

# Dr. Norman Bethune C.I. Newsletter

January 2019

Principal: S. Kaskens

Vice-Principals: L Houghton, C. Wilson



## Principal's News

Thank you to all the parents who attended our last parent council meeting. We enjoyed an informative presentation on how teens use social media, and more importantly, how we, parents and educators, can support teens in utilizing social media in way that helps them achieve their goals. Our next parent meeting is on February 4 at 7:00. At this meeting we will look at Bethune's current dress code and the TDSB's draft policy regarding student dress codes. I'm looking forward to hearing from parents around this topic. I will also be meeting with groups of students to hear their input on what the dress code should include.

If you are the parent/guardian of student in grade 9, please note that immediately following the holiday break, all grade 9 students will begin a series of workshops on Mindfulness. Specifically, students will learn to use mindfulness as a way to focus their attention and manage their emotions. A total of 6 workshops will take place over the next few months. The workshops will be scheduled and delivered by their Geography, Phys. Ed and French teachers. Finally, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

*Ms. Kaskens*

### CONTENT:

Principal's News .....	1
Global Competencies .....	1
Arts Retreat at Geneva Park .....	2
Council Activities at Geneva Park ...	2
ESL Speech Competition.....	3
#TheShoeboxProject .....	3
Volleyball Championships .....	3
An Evening of Festive Music.....	4
Photos from the Arts Retreat .....	4

Link to TDSB Policy Consultations and Dress Code Survey:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Policies-Procedures-Forms/Policy-Consultations>

## Global Competencies - Success for the Future

The TDSB's Vision for Learning has a focus on achievement, equity and well-being and sets the Global Competencies as a foundation for deep learning. Student achievement that leads to positive results can be attained by changing the learning process to reflect the needs of our students by providing them with opportunities to build their Global Competencies. These competencies foster deep learning through engaging experiences that incorporate **creativity, inquiry, entrepreneurship, collaboration, leadership, communication, global citizenship, character, critical**

**thinking and problem solving:**

<https://sites.google.com/tdsb.on.ca/globalcompetencies/home>

Here at Bethune C.I. we are working with our teachers to help them develop their teaching and learning strategies to support our students in the development of these competencies. We encourage all parents to also place these abilities as a high priority in their children's development and opportunities, both in school and outside of school. These abilities are the keys to student's post-secondary skill and success.



*Tools for success: creativity, inquiry, entrepreneurship, collaboration, leadership, communication, global citizenship, character, critical thinking and problem-solving.*

## Arts Retreat at Geneva Park



On November 28th, 222 students from Music, Visual Art, Digital Art and Photography travelled north to Orillia for our annual Arts Retreat at Geneva Park YMCA Conference Centre. 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 Art Students learned about and created pottery, knitting, solar printmaking, acrylic painting, caricature illustration, plaster casting and many other activities.

The Art students worked with Ms. Rappos, Mr. Chard and an artist from The Varley Art Gallery. The Photography students were able to capture some beautiful landscape photography photos from the shores of Lake Couchiching.

The vocal students participated in workshops with Toronto Choral Society

conductor Geoffrey Butler. The band students from grades 9-12 worked in large group rehearsals and small sectionals with over 7 different conductors, including the Bethune music teachers, Paul Sylvester, former Bethune student Yunn Wong, Colin Clarke, Sharon Fitzsimmins and our very own VP, Laura Houghton!

Our Music Council and Creative Arts Council did a fantastic job of leading our student participants through some team building activities. All of our students were also treated to some fantastic recreation activities with the YMCA staff, including a 2-hour hike through the forest.

*Andria Kilbride, David Ross,  
Ann Willoughby, Louis Chard &  
Andrea Rappos*

## Council Activities at Geneva Park Arts Retreat

During the last week of November, over 200 students went to YMCA Geneva Park, located in Orillia, for our annual Arts Retreat. It allowed students to meet new people, make memories, and work with many talented clinicians and artists. The Bethune Creative Arts Council and Bethune Music Council worked hard to plan various student-led activities for the retreat.

One of the activities hosted was Flip Flop—a Jeopardy-style game where each category featured a different mini-game. Students played minute to win it games, guessed song lyrics, answered challenging trivia questions, and solved emoji puzzles. BMC members spent a lot of time to film and edit parody videos, which both students and teachers enjoyed watching. Another activity organized by BMC and BCAC was RISK, which involved groups of approximately ten students going around the Geneva Court building playing mini-games hosted by the members. The evening brought art students closer together as the room was filled with laughter and joy.

