

Dr. Norman Bethune C.I. Newsletter

May 2019

Principal: S. Kaskens

Vice-Principals: L. Houghton, C. Wilson



Upcoming Events:

- ◆ Parent Council Meeting May 6th
- ◆ SAC Elections, May 10th
- ◆ Holiday, May 20th
- ◆ SAC BBQ, May 24th

Principal's News

As we inch toward the end of the school year, I would like to invite all parents to our final Parent Council meeting. On Monday, May 6th we will begin our final meeting at 7:00 p.m. Those who wish to attend are asked to bring a small contribution (an appetizer or dessert) so that we can enjoy a pot luck celebration. Parents of our feeder schools are also welcome to attend. I will present an update from the school, which will include updates on staffing and programming for the 2019/20 school year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Parent Council co-chairs, Janaki and Mirek, who have worked on your behalf to ensure that parents are supported and informed.

The month of May and June will be a busy time at Bethune as students are celebrating a year of accomplishments and service. We are looking forward to celebrating at the various end of year events, including the Athletic Banquet, the Music Banquet, the Math/Computer Awards Ceremony, the Grad Luncheon, Prom, and of course, Commencement.

Many plans are already underway for the 2019/20 school year, and I look forward to working with next year's parent community.

Sandy Kaskens

No School - May 20th

This is just a reminder that there will be no classes for students on Monday, May 20th as it is a statutory holiday. We look forward to seeing students back at school on Tuesday May 21st.

Music Council celebrates upcoming Mother's Day

Keeping with tradition, the Bethune Music Council sold carnation orders for Mother's Day. They were available in a variety of colours, including red, orange, yellow, and pink. The bouquets will be available for pick up on Friday, May 10. This fundraiser not only supports our Arts Banquet this year, but also encourages thankfulness and appreciation of an important person in our lives.

Following the theme of gratitude, Bethune hosted its annual Random Acts of Kindness event. The Music Council offered hugs and "kisses" during lunch and after school for a week. Members of the council spread their kindness by asking students and teachers if they wanted a chocolate hug or a chocolate "kiss". This event brought smiles and laughter to the Bethune community.

Ms. Kilbride, ACL of the Arts

Be Well Bethune Week



From April 8th to April 15th, Bethune hosted Be Well Bethune Week, an annual event dedicated to healthy living in all aspects of life. This year's theme was *Small Changes = Big Rewards*. Students focused on maintaining physical and mental health by participating in numerous different events held throughout the week.

Monday, April 8th marked the beginning of the much-awaited week. To start the week, we had the opportunity to hear from our guest speaker Chris Vollum, a Social Media educator. Through stories and examples, students learned about the uses of social media and how social media can be used as a tool to build a better future for ourselves. At lunch, students got crafty as they made glitter jars in the library to practice relaxation and mindfulness.

Tuesday was our annual Ted Talk Tuesday. Our TedXBethune team worked hard to pull everything together and ensure that the event ran without a hitch. Five brave speakers shared their own thoughts and experiences in accordance with this year's theme and their stories touched everybody's heart.

Wednesday was Wellness Wednesday, a day for both students and teachers to participate in activities to boost their physical fitness. Students enjoyed the

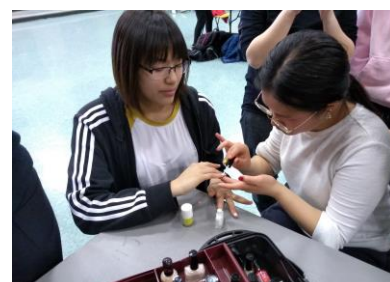
walking/running group, open gym, and dance instruction.

On Thursday, we hosted Taking Care Thursday. Activities such as art therapy, stress ball making, board games, nail painting and hand massages, which allowed for students to relax, have fun, and focus on their mental health.

Friday was Bethune's annual open mic café at lunch in the Commons. The day was devoted to friendship and many students came out to have fun with their friends. The café included snacks from Breakfast Club, performances from the music department and other talented students, and a photo booth to capture memories.

