

Dr. Norman Bethune C.I. Newsletter

April 2017

Principal S. Kaskens

Vice-Principals N. Dyal, L. Pagnotta



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Upcoming Events

- ◆ Be Well Bethune Week
- ◆ Tedx Talks
- ◆ Report Card Distribution
- ◆ Parent Teacher Interviews



Principal's News

Dear Bethune Parents,
As you will see from our newsletter, Bethune students and staff were involved in a number of initiatives, projects and competitions throughout the month of March. We have so much to celebrate and so much more to come in April. Please take a moment to read through this newsletter and view all the attachments as they contain important information for parents. During the month of April all TDSB students will complete the student census in class. Students will be asked to answer questions about themselves, their experiences in and out of school, and their well-being, and this information will be used for educational and research purposes. In order to ensure confidentiality, students will not be asked to provide any personal identification information. Prior to the March break, Bethune parents were emailed information

regarding this survey, and were asked to complete a form if they did not want their son/daughter to participate in completing the census. A translated version of this form is included in the attachments.

Also included are invitations from Trustee Manna Wong to attend the Ward Council meeting on April 10, the Budget Ward Forum on April 11, and information on her Eco Fair on April 22. Finally, I've attached a public safety alert that has been issued by 42 Division regarding sexual assault incidents that have been reported in the Warden Ave and McNicoll area. An announcement was made to the students regarding these reports so that they can take extra precautions in the community. Parents are invited to our next parent council meeting on Monday, April 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the library.

Ms Kaskens

No School - April 14th & 17th

This is just a reminder that there will be no classes for students on Friday, April 14th and Monday, April 17th as it is a holiday. Classes will resume on Tuesday, April 18th.



Parent Teacher Interviews - April 12

On Friday, April 7th, your child will be receiving his/her report card. 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 April 12th from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Parents/guardians may sign up for interviews at www.bethuneci.com beginning Friday, April 7th at 4:00 p.m. until 12:00 p.m. on April 12th. Alternatively, parents can call teachers directly to book an appointment time. We look forward to seeing you on April 12th.

French in Action: La Francophonie en Fête!



March 20th was the International Francophonie Day which started *La semaine de la Francophonie* (The Week of the Francophonie) first initiated by the International Organization of *La Francophonie*, of which Canada is an active and founding member. The International Organization of *La Francophonie* was created in 1970 to bring together its 80 member states and governments (57 members and 23 observers) which together represent over one-third of the United Nations' member states and account for a population of over 890 million people, including 220 million French speakers.

At Bethune, our students celebrated the French culture throughout the week of March 20-24, with informative morning announcements, French music, French movies, French desserts, and poster displays in the Commons. Our grade 10 students prepared a **Where in the World is French Spoken** display showcasing all the francophone countries in the world and highlighting pertinent information about all those countries. Our grade 11 students prepared a **French Connections** display showing the connection between French and all the other subjects on their timetables and showcasing some of the contributions made by francophones in various fields, such as Math, Science, Visual Arts, Food, History, and many more. As Bethune also had a Water Week at the same time, we were happy to work together with the Geography Dept.,

translate their signs into French, have bilingual ballots and share in the fun so we would like to thank them for an awesome week! The week ended with a big challenge Friday at lunch: a chocolate mousse eating contest - a hilarious mess in the Cafeteria worth everyone's effort and we got a winner! With the *Francophonie* being part of the French curriculum, the activities offered opportunities to our students to further their study of the French culture and led to interactive presentations, journal writing and round tables to share the wealth of information gained during the amazing French week. Our Week of the Francophonie would not have been the same without the support of Mr. J. Lo in the Office in charge of the music at odd times throughout the week and of our Principal, Ms. Kaskens and Vice-Principal Mr. Dyal whose French language skills amazed us all and for which we are, again, thankful and appreciative.

Mme Focseneau



Basketball Intramurals

The ABC just wrapped up their third intramural season of the year - 3 on 3 basketball. 29 teams competed with representation from all grades - there were even 2 teacher teams!! It came down to the wire, but 3 teams came out on top. Congrats to LeBron James - the Champs in the Girls Division, Wassy Gang our Jr. Boys Champs and Fire, our Sr. Boys Champs. Thanks to everyone for their enthusiasm, excitement and competitiveness - our gyms were buzzing! Next up - Dodgeball and Floorball - let the games begin!!!