On December 13, our annual Winter Concert was held. At this event, the Bethune Music Department hosted a fundraiser known as the **Miracle Minute** to

help raise money for a charity called Second Harvest. Food waste is a huge issue in our country, and Second Harvest's goal is to save fresh and unsold food from being thrown away, and instead collects and delivers the food to those who need it. The audience had one minute to raise as much money as they could while eight BMC members ran down the aisles collecting donations in buckets. It was a huge success as the fundraiser managed to beat last year's total and raised over \$1100! We would like to thank those who came out to celebrate the end of the year with us and donate to a worthy cause to fight hunger and waste, together!

Every year, The Bethune Music Council sells merchandise to help boost school spirit and music department pride. As the cold weather is fast approaching, the music council decided to sell comfy long sleeve tees to stay warm! They received over 60 orders from students and Bethune staff. Thank you to everyone who purchased one!

*Bethune Music Council and  
Bethune Creative Arts Council*

***Bethune  
Creative  
Arts Council  
and Bethune  
Music  
Council  
shine!***

## ESL Speech Competition

Throughout November and December, the ESL classes could be heard practicing their speaking skills. It was the ESL speech competition season! Congratulations to all ESL students for their hard work on their speeches. It's never easy speaking in front of a large audience, but it's especially difficult in a second language! Congratulations to our Bethune champions, ESL E student Theo Petitto Marques with a speech on *What He Misses the Most*, ESL C student Angela Zhan with a speech on *Birds* and ESL A student Rahaf Aldodo with a speech on *War*. They represented Bethune in the East competition, held at our school on December 3rd. They were all such strong contenders. Special thanks to Blaze and the Reps for their set up and to the witty MCs, Alice Jiang, Lena Jiang, and Henry Yuan.

Ms. Soni



## #TheShoeboxProject

The Shoebox Project is a movement that started in 2011 by four sister-in-laws, who wanted to make homeless women feel like a valued and respected member of the community. Prior to the holidays, local sponsors, individuals and communities, put together boxes filled with \$50 worth of items that would help improve the well-being of the recipient.

Because December is often the month of giving, Ms. Faria's grade 12 World Issues class decided that they wanted to take part in this project. They put together 5 boxes that will be dropped off at a location in Vaughan. The boxes will then be relocated to local women in shelters across the GTA. Over the last few weeks, each student contributed \$10 worth of items that went in a shoebox and included a handwritten card, spreading the message of hope and inspiration. The goal of the class was to give back to the community and feel inspired by those that they are helping. All students helped to contribute to the #shoeboxproject, making it a very successful initiative. Ms. Faria is extremely proud and grateful for everyone that was part of this project!

Ms. Faria



## Volleyball Intramural Championships

Our volleyball intramural championships wrapped up during the last week of school with the following teams clinching the title AND the t-shirts!! Congrats to our Girls Team: *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious*, our Junior Boys Team: *Silent Janitors*, and our Senior Boys Team: *Connex A*. Thanks to all teams who participated and we are looking forward to kicking things off in 2019 with our basketball intramurals.

Ms. Aziz





## An Evening of Festive Music



On the evening of Thursday, December 13, over 250 students were involved in our annual winter concert: *An Evening of Festive Music*. We had 10 ensembles perform a wide variety of music during the evening. Thank you to all members of our community who came out to support our students that night. We were overjoyed with the incredible turnout. During the concert, the Bethune Music Council conducted the "Miracle Minute" for our school wide fundraising campaign entitled "The 12 Most Wonderful Days of the Year." This year, the charity selected to support was Second Harvest. Our audience members raised an impressive \$1100 in one minute. Way to go Bethune community!

The music students also performed a condensed version of the winter concert for our feeder schools. On Friday, December 14, 350 students from Terry Fox P.S., David Lewis P.S., Kennedy P.S., and Sir Ernest MacMillan Sr. P.S. walked over in the cold weather to listen to our students perform. This annual tradition is in place to thank the feeder school teachers and students for attending our Area Music Day in November.

Thank you to the Bethune administration, office staff, caretaking staff, teaching staff, families, and community members for your support of our music program and outstanding students.

*Ms. Kilbride*

## Photos from Geneva Park Arts Retreat:

