

# Dr. Norman Bethune C.I. Newsletter

November 2018

Principal: Sandy Kaskens

Vice-Principals: Laura Houghton, Christina Wilson



## Principal's News

Hello Bethune Parents & Guardians, Our Parent Council co-chairs for the 2018/19 school year are Janaki Thiyagarajan and Mirek Glowacki. Parent Council meetings are an excellent opportunity to meet other parents and school staff, and to have on-going conversations about issues that affect us all. We were so pleased to welcome over 50 parents at our October meeting. Parents commented that the meeting was very informative and helpful. Please consider attending our next meeting on Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the library. At this meeting, there will be a school update from the Administration, the Guidance Department, and the Student Council. We will also have a presentation from our Math Department on the various supports and enrichment opportunities available for students, and an overview of course/program options.

Parents are reminded to refrain from dropping off students in the parking lot.

We have noticed a number of vehicles circling around the back parking area to drop off students. The area is very busy before and after school, with a number of students and staff crossing the parking lot. When it's used as a drop off zone, it creates a safety risk. In addition, we are now requiring that all staff and students who park at the school must register their car in the office and display a parking pass.

We have also noticed that a number of students are being dropped off on Fundy Bay, and then they are forced to cross the street. The west side of Fundy Bay is a No Stopping Zone; when parents stop their vehicle to drop off their child, other motorists are forced to drive around them and student safety is compromised. There have been many occasions where students were *almost* struck by a motorist while they were crossing the street. Thank you for your support in ensuring safety in our community.

*Ms. Sandy Kaskens, Principal*

## Upcoming Events

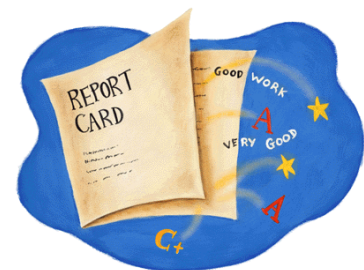
- ◆ Remembrance Day Assembly
- ◆ Take Our Kids to Work Day
- ◆ PA Day
- ◆ Grade 8 Parent Information Night
- ◆ Grad Photos
- ◆ Report Card Distribution

## First Term Report Cards - November 23<sup>rd</sup>!

Students will be receiving their first term report cards on Friday, November 23<sup>th</sup>. Please take a moment to review your child's report card. If you have any concerns with your child's progress in any classes, please book an appointment to meet the teacher at Parent-Teacher Interviews, which will be held on Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Parents will be able to book appointments online at [www.bethuneci.com](http://www.bethuneci.com) from 9:00 am Thursday November 29<sup>th</sup> until 12:00 pm on Thursday December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Alternatively, parents can call teachers directly to book an appointment. We look forward to seeing you on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

*Mrs. Houghton & Ms. Wilson*



*Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.*

*~ Nelson Mandela*

## Orange Shirt Day

On Friday September 28, students and staff at Bethune wore orange shirts to recognize the harm that the Residential School System did to First Nations, Métis and Inuit children and to symbolize that every child matters. Videos and reading materials were studied in various classes to deepen our students' understanding of the pain and suffering caused by the Residential School system to our Indigenous people.

*Mr. Parmer*



## Bethune Students Clean Up 20 kg of Litter!

On Sunday October 21, 29 Bethune students got themselves out of bed to take part in the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup to help clean up the wetland in L'Amoreaux Park. In total, 20 kg of garbage was collected which included: 130 plastic bags, 91 food wrappers, 73 cigarette butts, 33 plastic bottles, 25 beverage cans, 1 car bumper and 1 coconut.

Bethune students, you make us proud (again!). Thank you for giving back to your community. Special thanks to Ms. Carr and Ms. Tutchener who also spent their Sunday morning cleaning up

litter. Looking forward to the spring 2019 clean up!

*Bethune Environmental Action Team (B.E.A.T.)*



## Take Me Outside Week

The weather was not our friend for Bethune's fifth annual Take Me Outside Week held during the week of September 24th. Take Me Outside Week saw Bethune teachers take over 30 classes outside to learn, connect with our school's green spaces, and to get a good dose of Vitamin N. Students in classes from many departments were observed learning in one of our two outdoor classrooms, out on the playing field, or in many of the little alcoves of nature on the school property. Classes were also entered into a contest for a class pizza party; congratulations to Ms Barr's

Civics class. Bethune's event is part of a larger initiative of Take Me Outside, a non-profit Canadian organization which seeks to connect Canadians with nature and encourages us to be cognizant of our time spent outside. Statistics show that Canadian youth are spending an average of nearly eight hours a day in front of screens (computer, TV, mobile devices). Take Me Outside strives to change this statistic and offers a prescription for "nature-deficit disorder", ultimately for the betterment of youth mental and physical health. For more information: [www.takemeoutside.ca](http://www.takemeoutside.ca).



