more about each of us, and so we shared some information about ourselves. It did not feel like any normal introduction though, instead it felt like we were all opening ourselves up to someone that truly understood us. We then worked through different writing and acting exercises. We learned about intention, subtext and

objectives and how important it is for actors to keep those in mind when writing and performing on stage. From then our scenes became more complex as different emotions and backgrounds were added. We also read and performed monologues, while Mr. Bush coached us from the side. He walked us through the emotions of each character and how to sound natural when speaking.

By the end of day two, we all felt that something changed in us. We felt courageous and inspired. When day three arrived, there was a bittersweet feeling in the room, because we knew it was our last day together. This time Mr. Bush had us write little monologues for

our classmates, specifically focusing on emotions that we do not normally show. We performed them and Mr. Bush gave us physical challenges to perform while we were reading the scripts. Mr. Bush pulled out some of our best acting during those last monologues.

Mr. Bush inspired us, and gave us courage to take risks as writers and actors. But in addition to that, he connected with us in a way that made us better people. He helped show us that we all have what it takes to be amazing. We will be forever grateful for the time he shared with us during our Drama Retreat. Thank you so much Mr. Bush!

Lucas Montano Dong

Parents as Partners Conference 2019



The Parents as Partners Conference 2019 is on Saturday, March 30 and all parents are welcome!

This free conference – planned by parents, for parents – includes a variety of workshops and resources that will help any parent support their child in their achievement and well-being at school and at home.

Transportation, food and translators are all provided, as well as free day camp for children ages 4-12 to support participants attending the conference.

Registration opens mid-February at www.parentsaspartners.ca

Update from the Student Administrative Council

New year means new fun-filled events! On behalf of the Student Administrative Council (SAC), I would like to welcome everyone back from the winter break and wish everyone a happy and healthy new year. This school year SAC hosted many awesome events including: SAC grade nine BBQ, Halloween Haunt, Twin day, the 12 Most Wonderful Days Fundraiser and to wrap up 2018, the annual Talent Show.

Every December the many clubs and councils at Bethune come together to fundraise money for a charity. This campaign is called the **12 Most Wonderful Days of the Year**. It is a series of 12 days leading up to the winter break that consists of activities, games, and food sales to raise money. This year, the staff and students at Bethune showed lots of spirit and participation during the 12 fundraising days. The charity we chose to donate towards was Second Harvest Toronto. It is the largest food rescue organization in Canada and their goal is to drastically reduce the amount of food

waste while ensuring people have access to the good, healthy food they need for success.

To end off the year of 2018, SAC held our annual Talent Show. This year we had many brave and talented individuals who showcased their amazing skills. Acts included singing, dancing, a piano duet and the Chinese bow-fiddle. What a great way to end of the year!

SAC is currently planning a few events such as Love Week and one of our big events to be held in February for all grades, our annual Semi Formal. The theme this year is "Diamonds Are Forever", inspired by James Bond and will be on Friday February 22nd at Markham Event Centre. We know the students are looking forward to participating in the events SAC has in store and we can't wait! Until then, sit back and enjoy the month of February!

Gayathiri Suweenthiran
SAC Secretary

De-Stress Sessions with Furry Friends

Healthy Schools organized our annual visits from the St. John's Ambulance Therapy dogs on January 15th. This was organized to allow our students to take a break from exam preparation and life's challenges. They enjoyed being able to play with and cuddle Cookie and Toto as they were not only cute but also photo ready. Toto went up to every student in the circle to be

petted or cuddled while Cookie readily posed for a picture. After visiting with the dogs for the lunch hour, our students reported feeling "happier", more "joy", and "relaxed". Therapy dogs from St. John's will return to Bethune in April as part of our well-being week.

Ms. Villamin-Arenas



Bethune Students go to Kearney



For three days in January, Mr Mueller and Ms Tutchener had the pleasure of bringing 11 Bethune students to the Scarborough Outdoor Education Centre, otherwise known as KEARNEY!

Students had three days of outdoor learning which included tobogganing, snowshoeing, orienteering, teambuilding, skating, and night-time cross-country skiing.

It was a marvelous time filled with outdoor learning, cooperation, and a little bit of risk-taking. Students who attended were, at times, pushed to their limits yet conquered their own personal challenges with a smile by the end of it all.

Thank you to Ms Kaskens whose support makes this unique learning opportunity possible.



Drama Retreat Photos