To finish off the week, students played with therapy dogs in the Commons at lunch on Monday, April 15th. Be Well Bethune Week was an amazing week and a huge success! A special thanks to our organizers, Ms. Villamin-Arenas, Ms. Daniels, and Ms. Aziz. Thank you also to the numerous clubs that powered our event; Healthy Schools, Blaze, TedX team, BCAC, BEAT, Board Games Club, Jazz band, Jazz Choir, Breakfast Club, and to their wonderful staff advisors. Your hard work and contribution to the event made our week a success!

Healthy Schools Exec



WE Volunteer Now!

On Sunday March 31st approximately thirty students from WE Take Action participated in their final campaign of the year, WE Volunteer Now, at Don Montgomery Community Recreation Centre. The social issue that we chose to focus on this year was the growing number of homeless youth in our local community. We collaborated with youth mentors from the City of Toronto, Eileen Alexander and Samantha Khalil, as well as several other youth groups from the local community for the planning of this event. The event was called Youth4Youth.

During this event we strived to create an interactive, friendly, and safe atmosphere for all youth regardless of their current situation. Numerous youth from different homeless shelters who attended this event played sports, and participated in activities that led to them winning hygiene kits. In addition, they had access to a "Creativity Space" where they were able to write articles that would be published

by the SLYE Youth Council. They were also given time to make art, dance, and play video games with various members of the WE Team. We also prepared and served lunch to everyone who attended and participated in this event. At the end of the day, the youth were given care packages that were packaged by members of our club. These packages consisted of toothbrushes, lip balm, soap, socks, resources, and much more!

The team is extremely proud of the students that devoted their time to help out over the weekend. A big shout out goes out to the WE Executive team consisting of Teenie Trac, Satya Sarma, Eunice Cruz, Mohib Siddique, Anika Edward, Lina Eltom, as well as our staff supervisors, Mrs. Villamin, and Mrs. Coutsyannopolous. Thank you for sharing your time to help us with this outreach initiative.

WE Take Action Execs



ECOO Computing Challenge

Every spring York University hosts the ECOO Computing Challenge for high school students. More than 50 teams from across the TDSB, came together to compete in this prestigious event.

Bethune had three teams participate involving the following 12 students: Jennifer Cao, Vivien Li, Jennifer Zhu, Dinah Hoang (pictured left to right),

Mark Xue, Kevin Cheng, Jun Bo Bi, Gavin Tse, Nishkrit Desai, Philips Xu, Patrick Jung, and Ri Xin Yang. The event was a lot of fun (free pizza!) and students got to experience working together in a university lecture hall.

Congratulations to all who participated!



Mr. Rao

Exciting month for the Music program



At the beginning of April our senior choir, the Festival Singers, participated in the University of Toronto, Faculty of Music High School Choral Festival. Our Brass Quartet, Concert Choir, Festival Singers and eight band members performed in the Sounds of Toronto Concert at Roy Thomson Hall. This concert featured over 1000 students from 30 different TDSB secondary schools. All of our ensembles performed beautifully and will have memories from the evening that will last a lifetime.

Our two jazz ensembles have had a busy month preparing for their festival season. Our Jr. Jazz Band worked with former TDSB Music Teacher, Peter Tomblar at the Feeder School Jazz Festival on April 18 in preparation for their performance at the Spring Concert. Our senior jazz ensemble, the Stage Band, performed at the Music Alive Festival on April 25, at the Cosmopolitan Theatre in Richmond Hill.

The outreach to our feeder schools has continued this month. Bethune Music hosted a Mini Concert Band Festival on April 18. David Lewis Public School and

Kennedy Public School joined us for our event. Our featured clinician was former University of Toronto, Faculty of Music Bethune C.I. Vice Principal and Stage Band Director, Rick Humphrey. After each school performed, Mr. Humphrey provided a workshop for the students to encourage them and some helpful tips to improve their skills.

