

Dr. Norman Bethune C.I. Newsletter

February 2018

Principal S. Kaskens
Vice-Principals L. Pagnotta, 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 5 at 7:00 p.m. 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. There will also be a presentation from our Math department on course options and the support available for students who struggle in Math. We are also in the process of planning a summer school program at Bethune to support students who may need to recover credits, or want to reach ahead. More information will follow.
On February 14, 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 interview night (which

has been past practice). 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 14, 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 12.

Finally, parents are reminded to refrain from dropping their son/daughter off on the opposite side of the street. This is a "No Stopping" zone and Toronto Police will begin enforcing this traffic by-law by issuing tickets. We don't want any Bethune parents to be given a ticket, but more importantly, we don't want any student to be injured while crossing the street during these heavy traffic times.

Ms Kaskens

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Parent Teacher Interviews

Our second Parent Teacher Interview Night will be held on Wednesday, February 14th from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Beginning at 4:00 p.m. on February 8th until 12:00 p.m. on February 14th, parents will be able to book appointments online at www.bethuneci.com for Parents' Night. Alternatively, parents can call teachers directly to book an appointment time. We look forward to seeing you on February 14th.

Mrs. Pagnotta

No School - February 16 & 19

This is just a reminder that there will be no classes for students on Friday, February 16th as it is a PA Day and that the school will be closed on Monday, February 19th for Family Day.

Mrs. Pagnotta

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Parents' Night
- ◆ PA Day
- ◆ Family Day Holiday
- ◆ Semi-Formal



English News: Bethune Students at TIFF

On February 8 and 9, the grade 11 English students will be travelling downtown Toronto to TIFF to participate in a filmmaking workshop, and learn about storytelling and filming techniques. Once the stories are conceived and the scripts are written, the students will assume various roles within the filmmaking teams with a director in charge who will determine how they will want to shoot the film, considering, among other things, elements such as light and camera movement in the decision-making process. The films will be edited and any post-production effects, such as sound adjustments and colour correction will have to be finished by the end of the day when each team will leave the workshop with a short film on a DVD. Throughout the day-long workshop, our students will receive instruction and will be guided by TIFF instructors under the supervision of our own Bethune teachers. In the following weeks, a major Film Production Project will be launched in

class, for which the students will be working in the same groups as at TIFF and will have to add sub-plots to their original scripts to plan the production of a regular length feature film. Each group will be working on a given budget and will have to make allocations for various aspects of their film production (set dressing, costumes, makeup, etc.), post-production (editing, music, artwork, etc.) as well as cast and advertising (video trailers or posters will be prepared). The film production project will end with a Google slides presentation as each group will present their movie incorporating all of their findings and learning gained during the TIFF workshop. A business theme, complete with elements of sales and marketing, will be integrated in this project, which will also count as the **Contextualized Learning Activity** that some of the students must complete as part of their participation in the **Business Specialist High Skills Major program (SHSM)**.

Ms Focseneau

Financial Help for Students

Is your child making plans to attend college or university next fall? Visit Ontario.ca/OSAP to see what financial aid is available to help pay for tuition and other expenses.

This year, about one-third of students attending college or university full-time are

receiving free tuition from OSAP. Visit Ontario.ca/OSAP and use the calculator to see what your child may be eligible to receive from OSAP.

Apply early and use the OSAP comparison tool to help your child make the best choice for their future.

Self Defense

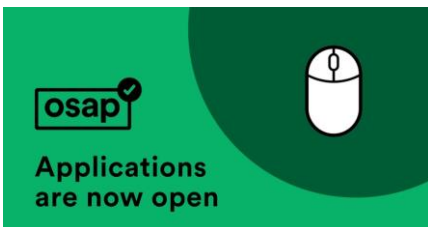
During the month of January, all of our Grade 9s participated in a Self Defense program put on by SAFE International. The students learned numerous ways to avoid dangerous situations as well as ways to handle these potential incidents. The instructors were professional and educational and all of the students came away with a sense of confidence and respect. It was a positive learning experience for all.

Ms Aziz

Volleyball Intramurals

Our volleyball intramurals have just begun and we have 20 teams participating in three divisions: Girls, Jr. Boys and Sr. Boys, and the teachers have put in 2 teams as well. May the best teams win! Stay tuned for the results in our next newsletter.

Ms Aziz



ABC Apparel/Spiritwear

Our very own Athletic Bears Council has designed SPIRITWEAR for the school and it is available through Cash Online! Please go to the website to check out – students are

able to select their own colour and personalization – all the details are on there.

Ms Aziz



Parents as Partners Conference 2018

The Parents as Partners Conference 2018 is on Saturday, April 28 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.

This year's keynote speaker is Unstoppable Tracy, an award-winning educator and leader in schools, business and in sport, humanitarian, advocate, decorated athlete and international speaker.

Transportation, childcare, food and translators are all provided. Registration opens in February at www.parentsaspartners.ca



Guidance Department News

February 1st kicks off Bethune's course selections for next year!! It's time for us to look ahead to next year and for you to select courses at www.MyBlueprint.ca/TDSB.

Here are some key dates to mark down in your calendar.