Ms Aziz



Music Department News

The Bethune Festival Singers performed at the Ontario Vocal Festival on Monday, March 6 at Mayfield SS in Caledon. Their adjudicator was very complimentary about their performance and they received an invitation to perform at MusicFest Canada in Niagara. The Festival Singers will also perform at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music High School Choral Festival on Tuesday, April 4. All of our vocal students will perform at the 66th annual Sounds of Toronto Concert at Massey Hall on Thursday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Please check out all of our performances at our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/DrNBethuneMusicDept/

On Tuesday, March 28 Bethune hosted a Mini Jazz Band festival for students from Kennedy PS, David Lewis PS, and Claude Watson. Our adjudicator was Colleen Allen

from the Humber College of Music. At the festival, both the Bethune Jazz Choir and Stage Band performed as well.

The Bethune Spring Concert at the Flato Markham Theatre is on **Tuesday, May 2 at 7:00 pm**. Tickets will be distributed to all students the second week of April.

Over the past fifteen years, Bethune ensembles have performed very well in Regional and National MusicFest competitions. In May of 2017 our musicians once again have the opportunity to represent Bethune at the prestigious National *MusicFest Canada* competition in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

We have planned an overnight trip departing Bethune on the morning Tuesday, May 16 and returning late on the evening of Wednesday, May 17, 2017. Students have received the permission forms.

Music Department

Bethune Curling Rocks!

Guard. Take out. Tap back. Angle raise. This is the language of curling, a language Bethune's eight curlers learned very well during the Co-Ed curling season this winter. Bethune's A team consisted of Skip Kailey Hu, Vice Jia Yu Man, Second Lucy Ni, and Lead Ben Liu. With only one returning curler on the team, they curled well, even braving a snowstorm to get to a game, and ended with a respectable record of 2-2-1, including a forfeit, thanks to their coaches who couldn't read the schedule (sorry team!). Bethune's B team, consisting of two returning curlers, Skip Jacky Duong and Vice Emily Linh, as well as two brand new curlers, Second Tina Chen and Lead Joshua Wong, played well

enough to make it into the playoffs. After losing a close game in the semi-finals, the team competed in the consolation final and won their game to win the bronze medal. Coaches Mr. K. Lee and Ms Anderson had a great time coaching these enthusiastic curlers, and we think they had a great time too, if the smiles and the laughter we saw and heard are any indication. Curling is a sport that emphasizes teamwork and sportsmanship, and both were on display throughout the season. Best of luck to our graduating curlers. We hope to see everyone else back again next year to further develop their skills. Hurry hard, curlers!

Ms Anderson & Mr. Lee

Young Women on the Move

March was a busy month for the members of Young Women on the Move. From March 6th to the 10th, the members hosted the REDress Campaign to help bring awareness to the more than 1,200 missing and murdered Indigenous women across Canada. The presence of the empty red dresses was intended to remind us of the absence of the Indigenous women. It is also believed that the spirits of Indigenous people can only see the colour red. Therefore, the red dresses were meant to call back the spirits of the women and girls. The members also hung posters around the school, read informative announcements each morning, and raised over \$300 dollars

to donate to the Native Women's Association of Canada.

On Wednesday March 22nd, the YWM members held another inspiring event in the library during the lunch hour. They listened to a very special guest who came to speak to them about her life and accomplishments. The special guest was none other than The Honourable Dr. Vivienne Poy, the first Asian Canadian appointed to the Senate. Dr. Poy was also instrumental in the creation of Asian Heritage Month.

The YWM members won't be resting anytime soon as they are already busy planning our next event in April. Stay tuned in April, Bethune!

Ms Barrile





Water Week 2017

Did you know that Toronto's tap water is tested every 4 hours and is extremely safe to drink?

Did you know you do NOT need to boil your water, as Toronto is one of the cleanest jurisdictions for water on the entire planet?

Did you know that bottled water has many negative impacts on the environment and is not required to meet the same strict water safety regulations as Toronto tap water?

