

Dr. Norman Bethune C.I. Newsletter

November 2017

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



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Principal's News

Hello Bethune Parents/Guardians, Our parent council co-chairs for the 2017/18 school year are Janaki Thiyagarajan and Mirek Glowacki. On behalf of the Bethune community, I would like to thank Terry Koo and David Tan for being the co-chairs for the last 3 years. 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. Please consider attending our next meeting on Monday, November 6th at 7:00 p.m. At this meeting, we will have special presentations on community programs available for parents and students, as well as a presentation on concussions. We look forward to seeing you there. I would like to extend my congratulations to Judy Lac and Monique Cipollone. Ms. Lac has been contributing to the Bethune community as a long term

occasional teacher for several years, and Ms. Cipollone joined us this year. Both have accepted permanent teaching positions in the TDSB.

Ms Kaskens



Upcoming Events

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

Report Cards

Students will be receiving their first term report cards on Friday, November 24th. Please take a moment to review your child's report card. If you have any concerns with your child's progress in any of his/her classes, please book an appointment to meet the teacher on Parents' Night, which will be held on Thursday, November 30th. Beginning at 4:00pm on November 24th until 12:00pm on November 30th, parents will be able to book appointments online at www.bethuneci.com for Parents' Night. Alternatively, parents can call teachers

directly to book an appointment time. We look forward to seeing you on November 30th.

Mrs. Pagnotta



Mexican Delegation and Spanish Club



Hola! October was another busy month for all things Spanish at our school. Bethune had the opportunity to host a delegation of Mexican Teachers and Administrators. The delegates enjoyed touring Bethune, meeting our team, and sharing their experiences with us. We also had a panel of senior Spanish students who welcomed our visitors and shared their experiences with them. It was a great opportunity for all involved. Also, the Spanish Club celebrated Ontario Hispanic Heritage month with music, announcements, and an exciting guacamole contest. Delicioso! Stay tuned for upcoming Día de los Muertos celebrations and Piñata making!

Ms Tibbett



31 Bethune Students Clean Up 21kg of Litter!



On Sunday October 22, 31 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, 12 kg of garbage was collected which included:

- 150 food wrappers
- 88 cigarette butts
- 183 plastic bags
- 171 tiny pieces of plastic and foam
- 54 plastic bottles
- 1 coconut

Bethune students, you make us proud. Thank you for giving back to your

community. Special thanks to Ms Lac and Ms Tutchener who also spent their Sunday morning cleaning up litter. Looking forward to the Spring 2018 clean up!

Ms Tutchener



**TAKE
OUR KIDS
TO WORK**

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO DREAM

Take Our Kids To Work Day

This year *Take Our Kids To Work Day* is on Wednesday, November 1st.

Our Grade 9 students are encouraged to spend the day at the workplace of a parent, relative, friend or volunteer host. This is the 24th year that this initiative has been running through The Learning Partnership, which is a national charitable organization dedicated to supporting public education in Canada. Typically most Grade 9 students across Canada take part and will be away

from class for the day. However they must return the permission form to the main office. If students choose not to participate in *Take Our Kids To Work Day* they are expected to be at school as usual. Students are expected to find their own work site to spend the day.

We are hoping our students will gain an opportunity to experience what a workplace is like and realize the importance of planning a career path.

Mr. Malisani

No School - PA Day - November 17th

This is just a reminder that there will be no classes for students on Friday, November 17th as it is a PA Day. We look forward to seeing student back at school on Monday, November 20th.

Mrs. Pagnotta



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

~ Nelson Mandela

Grade 9 Camp Day

October 4th, 2017 was Camp Day for all of our grade 9 students, and what a wonderful day it was! Upon arriving at Adventure Valley, they received a warm welcome from the camp counsellors and were divided into smaller groups that were led by Bethune student-leaders. These leaders then guided the groups through thirteen activity stations that were designed to challenge them to use co-operation and teambuilding skills. It was encouraging seeing everyone help each other cross "lava" on "magic carpets", strategically swing on ropes to "cross an island" and ensure each other's safety while passing through a giant web. They also made new friends as they told "scary stories" while roasting marshmallows and helped clean mud off each other after playing "giant soccer ball". It truly was a day of making connections and operating as a team, the Grade 9 team.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the student leaders (SAC, REPS, Healthy Schools, and Yearbook) and staff members who helped in making this day fun-filled and successful. Your contribution gave our grade 9s a day filled of making new friends, developing new skills and stepping out of their comfort zone. Thank you for helping them make lasting memories. As a staff, we look forward to the wonderful things that our grade 9s will contribute to the Bethune family over the next four years. Here's to an amazing year ahead.

