

Dr. Norman Bethune C.I. Newsletter

January 2018

Principal S. Kaskens
Vice-Principals L. Pagnotta, C. Wilson



Principal's News

Thank you to all the parents who attended our last parent council meeting. Students from the "Peace of Mind Social Action Team" prepared a presentation for Bethune parents on how to support their teens as they navigate through all their post-secondary options. Our students did a fantastic job at coordinating a variety of speakers, and getting feedback from parents on the expectations they have for their children.

at Bethune, the misconceptions that students may have about Math and post-secondary requirements. 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. Finally, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Ms Kaskens



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Upcoming Events

- ◆ Grade 12 Semestered Math Exam

We are looking forward to offering parents additional presentations at future parent council meetings. Our next meeting is on February 5, where we will have a presentation from our Math department on the various math courses

Self Defense Coming in 2018

Our Grade 9s are very excited for their upcoming Self-Defense Program starting the first week back after the Winter Break. All 250 students will be participating and learning about conflict resolution, personal safety, discipline and injury prevention. They will leave the program more confident, prepared and able to effectively solve problems. Stay tuned for photos in the New Year!

Ms Aziz



Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day in Ontario



This past October, MPPs unanimously passed MPP Soo Wong's motion to recognize December 13th as Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day in Ontario. "The Nanjing Massacre is about the tens of thousands of women, young and old, who were sexually assaulted in the capture of the city. It is about women and girls being used as weapons of war. Those who were non-compliant were beaten and killed," MPP Wong said in an interview with the Toronto Star. In the same interview, MPP Lisa MacLeod went on to say that it was such a horrific event and she "can't believe it has taken us 80 years to commemorate it. During the six weeks that the Imperial Japanese Army decided to rape and pillage and murder the city of Nanking, it was called by westerners 'hell on Earth.' Close to 20,000 to 80,000 were raped."

On December 13, Bethune students joined MPP Wong at Queen's Park to be present in the legislature, hear the statements from MPP's and observe a moment of silence. Afterwards they attended the reception with other dignitaries and honoured guests. Bethune vocalists, David Li, Peter Peng, Monica Ly, Jin Yun Zhu, Celeste Hua, Joanna Dai, Elrion Lee, Carmen Zhen and Irene Yang sang a moving rendition of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah", followed by Sarah Lee, Esther Zhu, Yuki Yeung, Johanna Hua and Meliza Yao Li giving a voice to some of the victims through powerful testimonials.

The following are testimonials of women from various countries that suffered at the hands of the Japanese Imperial Army.

Ms Kaskens

Estellita from the Philippines

Resource:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-36537605>

Estellita grew up in the Philippines since she was born. Her dream was to become a teacher once she grew up. She was only 14 years old when a Japanese soldier captured her in a truck. Estellita was held in captivity for three weeks in Japan. Estellita's captivity ended as suddenly as it began. She was awoken one morning by American soldiers. The Japanese had fled. She walked out of the garrison and home to her parents. She briefly went back to school, trying to keep busy, but ultimately, the burden of shame and the fear of friends and neighbours discovering

what she had been through became too much. She left school, giving up her ambitions of becoming a teacher, for a new life in poverty and anonymity in Manila. Estellita began a half-century of silence - she didn't even share her story with her husband or children.

Lee Mak Dal from Korea

Resource:

<https://yaledailynews.com/blog/2007/10/17/comfort-woman-delivers-testimony/>

Lee told the story of her abduction from her home at age 17 by the Japanese military, which forced her into sexual slavery during World War Two. Lee said she was deceived by the Japanese soldiers who came to her village and was told she would be given a job in a factory. She was abducted against her will. She was then shipped to Keelung, Taiwan, where she was confined in a house for the next six years. There were several girls already there, and they were fed a scarce amount of food. The lady in charge of them only spoke Japanese, and when Lee didn't understand, the lady would hit her. She said the lady at the brothel threatened the girls so they would not run away and forced them to submit to soldiers. "When a soldier came in, I would cry, and he ripped off my clothes, yelled at me, then hurt me," Lee said. "When he didn't get what he wanted, he called the lady and asked why she'd taught me this way. They would sometimes take the knife and cut my arm, hit me and kicked me in my head." At the comfort station, Lee said she witnessed numerous atrocities committed by the Japanese soldiers. Lee was able to return to Korea at the age of 22, and was barely recognized by her family because she was so abnormally frail. Lee found it difficult to tell her story to others, even her family members, and felt isolated from the other villagers. "Everyone knew that I had been taken away by the Japanese," she said. "There was no one to marry me because nobody wanted me. People looked down on me. They must have thought I was dirty."



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

~ Mahatma Gandhi



Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day in Ontario Continued...