For one week in March, the Bethune Environmental Action Committee (B.E.A.T.) held a school wide campaign about the importance and safety of drinking water. Water Week was jammed packed with events hosted by BEAT's Water Committee. There was something for everyone...a fruity tap water bar, daily water trivia contests, a "guess the number of water bottles" contest, a screening of *TED Talks: Water*, a raffle for Ripley's Aquarium tickets, a tap vs. bottled water blind taste test, a flash mob in the cafeteria, and daily appearances of Wabot, Bethune's water mascot. BEAT even held a "Will for Water" Relay, where teachers raced throughout the school carrying buckets of water to raise awareness on global water scarcity!

We are proud to announce the Water Week's Hall of Fame:

- Ms Villamin-Arenas and Ms Aziz won the Will for Water Relay
- Jacky D. won the Ripley's Aquarium passes through our jelly bean raffle



- Daniel P., Johnson C., and Selina C. had the closest three guesses for the water bottles in the display case (exact count 239 bottles)
 - BEAT raised \$135 for WaterAid Canada, an organization which builds safe drinking water facilities in places that have none
- What a great week! Thank you to all staff and students for your participation, support, and contributions.

Ms Tutchener



Bethune Students Bring Home Gold

Architectural/Engineering Design student Kelly Lin participated in the 27th Annual TDSB Skills Technology competition for Architectural Design, using Computer Aided Design (CAD) software. The judges commented on Kelly's attention to detail and her ability to demonstrate her problem solving skills, to the benefit of earning a Gold Medal placement. Kelly will now have the opportunity to represent Dr. Norman Bethune CI and the TDSB at the Provincial Skills Technology Competition held in early May. Congratulations Kelly on your Gold Medal achievement and for participating in a competition.

On March the 8th, Kelly along with over 200 other TDSB students travelled to 10 different TDSB schools to participate in 43 different Technology and Trades related competitions. Competitions range from Animation, Cabinetmaking, Electronics, Fashion Design, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Job

Interview, Photography, to Robotics. Bethune students have a history of success at the Regional, Provincial, and National level competitions, earning Bronze, Silver, and Gold medals for Architectural Design(CAD), Cabinetmaking, and Electronics. In addition, students have challenged themselves in Fashion Design and Mechanical CAD competitions. All student participants have commented on the rewarding experience of the competition in testing them on their knowledge of theory and the practical application. Previous participants have used their competition experience to assist them in entry for post-secondary college and university studies in the areas of architecture, interior design, electrician, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, computer science, hospitality, medicine, orthotics and prosthetics, and urban planning.

Mr. Mueller

Geography Department News

In the Geography department, we think it is very important to not only engage students in their own learning, but also for them to recognize their role and value within the larger Toronto community. We have been very proud to partner with Ryerson University over the last three years to support this engagement process. Each year, graduate students from Ryerson's Urban Planning department host workshops with our students to help them understand and solve planning issues in the Bethune community.

To further support engagement in the local community, all grade nine students must attend a community event in Toronto and vicinity to complete the assignment, 'Knowing Your Neighbourhood'. Over the past 5 years Bethune students have attended a diverse range of events such as visiting different city buildings at Doors Open Toronto, learning about sustainability at the Evergreen Brickworks, shopping at the local farmer's market, tree planting at a park, walk/run to conquer cancer, and many more events. The hope is that by opening the door to the many wonderful programs

and organizations within the larger Scarborough community, Bethune students will become engaged and passionate citizens.

We are always amazed by the wonderful events Bethune grade 9 students choose to attend! For example, 15 Bethune students chose this year to attend the "1UPToronto" conference as their community event. "1UPToronto" (held on Sunday March 19th 2017) is a youth conference at Ryerson University focused on city planning and youth empowerment. The conference brought together secondary school students from across the city, to listen to guest speakers and participate in engaging interactive workshops.

As a result of the high participation and engagement of Bethune students at the "1UPToronto" conference, a news reporter from City News travelled to Bethune on March 20th to interview our students! To see a clip from this news report, click here: <https://goo.gl/5aGcMK>. We are very proud of our students as they find their role and voice within our local community!

Ms Goldberg & Ms Lac



Be Well Bethune Week on GRATITUDE

From Monday, April 3 to Friday, April 7th Bethune will be holding its annual Be Well Bethune Week. This year's theme is GRATITUDE.

