

# Dr. Norman Bethune C.I. Newsletter

June 2017

Principal S. Kaskens

Vice-Principals N. Dyal, L. Pagnotta



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## Upcoming Events

- ◆ Grad Lunch
- ◆ Exams
- ◆ Prom
- ◆ Commencement
- ◆ Report Card Pick-up

## Principal's News

Bethune Parents and Students:

Thank you for a wonderful year at Bethune. We have produced 9 newsletters this year, with each one highlighting a variety of activities and accomplishments. And we aren't finished yet! This month, we continue to celebrate and acknowledge our students with the Silent Auction Art Show, the Math Awards Ceremony, the Athletic Banquet, the Music Banquet, the Grad Barbeque, Prom, and of course, Commencement. I would like to send my congratulations to all of our graduating students. Thank you for your positive school spirit over the last 4 years, and thank you to your parents for their support.

During the SAC barbeque, all students received their yearbooks. On behalf of the staff and students, I would like to thank the yearbook committee for their great work. The yearbook is a wonderful collection of memories and accomplishments, and we know that you have spent most of your Friday nights staying late to meet all your deadlines. Congratulations on a job well done!

For those students returning to Bethune in September we are looking forward to a great year ahead and the newly elected SAC is already making preparations for a variety of student activities. Please note that we have changed our pre-registration procedures. Students will no longer be required to pre-register in August! In fact, if you pay for your school fee (\$70) on-line by August 30, you will not have to endure a single line-up and you can simply report to school on Tuesday, September 5!

### **July 3 - August 30:**

Go to [tdsb.schoolcashonline.com](http://tdsb.schoolcashonline.com) to set up your account and pay the school fee. NOTE: Online payment will close at midnight on August 30

### **August 31 & September 1:**

Students who are unable to pay on-line should report to the main office to pay \$70 cash

(Thursday, August 31 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Friday, September 1 from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)

### **Tuesday, September 5:**

Students report to home form classes at 10:30 a.m. (consult room lists in the Commons)

Students must submit to their home form teacher their registration form, their student information form, and their medical form which will be included with their Report Card package on June 30.

Students will receive their timetable and agenda from their home form teacher. Dismissal is at 11:00.

### **Wednesday, September 6:**

Regular Day 1 Schedule

Have a wonderful summer!



## French Year in Review



What an incredible year this has been, a year of new experiences for our students, both in and outside of class. As we continued to implement the French curriculum where oral communication takes centre stage, new resources were used and new tasks were created to give opportunities to all students to react in French to a variety of new topics and media products. Guest speakers were invited to Bethune for an informative and interactive **ECOLOODI workshop** on environmental issues during which our grade 11 students covered a wide range of topics and familiarized themselves with current environmental issues and related French vocabulary. Outside of school, our students participated in culturally enriching trips, starting in September with a visit to the **Stratford Theatre Festival** where Molière and his 17<sup>th</sup> century France captivated our imagination and taught us good lessons through humour and wit. **Museums** were on the list as well, as were French **bistros** offering savory French foods and specialty drinks. Travelling to Québec in February to enchanting **Saint-Donat**, just north of Montréal, was a definite highlight of the year and created memories of a lifetime: the daytime downhill skiing and skating and nighttime cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and tubing as well the impressive array of cultural programs and workshops, fully immersed in the warm



## DECA International

On April 24<sup>th</sup> Jessica Chan, Oriana Wong, Kelly Tang, Joyce Dao, Jing Zhong, Cheng Tong Wu, Cody Tran, Emily Zhang, Inayah Dharsi and Nicole Kelly were among the 750 Ontario students that travelled to Anaheim, California to participate in DECA's International Career Development Conference. The students all worked extremely hard to qualify for the conference. Our students continued to

## Exciting News in Marketing

The students of the Grade 11 Marketing class had an amazing opportunity to work with the founders of Red Propeller for the last three months. During the partnership, our students were to create a brand for their new nonprofit social enterprise, which focuses around recycling child safety seats. Graham Lewis visited each week to work with groups one-on-one while sharing his

and friendly Quebecois atmosphere of the camp, made for an invaluable experience for all. This year again **Mardi Gras** was celebrated through mask making, food and New Orleans music and dance and a good time was had by all who participated. In March our students prepared for **La semaine de la Francophonie**. During the French Week, we celebrated the exquisite French language as well as the diversity of the francophone countries, each with its unique culture, through informative and super fun activities - French movies, French desserts, French music and beautiful posters. Our students were also invited to collaborate with other departments in the school on various projects such as the Art Installation on the **Missing and Murdered Native Women** and the **Water Week** organized by the Geography Department for which they helped translate texts and signs and, in doing so, developed a new skill in French: translation! An incredible year indeed! Well done, Bethune!

**Bon travail! Je vous souhaite de magnifiques vacances à tous!**

*Mme Focseneau*



study and prepare, staying competitive amongst the 18,000 students that participated in ICDC. A special congratulations goes to Jessica, Oriana, Emily, Joyce and Jing for placing in the top 20 finalists. We are extremely proud of all the students for all of their accomplishments in DECA this year. Congratulations for all of your hard work and accomplishments.