Huang Youliang from China

Resource:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4789458/Chinese-comfort-woman-dies-home-aged-90.html>

Huang Youliang was just one of eight people who tried to sue the Japanese government demanding an apology. She died on August 12, 2017 at the age of 90 in Yidui village, China's Hainan province still waiting for that personal apology. In late 1941, 15-year-old Huang was raped as Japanese troops invaded her hometown. She was transferred to a brothel and later forced to have sex with Japanese soldiers. This ordeal lasted for two years. In July 2001, Huang and seven other women attempted to sue the Japanese government for their treatment. However the Japanese courts rejected their claims, saying that individuals had no

right to sue the state. She died still waiting for the personal apology. There are now only 14 'comfort women' left on the Chinese mainland. In 2015, Shinzo Abe expressed 'deepest remorse' and 'sincere condolences' to Japan's wartime victims.



Bethune Science Olympics Goes to McMaster!

On December 4, 2017, over thirty students went with Bethune Science Olympics on a trip to McMaster University to explore its engineering department. Despite the early arrival time of 6:45 a.m. to school, students were eager to learn and were excited about what the day had to offer them. Students were exposed to a post-secondary environment, gaining deeper insight of how McMaster University and post-secondary education works. Students were engaged in a variety of activities; ranging from tours to presentations to demonstrations, it was certainly a day filled with questions, new discoveries and fun.

Our day started off with an interactive recruitment presentation where students were given a deeper insight about the technology and engineering professions and their subsequent branches. We were then given the chance to explore labs in the engineering department, where we were given tours of their Engineering Physics and Water labs. We got to see prototypes of microchips and equipment used to study water treatments, and graduate students of McMaster University gave us mini presentations of their current experiments; how their studies could be applied in the real world, and how beneficial their applications would be to society.

After a wonderful pizza lunch and Q&A with current McMaster engineering

students, we were given a tour of the McMaster campus. We got to explore McMaster's many buildings briefly, from the triple floor library to the health sciences department to labs and working spaces. Our last activity of the day were a series of demonstrations by the materials science department, where we got to see a glass ball explode to pieces, a levitating superconductor, a moving paperclip, and much more!

On behalf of the executives of Bethune Science Olympics, we would like to thank the following people; the trip would not be possible without your help and interest! We would like to thank the faculty of engineering of McMaster University, especially to Ms. Taylor, who has dedicated much of her time to organize this day of activities for Bethune students. We would also like to thank Mr. Ishiguro and Mr. Parmer for helping us out with the logistics for this trip, and to Ms. Kim and Mr. Mueller for supervision. We would also like to thank all the students who came with us; we hope that you learned a lot! Keep exploring, STEMists!

Jolie Wong

Bethune Science Olympics President



Basketball Intramurals

Our Basketball Intramurals came to an exciting finish the first week of December. We had 3 divisions, 24 teams and over 120 students participating.

Congratulations to our winning teams and stay tuned for Volleyball Intramurals in 2018!

Girls – Benny Cai Mann

Jr. Boys – Team Senpais

Sr. Boys – Team White

Teachers – Ms Aziz, Ms Fisher, Ms Makris, Ms Pagnotta and Ms Villamin-Arenas

Ms Aziz



ESL Department News

In all the ESL classes during November and December students had a chance to practice and hone 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! Students first competed in their classes and then in the school. The judges had an extremely difficult job choosing only one winner in each category!

Special congratulations to our Bethune champions, ESL E student Christine Chen, with a speech on learning English, ESL C student Sylvia Saiyibai with a speech on procrastination and ESL A student Steven Chen with a speech on his mother. They represented Bethune in the East competition, held at our school on December 4th. They all did a fantastic job. We are very proud of all three of you! Also, special thanks to Blaze and the Reps

An Evening of Festive Music

On the evening of Tuesday, December 12, over 300 students were involved in our annual winter concert: "An Evening of Festive Music". We had 11 ensembles perform a wide variety of music that night including Jazz, Classical, Gospel, and even some Broadway classics. 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 is the Northern Birthday Project. Our audience members raised an impressive \$711 in one minute. Way to go Bethune

for their set up and to the witty MCs, Jack Zuo, Christine Ye, Joelle Huang and Jet Cheung.

Steven and Christine both earned spots in the third annual TDSB ESL speech competition. On December 18th, they represented Bethune in the finals and demonstrated true Bears spirit with their courage, persistence and skills. Huge congratulations to Christine Chen for placing second in her category and Steven Chen for placing first! Amazing dedication and perseverance!

Ms Sori



community!

The music students also performed a condensed version of the winter concert for our Feeder Schools. On Thursday, 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 freezing cold weather to listen to our students perform. This annual tradition began to thank the feeder school teachers and students for attending our Area Music Day at Jackson's Point.

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