

Dr. Norman Bethune C.I. Newsletter

March 2019

Principal: S. Kaskens
Vice-Principals: L. Houghton, C. Wilson



Principal's News

Dear Bethune Parents and Guardians,

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With spring almost upon us, we are looking forward to many events at Bethune and much better weather! Students are looking forward to upcoming spring sports, concerts, performances and competitions. During the much anticipated March Break (March 11-15), we hope that students can use this time to enjoy a well-deserved break from their studies, and will return rejuvenated and ready to take on the last portion of the school year.

Parents are welcome to join us at our next Parent Council meeting that will be taking place on Monday, March 4th at 7:00 p.m. in our school library. We had over 50 parents at our last meeting and we look forward to seeing everyone again this month.

Summer School at Bethune

Once again, Bethune will offer full credit summer school courses for Bethune students only. Students may sign up for one of the following courses:

- Grade 11 Math (MCR3U)
- Grade 10 History (CHC2D)
- Grade 12 English (ENG4U)
- Grade 11 Leadership (GPP30)
- Grade 12 Literacy (OLC40)

No School - March Break

This is just a reminder that the March Break runs from March 11 – 15 inclusive. We hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable break and we look forward to seeing everyone on Monday, March 18.

Students must sign up through the link below. Sign up began on Sunday, February 3 at 5:00 p.m. and the deadline to sign up is Friday, March 8 at noon. Separate emails were sent to students and parents in February with this information. Students will be registered on a first come, first served basis. Confirmation of registration will be posted outside the main office on March 18. Summer School runs from Tuesday, July 2 - Friday, July 26, from 8:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m..

<https://goo.gl/forms/Wwj4EI0eKm40GePc2>

A range of other course will be available to all TDSB students at a number of TDSB school sites. Information will be available in the coming weeks (on-line and through the guidance department) with respect to course offerings and summer school sites.

Ms. Kaskens

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Holiday - March 11-15
- ◆ OSSLT - March 27



Education Quality and
Accountability Office



OSSLT - Grade 10 Literacy Test - Wed. March 27

On Wednesday March 27th, grade 10 students in Ontario will be writing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test. This test is a diploma requirement, usually written in grade 10. Bethune students who will be writing the test this March will receive a letter during the first week of March confirming that they will be writing this year.

The test is written at school, during regular school hours. For students not writing the test, there are no regular classes that day, but there are opportunities for remedial help. Students should speak to their teachers if they wish to take advantage of this opportunity. If you have any questions about the Literacy Test or that school day, please contact the school.

The Arts Celebrate!

Congratulations to all of our bands and choirs who have performed at various music festivals around the GTA in February. The Concert Band, Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble all received GOLD Awards at the *Ontario Band Association Concert Band Festival*. Mrs. Kilbride and Mr. Ross were extremely impressed by the groups' perseverance, dedication and focused performances. Our bands were also the recipient of ensemble awards that were selected by the festival adjudicators. The Concert Band received a Brass Excellence Award, the Symphonic Band received a Woodwind Excellence Award, and the Wind Ensemble also received a Woodwind Excellence Award. Special mention to our Leadership Award winners, Masaya Chan, Tina Yang, and Hannah Glowacki for their ongoing commitment to our ensembles.

The Festival Singers performed with Ms. Willoughby on February 25 in Oshawa for the *Ontario Vocal Festival*. The choir sang beautifully and received a fabulous clinic with Cynthia Peyson Wahl from Winnipeg, Manitoba. The choir has been attending this non-competitive festival for the past 16 years and it never fails to disappoint. Congratulations to Joanna Dai on winning the Leadership Award for the choir.

Grade 11 Visual Arts students have been working diligently on the locker murals in A-Wing. Their fabulous designs have come to life and are now a permanent reminder of the exceptional talent that our students have. The grade 12 Visual Arts students are working with an artist from O.C.A.D. on a project that will be showcased at the TDSB Creates Festival in April. Thirty of our visual art, photography, digital art, and media studies students travelled to Seneca College for a series of free workshops on Tuesday, February 26. This was a wonderful opportunity for our artists to develop their skills, check out Seneca's program, explore the campus and foster their creativity.

During the past few months, students in Ms. Rzezniczek's senior drama classes have been preparing to perform their original play called "*Unseer*". The play is a compilation of student written monologues, where characters are struggling to find their own perspective of the truth. Many hours have gone into the writing process, set design, costume design, lighting and sound design, and extra rehearsals. The play premiered at Sir Oliver Mowat C.I. on February 27 for the *National Theatre School of Canada Drama Festival*. Congratulations to all of the drama students on this exciting and rewarding project.

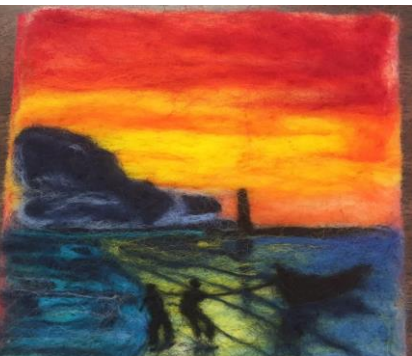
*A. Kilbride, M. Rzezniczek, A. Rappos,
L. Chard, D. Ross, A. Willoughby*



OBA CONCERT BAND FESTIVAL
TORONTO ONTARIO 2019



OBA CONCERT BAND FESTIVAL
TORONTO ONTARIO 2019



DECA Provincials

From February 7-9, over 50 students proudly represented Dr. Norman Bethune CI at the DECA Provincial Competitions in downtown Toronto. They successfully navigated their way through Toronto Regional Competitions back in November and were ready to compete against students from all over the province. These students wrote business plans, solved complex cases in front of judges,

wrote extremely challenging exams and worked tirelessly for months to prepare for the occasion. They did not disappoint. Chris Liang earned a top ten award for his solution to a case, Emily Zhang earned a top 15 for her exam and Anjing Li earned a top 20 medal for her case study. Congratulations to all DECA competitors for all their hard work and dedication.