Ms Villamin-Arenas



Bethune Bikes! Bike Week 2017

The Bethune Environmental Action Team (B.E.A.T) held its first annual Bike Week during the week of October 16th. It was a frigid start to the week, yet over 30 Bethune braved the cold and biked in 4°C weather. Fortunately, as the temperature increased over the week, Bethune repeatedly reached 60 students biking daily. That week had numerous activities, such as trivia questions, button giveaways, a bike repair workshop, and a Kahoot, which is a quiz activity. Over 70 students participated in our Bike themed Kahoot, thanks for your participation!

Special thanks to Mr. Harrop and his

Grade 12 Physics class for their watermelon drop demonstration with and without a helmet. The watermelon without a helmet cracked, whilst the one with a helmet was perfectly safe. Wearing a helmet is not only the law if the rider is under 18, but it protects you from head trauma, such as the fate of the daring helmetless watermelon. See the BEAT-produced video here: <https://t.co/QBFTfINp1H>

Biking is not only eco-friendly, but it is exercise, which is a great way to start your day, so keep on biking Bethune!

*Jacky Duong
Grade 12 student*



College Panel at Bethune

On October 12 we welcomed 6 of our Local GTA Colleges to Bethune. They came to speak to all of our students about the many programs and opportunities that they have to offer. We held 2 assemblies where students had a chance to find out more about College diploma and degree programs, Joint programs with universities, scholarship and study abroad opportunities. The college reps talked to students one on one during the lunch time speaking to students of all grades and answering their questions about the Colleges. Thanks Ms Villamin-Arenas and

Ms Harrop for bringing this opportunity to the Bethune students.

Mr. Ng



Leonard Cohen - the Canadian Poet (1934-2016)

November 7 is when poetry lovers remember the passing of Leonard Cohen, one of the most fascinating artists of all time, and celebrate his life and work through various gatherings and tributes on stage, in the street, in cities in Canada and all over Europe. At Bethune, some of our grade 11 English students were given opportunities to become acquainted with his vast and unique body of work.

Born in Montreal, with its mix of francophone culture, Anglophone areas and Jewish neighbourhoods, Leonard Cohen was a poet, painter, songwriter, singer, novelist, and a Buddhist monk, among other things and belonged to the highest echelon of poets and songwriters of the 20th century. A master of words, intense imagery, deep lyrics and profound meanings, his poetry is the object of literature courses taught at some of the most prestigious universities in the world such as McGill and Cambridge.

At Bethune, we delighted in a variety of

Cohen's poems, watched brief clips of poetry readings and displays of acute wit by the poet himself, listened to a few songs, created an evocative display of Cohen's work and tried to include our learning in visually stimulating and thought-provoking collages. We did our best to absorb at least a fraction of Cohen's wisdom and wry humour and to develop an appreciation of his poetic depth and intricately-crafted songs.

Leonard Cohen's giftedness will always shine as quietly, gracefully and unassumingly as he lived and will continue to inspire generations of artists through the extensive body of work he left behind. On his legacy, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau released this statement: "*Leonard Cohen is as relevant today as he was in the 1960s. His ability to conjure the vast array of human emotion made him one of the most influential and enduring poets ever. His style transcended the vagaries of fashion.*"

Ms Focseneau

Girls Field Hockey

The Bethune Varsity Girls Field Hockey team finished another spectacular season filled with countless memories and many accomplishments. They played with determination, effort and teamwork, even tackling other GTA schools during a full day tournament at Sunnybrook. The team, featuring new and returning players, fought hard, ending the regular season with 3 wins and a total of 7 goals from scorers Madi Koo and Selina Cao, and 3 shutouts for goaltenders Emily Yip and Anika Edward. The girls played with perseverance, improving their skills and finishing first in their pool. They made it all the way to the semi-finals but just couldn't clench a medal. The end of the season means saying goodbye to Madi Koo, Emily Yip, Selina Cao, Selina Lam and Karen Tan, who will all be graduating

this year, along with our manager Mary Kong. A special thank you to Ms Aziz and Ms Makris for coaching the team and for the dedication they have shown! It's been a great year for the tight-knit group who will be meeting for their team dinner soon. Can't wait until next September!