*Ms Russell*

expertise and experiences with students. At the end, each group presented their brand in hopes to be chosen. All students worked extremely hard on this engaging project; it was a very difficult decision for Red Propeller. Owaiz, Annie and Chloe's brand: 1 Less Seat #1World2Keep was chosen. Congratulations on their hard work and success.

*Ms Russell*

## Music Department News

The Bethune Spring Concert at the Flato-Markham Theatre on Tuesday, May 2 was a resounding success. Students from all ensembles performed to a large crowd of enthusiastic parents, friends, and past Bethune students. Paul Sylvester, the ACL of Music, who is retiring at the end of June received a lovely mosaic made up of pictures from his years at Bethune CI.

The Bethune Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band and Festival Singers all performed at MusicFest Nationals in Niagara Falls on May 16 and 17. All three groups gave outstanding performances.

One of the highlights of our trip was the Horn Blower (formerly Maid of the Mist) tour of the Falls. Please check out all of our pictures and performances on our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/DrNBethuneMusicDept/](http://www.facebook.com/DrNBethuneMusicDept/)

Summative performance evaluations will

## Bethune Drama Presents...

This spring, Bethune students enjoyed several stage productions performed in the school auditorium. Bethune's Senior Drama students presented two One-Acts for their classmates. *Look Me in the Eye* and *Drift* are very different plays. The first presents a world where the teenage characters are forced to make a difficult moral decision. The second portrays the lives of homeless people living on the streets of Toronto. Both plays ask the audience to think about difficult issues that are often not discussed in our community. In addition to these two plays, grade ten students were treated to *Meet Cute* an award-winning play by Erin

## Girls Soccer

On Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, the Girls Soccer Team ended their season with a heartbreaking 1-0 loss against SATEC. Despite facing some challenging teams all season long, the girls still managed to put everything on the line whether it was through rain or shine. We are very proud of our Lady Bears for finishing 5<sup>th</sup> in Tier 2 Pool B as there were many tough teams.

## REACH 2017

Bethune's Reach trivia teams represented our school in stellar fashion once again, with our intermediate team securing our best record to date at the recent regional qualifiers. The intermediates made it to

take place during the exam period for students in all vocal classes, AMI 1 and AMR 2/3/4. Please check the exam schedule and arrive early for your summative performance tests.

AMI 1 – Small Ensemble Summative Performances – Tuesday, June 13, 1:00 – 3:00pm

AMR 2/3/4 – March Madness Summative Performances are on Wednesday, June 14 9:00 – 11:00am

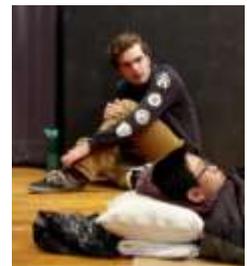
AMV Students – Please check the schedule in Room C-102.

*Mr. Sylvester*



Norah Thompson, especially performed for them, by Roseneath Theatre. Coming soon... the Grade Nine students will perform *Hoodie*, a play about fitting in and learning to accept yourself, for grade 7&8 students from our community.

*Ms Rzezniczek*



Having said that, we know they will use the experience they gained from versing these advanced teams to carry on to next season. Unfortunately, we must say farewell to 7 of our senior players – Theepika, Roxana, Aminah, Serena, Chin Na, Trisha, and Ying, as well as our amazing manager, Anthia. We wish them the best of luck on their future endeavours.

*Serena Ngo*



the very competitive quarter finals where they were defeated by one of the area's top teams after a close match. Congratulations on a fantastic year everyone. To buzzers and beyond!

*Ms Pitt and Mr. Oortwyn*



## HOSA 2017

Our HOSA group is only in its third year here at Bethune and this year we had over 80 students competing in health and science related competitions! The students worked hard all year under the guidance of an amazing student executive team and represented Bethune at the

National Leadership event in March. Special recognition goes to our top finishers: Fabiana Chow, 2<sup>nd</sup> in clinical nursing; Linda Li and Chloe Tang, 3<sup>rd</sup> in CPR/First Aid; Ambikai Sasitharan, 2<sup>nd</sup> in Vet Science. Well done.

*Ms Pitt and Ms Kim*

## BEAT

It has been a busy and exciting year for BEAT culminating with the announcement that we earned EcoSchools Certification at the Platinum level with a score of 96%.



Dignity Through Artistry as well as raising funds in support of Canada's aboriginal people through the sale of baking made with cricket flour and fair trade chocolate.



Over the past 10 months, BEAT students have run four successful theme weeks, featuring Waste, Energy, Water, and Bike to School.

Acting as stewards for our school grounds, we have planted Canada 150 tulips, mulched our trees and collected garbage during our Community Cleanup afternoon.

The Scarborough Green Fair and the TDSB EcoFair gave our BEAT students an opportunity to take our environmental message out into the community. Bethune students also ran an important Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup event in L'Amoreaux Park and hosted several groups including the environmental club from Kennedy Public School.



We have encouraged Bethune students to become global citizens through activities such as fundraising for Haiti through the purchase of jewellery and ornaments from



BEAT would like to thank our caretakers, office staff, administration, teachers, and especially the Bethune students for helping us maintain one of the "greenest" schools in the TDSB.