## Ward 20 Council Meeting

You are invited to a regular meeting of parents, interested members of the community, superintendents, staff, and the trustee, on Monday November 12, 6:30–8:30 pm at Lynngate Junior Public School, at 129 Cass Avenue. Join us at this meeting to meet the new superintendents for our

schools in Learning Centre 2. Elections will be held to select representatives to represent Ward 20 parents on the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee ([www.tdsb.on.ca/PIAC](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/PIAC)) as well as the French as a Second Language Advisory Committee ([www.tdsb.on.ca/FSLAC](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/FSLAC)). If you are an interested parent who would

like to interact directly with trustees and senior staff to provide the Board with your best advice, please send me your name to be included on the ballot. It's important that our Ward is represented at the table. Light refreshments will be served and child-minding will be provided. Interpretation services will be available upon request. *Trustee Manna Wong*

## Grade 9 Camp Day at Adventure Valley

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, two hundred and twenty-one of our students braved the cooler temperature and wet conditions and had a wonderful time. It was Grade 9 Camp Day! Upon arriving at Adventure Valley, they received a warm welcome from the site's camp counsellors and were then divided into smaller groups led by Bethune student-leaders. Throughout the day, our students circulated through 12 activity stations that challenged them to get out of their comfort zone by communicating and co-operating with other grade 9 students who they have just

met. Everyone worked together to problem solve and complete various obstacle courses and by end of the day, new friends were made and we all had common experiences to share.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the student leaders (REPS, YEARBOOK, ABC and SAC) and staff members who helped make our annual Grade 9 Camp Day another successful and fun-filled day. As a staff, we would like to wish the grade 9s a successful year ahead and look forward to the many things that they will contribute to our Bethune family over the next four years.

*Ms Villamin-Arenas*



## Hola Bethune!

This is an exciting time of year for Spanish. Throughout October, Spanish Club celebrated Ontario Hispanic Heritage Month with music, fun facts, and of course our famous guacamole contest! At the beginning of November the whole school is invited to celebrate

*Día de los Muertos.* We will be showing the film Coco in room A107 at lunch on November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Don't miss out! But the fun doesn't stop there! On November 15th, our grade 11 and 12 Spanish students will participate in the SiSi Cine Toronto Latin Film Festival where they will

see the wonderful Argentinian film called Habnakú. This will be followed by an authentic Mexican lunch at Chachos Restaurant; we are all looking forward to discovering the Hispanic flavors in Toronto. Hasta pronto!

*Ms Tibbet*

## Bethune Bikes! Bike Week 2018

The Bethune Environmental Action Team (B.E.A.T) held its annual Bike Week during the week of October 1st. It was a wet and frigid start to the week, yet over 30 Bethune students braved the cold and biked to school in chilly weather. The week had numerous activities, such as trivia questions, button giveaways, an information table with daily treats for Bethune bicycle commuters, and a school-wide Kahoot (a quiz activity).

The highlight of the week was Bethune's first ever mass bike ride of the North Scarborough Green Loop. To get ready for this event, our community partners,

Cycle Toronto and Culture Link delivered bike repair sessions, road safety session, and bike skills workshops in the weeks preceding our mass ride. On Monday October 1, seven students along with Ms Kaskens, Mr Chard, Ms Tutchener, and three of our community partners embarked on a 12 km bike ride exploring the North Scarborough Green Route (<https://goo.gl/EvWzYg>). What an exhilarating ride! We hope to do it again in the spring.

Biking is eco-friendly and is great exercise, which is a great way to start your day! Keep on biking Bethune!



## Bethune's University and College Fair

On October 18<sup>th</sup> Bethune held its 1<sup>st</sup> Annual University and College Fair. We hosted 28 representatives from universities, colleges, and even the Canadian Armed Forces, who talked to our students and families about many of the post-secondary options that are available to our Bethune students. It was a great success with over 500 students and

parents participating in this event. Students from all grades came out with their families and friends to listen to presentations and speak to individual reps about exploring their possible pathways. Thanks to all the staff and student leaders that worked to make this all happen. We will see you all at next year's fair!

*Mr. Ng*





## Arts Department Update



Congratulations to the students in the Arts Department who received awards at our annual Awards Ceremony.

The Wind Ensemble had their first performance of the year in the newly-renovated Commons. The band performed two pieces for the staff, students and parents in attendance.

Grade 10 visual art students braved the wind and rain on a field trip to Too Good Pond in Unionville to create environmental installations on October 17th. They also spent some time in the Varley Art Gallery checking out the show "Witness," in which Canadian artists documented WWI at home and abroad.