*Selina Lam
Grade 12 student*



Run For The Cure

It was Sunday October 1st and the weather was glorious for this year's CIBC Run for the Cure. Eight Bethune students joined the sea of pink, walking and running the 5KM in support of breast cancer awareness and research. Thank you to all who donated and participated – we raised a total of \$180 – way to go Bethune!

Ms Aziz



Ultimate Frisbee

Ultimate Frisbee - a great way to start off the school year! Bethune's Athletic Council hosted Frisbee Intramurals during September and October with six teams facing off against each other every Tuesday and Thursday. Due to their love for the up-and-coming sport, these dedicated athletes gave up their lunch hours and had fun playing. Teams were split into Recreational and Competitive pools and the games got pretty intense. In the Recreational pool finals, Nines are Fine and Mother H faced off against each other while Good Luck 2.0 and POW battled it out in the Competitive pool finals. Both games were close, but in the

end, Mother H and Good Luck 2.0 came out victorious! Congratulations to both winning teams and a big thank you to the Teachers, Nines Are Fine, POW and Croc Enthusiast for participating as well! Keep your eyes and ears open for ABC's Basketball Intramurals coming soon in November!

*Madeline Koo
Grade 12 student*



SAC News

During the rather warm last days of September transitioning into October, 43 students from grades 10-12 attended a leadership camp at Youth Leadership Camps of Canada (YLCC) in Orillia in hopes of improving as a leader. What started off as a simple 3 day, 2 night trip actually turned out to be life changing because of the friends and memories we made that weekend; fitting for the transition into a new month, welcoming yet another season.

During this excursion on September 29 through October 1st, students experienced many different activities that strengthened self-esteem, and ignited initiative, including myself. Some activities brought us up high OVER the trees, like the high-ropes course. Some activities brought us THROUGH the trees as we blindly navigated each other down a path. Some activities even brought us low on the ground, UNDER the trees, where we strategize how to work with handicaps and disabilities. No matter which activity it was, however, every moment was immersive and impactful enough that everyone took a lesson away from every activity.

By the end of the camp, we all knocked out cold on the bus ride home since all the programs were incredibly engaging. I can say for a fact that we are definitely not the same people now, who arrived at camp; we are leaders. We are a team. We are Bethune.

Amazingly, the week after we landed back in Scarborough, we were given the opportunity to apply the skills we learned

from YLCC and put them to work for the grade 9 camp day! We chose very similar group activities from what we did at YLCC for the freshmen. This included giant soccer, whale watching, and even a campfire! I am so glad that as part of the 18-student leader team who lead all the groups on October 4th, I saw the smiles of grade 9s socializing and having fun. The day felt truly rewarding and in the years to come, I hope that the grade 9s may experience what their seniors did on the last weekend of September.

*Janet Wei
SAC Secretary*





Arts Department News

Our Arts Department students and teachers have been hard at work this fall preparing for some exciting events and performances.

Grade 9 students at Bethune were invited to watch a performance of "*Outside*", a play by Roseneath Theatre. "*Outside*" is a play about bullying and was performed in the school cafeteria on Tuesday October 31.

On November 1st our grade 10-12 music students will travel to Roy Thompson Hall to watch the Toronto Symphony perform an education series concert focusing on the music of Igor Stravinsky.

The Creative Future Expo Art trip will be happening on November 9. Senior art students will be going to information-based sessions presented by young professionals across different creative sectors. Students will hear from a professional in the advertising field, a designer and an animator. They will then have the opportunity to visit, and ask questions of, the more than 50 booths set up by the different colleges and universities in Ontario and abroad that offer art programs at the post-secondary level. This Expo will be taking place at the Ontario Science Center.

Two of our music ensembles, the Symphonic Band and the Festival Singers, will have their first performance of the year at the Remembrance Day ceremony on November 10 in the commons. Students are reminded to get their uniform prepared in advance of the performance.

The Wind Ensemble will be performing for Grade 8 Parent's Night on Wednesday, November 15 at 6:45pm.

Young People's Theatre will be full of over 200 Visual Art, Drama and Music students on November 16. Our grade 9 Arts students will be treated to the Disney version of *Beauty and the Beast* by this popular theatre group. A few days following the performance, many of our students will be involved in workshops with the YPT artists at Bethune.

Beginning this year, all of the Arts at Bethune are under one department. We are looking forward to having an integrated Arts Retreat with students from all the Arts at Bethune. As we transition towards this, some of our students will be attending an overnight retreat, while others will be attending full-day retreats.