Many activities have been planned for the week. The Kick-off Assembly took place on March 31st where students were inspired by Paralympic medalist Victoria Nolan to persevere through hardship and be grateful. Here is a list of the activities planner for the week.

MINDFUL MONDAY April 3 – Mindful Practice/Gratitude Journal/Film: *Pay it Forward*

TALK TUESDAY April 4 – Tedx Talks/Gratitude Cards

WORKOUT WEDNESDAY April 5 – Yoga/Open Gym/Family Badminton Night from 630-830

THANKFUL THURSDAY April 6 – Stress Balls/Jenga/Chess/Art/Nail Painting

FRIENDSHIP FRIDAY April 7 – Café in Commons/Photobooth/Mindful Colouring

MAN'S BEST FRIEND MONDAY April 10 – Therapy Dogs

Wellness Committee



Keeping Expired Car Seats Out of Ontario Landfills

Child car seats are big, bulky, and they have an expiry date after which they can no longer be used. As a result, over 250 000 expired or broken car seats end up in Ontario landfills. The Bethune Environmental Action Team (B.E.A.T.) did a car seat drive amongst Bethune staff. We were able to collect four big car seats and keep them out of Ontario landfills.

Where did they go? **Green Propeller** is currently the only car seat recycler in Ontario. They are an enterprise that diverts, dismantles, and properly recycles car seats while providing jobs for individuals who face

barriers to employment. Bethune's Marketing students have been working with Green Propeller on an exciting project - stay tuned for its unveiling during a larger Bethune community car seat drive, coming this Spring!

For more information see: Green Propeller Car Seat Recycling and Calendar; <https://goo.gl/jUZp8t>

Another division, Red Propeller, recycles VHS tapes! See their interview on Fairchild TV: <https://goo.gl/X5Dfui>

Ms Tutchenor



Marketing students with Green Propeller's Graham Lewis and Ms Russell.



SEARS Drama Festival

This year Bethune Drama Students attended the 71st annual SEARS Drama Festival. The SEARS Drama Festival is the largest youth drama festival in the world. This year, more than 12,000 students shared their talents, creativity and energy in over 350 productions across Ontario. Our very own Senior Drama Students entered two productions into the festival and competed along with 17 schools in the North Toronto District. Both productions received much praise from the adjudicator, and our students were commended especially for their commitment to the craft of theatre and professionalism throughout the rehearsal and presentation of the plays at the host schools. Our school was recognized at the Awards Assembly yesterday with 4 awards. The cast and crew of *DRIFT* - a play about homelessness - received recognition for their exemplary ENSEMBLE work. This includes: Irene Yang, Chrismy Chandrathees, Selvin Ng, Monica Ly, Qiana Xing, Jackson Chow, Matthew Ong, Ethan Bryce, Chi Hang Lui, Anthia Barboutsis, Christen Wong, Yaalini Lakhani, Kevin Huang, Michelle Lai, Jason Zhang, Omen Li. Anthia Barboutsis, received an AWARD of EXCELLENCE for her direction of that play. Amanda Lok, who directed our second submission in the

festival – a play about teenagers living in a dystopian society, called *LOOK ME IN THE EYE* – also received an AWARD OF EXCELLENCE for her directing. Lucy Tang received an AWARD for her portrayal of the character RUL in that play. Cast members who supported her during the performance include Joyce Jiang and Hannah Fernandez, both were instrumental to the dynamic force working against RUL. Harry Zhang and Jeffrey Zhu worked expertly alongside them, also supported by David Ye and Irisa Chen in their roles as officers. Of special note was the tireless work by their Stage Manager, Nicole Zhu who was a prevailing influence that made Amanda's vision possible and her committed and patient stage crew including Wei Hong Shi, Jonathan Lui, Winnie Mai, Chairmane Tu, Steven Giang, Chang Chen and Richard Zhao. In addition, special recognition is reserved for the exceptionally precise and the technically perfect execution of light and sound effects delivered by Genya Savelev and Michelle Bai. Both performances are the culmination of hours of enthusiastic teamwork. Students will perform these plays for the school community on Tuesday, April 11, 2017.

Ms Rzezniczek