Feb 1 – Course selections Assemblies

Feb 7 – Course Marketplace @ Lunch in Cafeteria. Find out about all the courses Bethune has to offer.

Feb 7 – Course Selection Submissions open

Feb 8-9 – ESL class visits by Counsellors

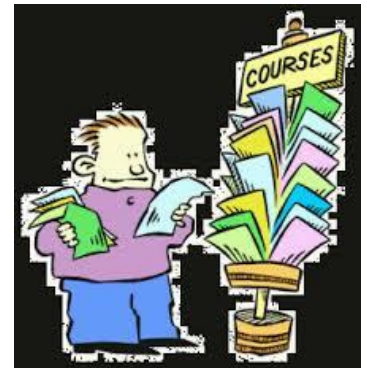
Feb 13, 15, 20-22 – Counsellors available @ Lunch in Library to help with MyBlueprint.ca

Feb 20 – Grade 9 + Grade 12 Course Selections Due

Feb 22 – Grade 10 + Grade 11 Course Selections Due

Please take this time to speak to teachers and counsellors to assist with selecting appropriate courses for next year. We're happy to help.

Mr. Ng



Arts Department News

Students in Ms. Rzezniczek's drama classes have been preparing for the *National Theatre School of Canada Drama Festival* which will take place on March 1st at Cedarbrae C.I. The play they are presenting was written by our Bethune drama students. Their individual monologues have been connected together to form this original work.

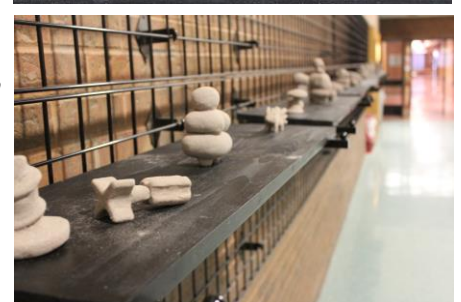
During the month of January, our grade 9 Visual Art students created subtractive sculptures out of foam, and students in the grade 11 Visual Arts class have created Lantern Sculptures made from bamboo reed, rice paper and student made stencils. There is always student artwork on display throughout the school. From the murals around the school, photography pieces on the bulletin boards, sculptures in the commons, to the painted lockers. Next time you are walking the halls at Bethune, be sure to capture the creativity of our talented students.

The music festival season is upon us! Our grade 9 Junior Choir attended the *TDSB Non Competitive Choral Festival* at The Bickford Centre on January 29. After their

performance, members of the ensemble were treated to a workshop with the adjudicator. They performed beautifully under the direction of Ms. Willoughby.

February continues with four more music festival performances. Students involved in the Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble will be performing with Mr. Ross and Mrs. Kilbride for the *Ontario Band Association Concert Band Festival* on February 13. Two days later, Grade 9 Concert Band will perform with Mr. Ross at the same festival. These performances will take place at Le Parc Conference Centre at Leslie Street and Highway 7 in Thornhill. The Festival Singers are busy preparing for their performance at the Ontario Vocal Festival in Oshawa on February 26th. Spectators are welcome to attend all of our festival performances at no charge.

Mrs. Kilbride



SAC News



And we are back from the break, Bethune! On behalf of SAC, I would like to welcome everyone back from a restful winter break. Since not much was mentioned about our amazing fundraising campaign from December, you can read a bit about it here!

As you may or may not know, the clubs and councils at Bethune join together to fundraise money for a charity every year around Christmas time, via our wonderful and popular campaign 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 at least one food sale, activity, or game taking place every day! These events are hosted by the clubs and councils. It is truly amazing to see so many students (and teachers, even!) participate in a fun game towards a good cause. The charity we chose this year was The Northern Birthday Box Project, where we, using the profit we made through the 12 days, pack boxes filled with birthday items such as candles, cake mix, whipping cream, cool swag, toys, etc. that families living in the northern areas of Canada may not be able to afford.

Did you know that the average box of cake mix costs \$13 in Nunavut but only \$2 in Toronto? Talk about expensive! See why we had a strong cause for making this charity work! As of the end of

January, many clubs were just finishing up packing their assigned boxes and will be shipping them out within the next week for delivery to children whose birthdays are in about a month. Of course to end off the 2017 year, SAC held their annual Talent Show! This school year we had about 15 acts, all who bravely auditioned to showcase their talent and make their mark at Bethune. What a truly *wonderful* way to end off the 2017 year!

In January, one of our amazing clubs, Healthy Schools, held Bethune's Fresh Start week! It was to help students de-stress and relax from tests and assignments. St. John's Ambulance Therapy Dogs were even able to come in and ease the students of stress! That week was truly one to relax from.

Now, SAC is currently planning events to be held in February - known as the most hectic month of the year. We have Love Week, which includes games and events that will bring people together throughout the week such as Wedding Day. We also have our annual Semi Formal, which the theme for this year is Hollywood! As much as the students are looking forward to participating in all the events SAC has in store, we enjoy planning; so grab a valentine, your fanciest outfit, sit back, and enjoy the month of February. See you all in the March Newsletter!

Janet Wei
SAC Secretary