

# Dr. Norman Bethune C.I. Newsletter

October 2017

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



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## Principal's News

Hello Bethune Parents/Guardians,  
We've had an amazing September, with record numbers of students signing up for various clubs and activities and our fall sports teams are in full swing. We also had a wonderful turnout of parents at our ESL Information evening and our Grade 9 Curriculum Night. Coming up in October will be our first parent council meeting on October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Any parent who wishes to be considered for the parent council executive can email [sandy.kaskens@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:sandy.kaskens@tdsb.on.ca). If necessary, an election will take place at

the October meeting. I would also like to extend an invitation for parents to attend our Awards Assembly on October 5 at 2:15 p.m. Approximately 100 students will be receiving awards for the achievements last year. Those students have been given a formal invitation by the school and have been encouraged to invite their parents and/or friends to the ceremony. School will be dismissed that day at 1:50 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there.

*Ms Kaskens*

## Math Department News

It was a pleasure meeting the grade 9 parents/guardians who attended the Curriculum Night. Congratulations to David Wu who won the raffle for a free Bethune-Approved Scientific calculator. As we head into our second month of school, we are pleased to announce that the Bethune Math Mentors are now

available to provide math assistance to our junior students. We have a wonderful group of senior math students who have graciously volunteered their lunch time to provide math help to any interested students. No sign up required – just drop by and we'll do our best to help. [Location: B204 during lunch]

*Ms Barratt*

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ Awards Assembly
- ◆ PA Day - Oct 6
- ◆ Photo Retake
- ◆ Halloween Dance
- ◆ Costume Contest

## Spanish Club

Hola Bethune!  
School is back in full swing and so is the Spanish Club at Bethune! In September, we celebrated European Day of Languages, where students had the opportunity to participate in language activities to celebrate our diversity. October is another exciting month for all things Spanish at Bethune. Spanish club will be celebrating Ontario Hispanic Heritage Month so stay tuned for music, announcements, a guacamole contest and so much more. Hasta pronto! Olé! Olé! Olé!

*Ms Tibbett*



## Bethune Arts Department News



The Arts Department has been planning an amazing year for the Bethune students. There are many opportunities for students to get involved in the areas of Visual Arts, Dramatic Arts, and Music. Students can be join Art Club, multiple musical ensembles, and leadership groups. Our student leadership groups, the Bethune Music Council and Creative Council, have accepted applications for new members. Our teachers have been working together to create enriching and educational experiences for our student community. Important Dates for October and November:

- Thursday, October 5: Wind Ensemble performance for the Awards Ceremony
- Tuesday, October 31: Drama Performance for all Grade 9 Bethune Students
- Wednesday, November 1: Grade 10-12 - Trip to Roy Thompson Hall to see the Toronto Symphony
- Friday, November 10: Remembrance Day Assembly
- Wednesday, November 16: Grade 9 Drama/Visual Art/Music students - Trip to Young People's Theatre to see Beauty and the Beast
- Monday, November 27-28: Grade 9 Music Retreat at Jackson's Point
- Monday, November 27: Grade 9-10 Drama and Art Retreat at Jackson's Point
- Wednesday, November 29-Friday, December 1: Grade 10-12 Music Retreat at Jackson's Point
- Thursday, November 30: Grade 11-12 Drama and Visual Art Retreat at Jackson's Point



### Visual Art News:

Mr. Chard and Ms. Rappos, our Art teachers, have been supplying art kits to students in grade 9 and asking senior students to enhance their art kits. Kits must be paid for using School Cash Online. Last week, the photography class went on a field trip to Edward Gardens where students were studying botanical photography.

### Drama News:

Welcome back to Mr. Scott who has returned to Bethune after working with the OSSTF for a year. Ms Rzezniczek and Mr. Scott have exciting things planned for the students enrolled in drama this year including performances at TDSB Creates, Sears Drama Festival and our school.

### Music News:

September has been a busy month around the music wing. By this time, students have all been assigned instruments, grade 9 vocal students are getting used to their morning class schedule and the rehearsals are in full swing. Our students have a few ways to keep informed with their class assignments and schedule of rehearsals; i) the monthly calendar in C-Wing shows all the rehearsal times and locations, ii) our Facebook and Twitter Feeds are updated regularly, iii) most music classes have a Google Classroom that they have been asked to join.

Ms Willoughby and Mrs. Kilbride would like to welcome David Ross to C-Wing. Mr. Ross is now a full time teacher at Bethune in the areas of Music and Geography. He is a familiar face around our school as he has been an occasional teacher here over the past 2 years.

*Mrs. Kilbride*

## Club Carousel

Many of our students got into the spirit of school community involvement during our "Club Carousel" lunch hour on September 20<sup>th</sup>! Thank you to the 26 clubs who participated in the event. All of our new students were happy to see the numerous selections that suited their interests. A big welcome goes out to our newest clubs, the Bethune Creative Council and The Programming Club. And to all of the clubs, best wishes on your start up and we look forward to the projects, competitions, community outreach, and fun activities that you will be running.

*Ms Villamin-Arenas*



## Take Me Outside Week

The weather was certainly our friend for Bethune's fourth annual Take Me Outside Week held during the week of September 18<sup>th</sup>. This year's event, our best ever, saw Bethune teachers take over 100 classes outside to learn, connect with our school's green spaces, and to get a good dose of "Vitamin N". Students in classes from all 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 Mr. Petric's class - enjoy your pizza (even better, enjoy it outside!).

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, go to [www.takemeoutside.ca](http://www.takemeoutside.ca)

*Ms. Tutchener*



## Terry Fox Run

Thursday September 28<sup>th</sup> was Bethune's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Terry Fox Run. This is the only event the whole school has the opportunity to participate in at the same time. It was a glorious day and everyone was in good spirits. We collected donations and the winning classes won a pizza party. Though donations are still trickling in, we surpassed our goal with a current grand total of \$939 - what an amazing accomplishment!!! Special thanks to the ABC for promoting and encouraging, to Blaze for their motivating music and to all staff and students who participated and donated to this worthy cause. For additional donations, please pick up a pledge form from the main office or donate online at:

<https://secure.terryfox.ca/registrator/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?TeamID=749878#&panel1-1>

*Ms Aziz & Ms Villamin-Arenas*