Mr. Najak



IAPS Mental Health Fair

Grade 11 students taking the Introduction to Anthropology, Psychology and Sociology course have successfully put on Mental Health Fairs in their classes in the past month. Students were tasked with researching a variety of mental health disorders and presenting their findings to their peers. One of the key focuses was identifying stigmas and stereotypes associated with each specific disorder and generating ideas for combatting them in society. Congratulations to all of the students for coming up with creative ways to address these issues.

Ms. Coutsoyannopoulos & Ms. Topos



Hitting the Slopes

Our Grade 10, 11 and 12 female Phys. Ed classes hit the slopes at Dagmar Ski and Snowboard Resort this past week and scored big time. The weather was perfect, we had the hills to ourselves and everyone got in a lot of runs. Even our beginners were experts by the end. Highlights of the day include the poutine lunch special, time spent with friends and of course, lots of laughs and giggles as the girls tumbled in the snow. They had so much fun, they didn't want to leave. Thanks to everyone for an amazing day and to many of you for trying something new and conquering it - we are so proud of you!

Ms. Fisher



WE Take Action at Bethune



From February 13th to February 19th, the We Take Action at Bethune club took on the We Are Rafikis campaign to support Kenyan artisans who work strenuous hours to make ends meet. Using Maasai beading traditions, the women in Kenya create Rafikis, which are beautifully handcrafted bracelets. Me to We helps sell their Rafikis across the globe—half the proceeds will go back to these artisans directly, while the other half will go towards one of five pillars through the We

Villages project. These pillars are opportunity, health, water, food, and education. It gives them a chance to give back to their community and earn a fair wage to support their families. Here at Bethune, we collected \$350 for the campaign, this means that \$175 will be going directly to the women in Kenya. Thank you to our staff and students for your support and we hope to see you all there for our next campaign!

WE take Action at Bethune Execs

Music Council Celebrates Valentine's Day

In February, Bethune held its annual Love Week. The Bethune Music Council worked together to write over 200 unique music-related Valentine's messages on sticky notes for the students to enjoy during their regular rehearsals! The council members enjoyed the mornings spent to create these hilarious messages, almost as much as the recipients enjoyed reading them.

Throughout the week, students were delighted to receive positive messages at rehearsal. Despite being a bit corny, the students were pleased to have a good laugh before preparing for major music events coming up. Many shared their messages and laughed with one another, wrapping up the week on a high note.

Bethune Music Council

Basketball Intramurals

Our 3 on 3 basketball intramurals wrapped up with an exciting finish in our Sr. Boys Division. Congratulations to the winners "Dubs" on conquering the title. Another big congrats goes out to our winning Girls team "No Team Scheduled" and our Jr. Boys winners "Team

Muuz". We had a total of 21 teams who participated which is just over 100 students - amazing! Thanks to our hard-working ABC for their solid scorekeeping efforts. Stay tuned for what's next. Will it be Dodgeball? Indoor Soccer? Floorball? Only time will tell...

Ms. Aziz

Turtles to the RES Q

Bethune's two turtles, a pair of Red Ear Sliders, who were donated to the school many years ago and lived in one of our science classrooms, have now found a new and better home. Having grown too large for our school aquarium, and needing a great deal of care, Bethune was fortunate to be able to acquire two spots at an Ontario reptile shelter. On Friday February 22nd, the two turtles were safely transported to their new home by Ms. Kaskens and Ms. Wilson. Their new home is The Little RES Q.

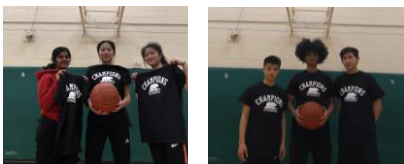
The Little RES Q is Ontario's first CRA-registered charity reptile rescue,

specializing in the Red Ear Slider. Starting as coin-sized pets, sliders often grow up to be a foot in length and require large aquariums. Little RES Q is a volunteer-run shelter that relies solely on donations from the public to provide temporary shelter for reptiles in need. Many thanks to the three students who have been caring for our turtles: Mariam Ali, Hanae Hasbi and Sara Perez Reyes.

Please consider giving a donation to this organization; no amount is too small.

<https://www.littleresq.net>

Mrs. Houghton



BETHUNE'S NEW TIME SCHEDULE

FOR ONE WEEK ONLY!

Bethune will try a different time schedule to assess how a later start may impact traffic congestion and safety in the morning

April 8 - 12, 2019

The school day will begin at 9:00 am and end at 3:15 pm

REGULAR SCHEDULE

Period 1	9:00 - 10:15
Period 2	10:20 - 11:35
Lunch	11:35 - 12:35
Period 3	12:40 - 1:55
Period 5	2:00 - 3:15

BEAR SCHEDULE

Period 1	9:00 - 10:25
BEAR	10:05 - 10:25
Period 2	10:30 - 11:45
Lunch	11:45 - 12:45
Period 4	12:50 - 2:00
Period 5	2:05 - 3:15

ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

Period 1	9:00 - 9:55
Period 2	10:00 - 12:15
Lunch	12:15 - 1:15
Period 4	1:20 - 2:15
Period 5	2:20 - 3:15

Bethune will return to our regular schedules for the rest of the school year.