From Monday, November 27 to Friday, December 1, 2017, the Bethune Music Department will travel to Jackson's Point for their annual Musical Retreat. Grade 9 band and vocal students will be at the retreat from Monday to Tuesday. Students in the Jazz Band, Jazz Choir, Music Council and Percussion Ensemble will travel there on Tuesday after school with the rest of the senior students joining them on Wednesday after classes. All students will return to Bethune on Friday afternoon.

As in previous years, we will hold our camp at the Salvation Army Conference Centre on the shores of Lake Simcoe. 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 Jackson's Point, our music students will enjoy rehearsals, master classes and leadership workshops with an outstanding faculty of guest conductors and clinicians. Our camp faculty will feature conductors: Colin Clark, from the Toronto Youth Wind Orchestra, a highly notable clinician and music festival judge. He will work with the grade 9 band students. Geoffrey Butler, conductor of the Toronto Choral Society, and the artistic director of Opera York will be working with all of our vocal students. Later in the week, Dennis Beck, retired music teacher from Unionville High School and former Western University faculty member will work with our Symphonic Band. And our Wind Ensemble will have the pleasure of working with Bill Thomas from York University.

Visual Art and Drama students will be joining us at Jackson's Point for their full-day retreats. On Monday, November 27, Grade 9 and 10 Visual Art and Grade 9 Drama students will be working with Ann and David Powell from *Puppetmongers*. They are puppetry masters and have performed throughout Canada and the US, as well as in the UK, France, Belgium, Germany and Iran. On Thursday, November 30, the Grade 11 and 12 Visual Art students will be working with the Varley Art Gallery (Unionville) while the Senior Drama students will be attending a playwriting workshop delivered by Dennis Bush, an award winning playwright, whose plays have been performed in New York,

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Arts Department News...continued

and throughout the United States, Canada, England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Italy, the Philippines, South Africa and Egypt.

This retreat 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. 12), music festivals, TDSB Creates, Sears Drama Festival and Art shows.

We have 2 amazing student leadership groups at Bethune. They bring great enthusiasm and creativity to every meeting. The teachers in the Arts Department at Bethune are so lucky to have these wonderful students to help us out.

The Bethune Creative Arts Council (BCAC) was formed this year. They have been an integral part of the start-up of the 2017-

2018 school year. The students pictured below will be working on a number of initiatives this year to promote Visual Art and Drama to the community and the current Bethune students. They have begun fundraising for the Sears Drama Festival, and contributed to the annual Halloween Haunt.

The Bethune Music Council (BMC) has been working on a few things already this school year. This group of dedicated musicians were involved in the annual Halloween Haunt on October 27, and have already visited a few of the feeder schools to chat about our area music retreat in November. The BMC has also been selling music hoodies and discussing fundraising initiatives.

Both councils will be working together to create and execute leadership games and team building activities at our upcoming Arts Retreat.

The Arts Dept Staff

Coming Up for Guidance @ Lunch

So we have another busy month with lots of Guidance related lunchtime activities. Mark down the dates in your agendas so you don't miss out. See you all there!! Connect with us on Facebook for more details.

www.Facebook.com/BethuneGuidance/

Nov 7 – Western – King's College, C104

Nov 8 – Western – Ivey School of Business, C104

Nov 9 – So you think you know about College/University? – Workshop, C102

Nov 10 – Edutravel, In front of Cafeteria

Nov 10 – Waterloo, T102

Nov 16 – York, C104

Nov 21 – Carlton, C104

Nov 22 – Guelph/Humber, C104

Nov 27 – Brock, C104

Mr. Ng

Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC)

PIAC (Parent Involvement Advisory Committee) invites all TDSB parents to the *11th Annual Parent Involvement Makes a Difference Conference*. This year's theme is Nurturing Family Engagement. The conference takes place at Earl Haig Secondary School on Saturday, November 25th from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Register now at www.tdsb.on.ca. FREE registration

includes: light breakfast, lunch, child-minding, translation services, transportation, workshops, keynote address and information marketplace.

NOTE: Child-minding, interpretation and busing will be available through online registration only. Online Registration is open until Monday, November 20th.

For information contact 415-395-4808.

Mrs. Pagnotta

*I have come to believe
that a great teacher is
a great artist and that
there are as few as
there are any other
great artists.
Teaching might even
be the greatest of the
arts since the medium
is the human mind
and spirit.*

~John Steinbeck