Our annual Spring Concert was held at the Flato Markham Theatre on April 24, 2019. Once again, all of our large ensembles took to the stage to show off the hard work they had been putting in all year. Our Wind Ensemble and Concert Choir finale this year was "Can't Buy Me Love" by the Beatles.

This month, our Symphonic Band and Festival Singers will be performing at David Lewis P.S.'s music concert which will be held at Bethune C.I. on May 9. This new joint concert is sure to be a fantastic event for all of the students involved.

Our final event of the year is fast approaching. The Arts Banquet is being held at Crystal Fountain Banquet Hall on Wednesday, June 26. Tickets will be on sale in the next few weeks.

Ms. Kilbride, ACL for the Arts



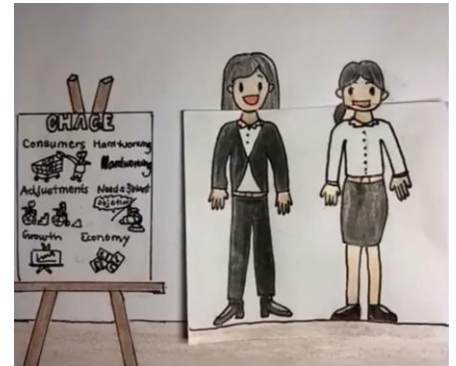
Award Winning Students in Business

The Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario held a contest where they asked students to create a short creative video that answered this question: "What does change mean to you in the world of business?" Jessica Peng and Janet Kuang, two grade 11 accounting students took it upon themselves to enter the contest and won 3rd place in the province! Congratulations!

The Ontario Centres of Excellence hosts an annual competition for young entrepreneurs in the province called "Make Your Pitch". In a short video, aspiring entrepreneurs are asked to pitch an idea for a new

business they want to create. This year, Kathleen Sun, a grade 10 student in the Entrepreneurship class, was selected as one of 20 finalists for the contest for her idea of PlushMarks – a business where she will create a ribbon bookmark with felt plushies on both ends. In May she will attend an entrepreneurship boot camp and then pitch her new venture to a panel of judges in front of a live audience (just like Dragon's Den!). If the judges select her as one of the winners, they will provide her with the money and the support necessary to start her company this summer! Good luck Kathleen!

Mr. Najak



SAC update

The past few months have been very exciting for Bethune students as the Student Administrative Council (SAC) held many school spirit events that brought our school together.

On February 22, we had our annual Semi-Formal at Scarborough Convention Centre. The theme this year was "Diamonds Are Forever", inspired by James Bond. Students had the opportunity to get away from their stressful school work to spend a night with their friends on the dance floor, play games and enjoy some delicious food. We had OJ the DJ who did a phenomenal job playing awesome hits that had everyone on the dance floor. Everyone got dressed up and took lots of pictures. It was truly a night to remember!

SAC Jersey Day was a fun day where students were encouraged to wear sports team jerseys to show their spirit. We even had a giveaway for students who participated and winners received merchandise from Toronto sports teams.

To celebrate Random Act of Kindness week, different clubs held activities

such as writing gratitude notes, free hugs and open gym at lunch. Thursday of that week was dedicated to teacher appreciation as SAC wrote thank you cards for teachers and offered coffee and tea. The breakfast club also handed out delicious and healthy snacks for the teachers. Finally, the week ended with school apparel day and students wore Bethune apparel to show their school spirit. It was a great week to spread kindness to everyone around the school.

As the year is coming to an end, SAC is currently planning some of our final events which include Meme Day, our annual Carnival and year-end Barbeque. In addition, SAC elections for the upcoming school year will be taking place on May 10. Students interested in planning and hosting school spirit events who want to represent their student body can run to be a part of the Student Administrative Council.

Overall, it has been a pleasure for SAC to organize these events for Bethune, and we hope the students have enjoyed participating. Enjoy the last two months of school!

Gayathiri Suweenthiran
SAC Secretary



**Thank you SAC for
your leadership and
school spirit this year!**