From Wednesday, November 28 to Friday, November 30, the Bethune Arts Department will travel north for their annual retreat. This year we will hold our camp at the Geneva Park YMCA Conference Centre on the shores of Lake Couchiching. This is a wonderful facility for an arts camp. This beautiful conference centre has excellent rooms and rehearsal halls, extensive grounds for outdoor activities, a lovely dining room and a very accommodating administrative staff.

While at Geneva Park, all of our students will enjoy team-building activities, and

recreation activities. Our music students will enjoy rehearsals, master classes, and workshops, with an outstanding guest faculty of musicians and conductors. Our camp faculty will feature conductors: Colin Clarke, from the Toronto Youth Wind Orchestra, and Sharon Fitzsimmons, retired music teacher from Barrie. Geoffrey Butler, conductor of the Toronto Choral Society, and the artistic director of Opera York will be working with all of our vocal students. Visual Arts, photography and digital arts students will be working with a filmmaker and jewelry designer to create their own 16mm film strip learn bead-weaving and make copper cuffs. Senior Drama students will be attending a playwriting workshop at Bethune C.I. delivered by Dennis Bush, an award-winning playwright.

These experiences will be an outstanding opportunity to develop creativity, leadership and teamwork in a unique setting. It will also provide our students with extensive learning activities to help prepare for their upcoming Winter Music Night (Dec. 13), music festivals, TDSB Creates, National Theatre School Drama Festival and Art shows.

*Andria Kilbride, Louis Chard, Andrea Rappos, David Ross, Ann Willoughby, and Monika Rzezniczek*



## Girls Field Hockey

The girls field hockey team had a very exciting season, kicking things off with a tournament at U. of T. and continuing to dominate during the regular season, winning three games and proving to be a force to be reckoned with. We made it to the quarter finals where we were unfortunately defeated by a tough team from R.H. King. Congrats on all your hard work ladies - we'll get 'em next year!

*Ms. Aziz*



## Ultimate Frisbee

Our first intramurals of the 2018-2019 school year drew to a close last week under clear blue skies and chilly, fall air. Four Frisbee teams competed, including a stacked staff team complete with Frisbee Wizards. There were a lot of unbelievable hucks, amazing catches and lots of goose

poop to go around. Congrats goes to Team Anders for a strong finish - we'll get you next time! Stay tuned for our next intramural competition...Volleyball! All are welcome so stay tuned and listen to the announcements.

*Ms. Aziz*



## Forces of Nature - Etobicoke Field Studies Centre

Fall has been an exciting time for our senior geography students! Our grade 11 Forces of Nature students were fortunate to attend a full day workshop at the Etobicoke Field Studies Centre. Students had true experiential learning as they used real-life fieldwork tools and methods such as increment borers, soil samplers, and

water testing tools such as pH meters. The afternoon was spent learning about diamond indicator minerals and mineral exploration using geotechnology. Even though it was chilly, the clear skies and crisp air made the fall colours stand out. A great day was had by all!

*Ms Tutchener*



## Hallowe'en Haunt 2018!

Bethune's annual Hallowe'en Haunt took place on Friday, October 26th, hosted by SAC, BMC, HOSA, BCAC, Yearbook, and ABC. With plenty of fun activities such as face painting and pumpkin carving, students experienced a fun, exciting, and spooky event.

In the C wing, the music council hosted the haunted house comprised of three rooms; C103, the instrument storage room, and C102. Students walked through the rooms and experienced jump scares, creepy decorations, along with eerie background music. BMC members worked

diligently to plan their portion of the haunted house and make it come to life!

As the night came to a close, our most notable experiences would have to be the petrified reactions of the students who entered our chilling and frightening scenes.

**The BMC is selling music apparel!** Show off your music pride and spirit with your very own long sleeved cotton shirt for \$18. Shirts come in a variety of colours and can be customized for \$5 extra. More information is available on School Cash Online.

*Ms. Kilbride*



## Welcome to the Bears' Cave!

The Bears' Cave, is Bethune's first ever Wellness Room and it opened on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. It is a room in the library that is designed for students to take a break, reflect and be mindful. They can do this by doing activities such as listening to music, reading, using mindfulness apps, building puzzles, doing yoga stretches or writing in their personal journals. It is also a personal device free zone, meaning that cell phones or personal computers are not permitted in the Bears' Cave. We do this in order to maintain an atmosphere that is free from

any distractions.

Congratulations to Kelvin Cao, a grade 11 student, for winning our "Name the Wellness Room" contest. His idea to call this room the "Bears' Cave" was chosen because bears associate caves with shelter and rest. The Wellness Room is only one of the ways that we are promoting well-being and as a school community we ask for your support with helping us work towards cultivating and maintaining a culture of wellness at Bethune.

*Ms. Villamin-Arenas*