*Ms Carr*

## Computing Competitions

Bethune's Computer Science students represented our school in many prestigious computing competitions this year including the Beaver Computing Challenge, Woburn Challenge, DM:OJ, ECOO, and Waterloo CCC. As usual, our students did an admirable job!

In particular, for the Waterloo CCC, many of our students earned certificates of distinction by scoring among the top quartile (25%) in Canada. Junior CCC award winners include: Regan Chan, David Feng, Alan Zhu, Doreen Huang, and Freeman Zhang. Senior CCC award

winners include: Jason Sun, Evan Cui, Robert Fang, Ayush Gupta, Anthony Huang, Melvyn Li, Michael Lin, Steven Xu, and Andy Yang.

Special congratulations to Jason Sun, Evan Cui, and Anthony Huang who are "Junior" (grade 11) students but challenged themselves by writing the Senior CCC competition -- all three earned certificates of distinction!

Congratulations to all participants and good luck next year!

*Mr. Rao*



## Parks Canada Ecological Integrity Poster Assignment

Our Grade 9s participated in our annual Parks Canada Ecological Integrity Poster assignment. Once posters were assessed by their geography teachers, students voted on their favourite posters. We are pleased to announce that Bella Huang's poster of Prince Edward Island National Park has been unanimously voted as the student favourite. Honourable mentions to Vicki Huang and her poster of Fathom Five National Marine Park, Rachel Tang and her poster of Terra Nova National Park, and Jackson Fung's poster of Torngat National Park. All four posters will be

framed and permanently displayed in the upper A wing. Feel free to come by and see past winners - a big congratulations to everyone!

*Ms Tutchener*



## Grade 11 Physical Geography Summative Field Trip

The wet spring gave us a break on a sunny Tuesday in May for our annual grade 11 Physical Geography summative field trip. Students explored some of Toronto's past and present geomorphology by visiting the geologically famous North Slope of the Toronto Brickworks, investigating erosion at the Scarborough Bluffs, and examining river dynamics and erosion at Rouge Park Finch Meander Trail. The wet spring and historic high water levels of Lake Ontario and the Rouge River afforded students the opportunity to witness erosion and mass wasting everywhere. To round off

the trip, students put their GPS skills to the test by competing in a geocaching challenge at Rouge Park to look for the hidden cache.

*Ms Tutchener*



## Exam Review & Report Cards

Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup> is Exam Return Day. This is an opportunity for students to spend time with their teacher to see how they did on their exams. Exams will be reviewed but students will not be able to take their exams home.

If students wish to discuss their exam in further detail with their teacher that day, they can make an appointment with the teacher between 1:00-2:00pm.

On Friday, June 30, students are to come to school at 10:00am to pick up their FINAL report cards. Report cards will be available to be picked up in homeform classes from 10:00-10:30am.

The schedule for Exam Return Day is:

8:40 – 9:00	Day 1, Period 1
9:05 – 9:25	Day 1, Period 2
9:30 – 9:50	Day 1, Period 4
9:55 – 10:15	Day 1, Period 5
10:20 – 10:40	Day 2, Period 1
10:45 – 11:05	Day 2, Period 2
11:10 – 11:30	Day 2, Period 4
11:35 – 11:55	Day 2, Period 5
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch – Caf Closed
1:00 – 2:00	Teachers available
2:00 – 3:05	Staff PD



## Math Awards Ceremony

The Math & Computer Departments will be hosting a special awards ceremony to honour students who performed well on the many math & computer competitions. Over 80 students have been invited to the special lunch hour celebration in the library on June 1 where they will receive certificates and medals from members of

the math & computer departments and the administration.

Also during the ceremony the current Math Club presidents will be introducing next year's Math Executive team. These are the students who will carry the math torch forward into next year to keep the light of math at Bethune burning bright!

*Mr. Tam*



## Earth Sciences Canada WHERE Challenge

Grade 9 geography teachers again participated in a national contest, the **Where Challenge** by Mining Matters. Students were inspired to learn about the materials that make up the items they use every day, whether it be a cell phone, a hoody sweatshirt, or a tube of toothpaste. Students were challenged to research what the non-renewable materials are that make up their object, where and how they were mined, and then in a highly creative way share that information with their classmates and teachers.

They were so impressed with all of Bethune's entries and we are thrilled with our results in this national contest! Bethune again won one of three national school prizes for our combined effort of 165 student participants and seven winning entries. Special mention goes out to these seven winning teams/individuals:

Emily Zhang "Geogirl vs Zinc Zero" Graphic Art - Best Overall <https://goo.gl/ek1giJ>

Judges Comments: *Very professional and well assembled, deep research. Wonderful story with lots of well-researched detail and entertaining plot twists - well-crafted and presented too!*

Bella Huang and Victoria Shen "The Story of Oilver" Literary - Best Overall <https://goo.gl/U3ZHlk>

Judges Comments: *Creative and compelling following the life of "Oilver". Very good graphics. Exhaustive research including Canada. Excellent references.*

Dinah Hoang: "A Spoons Iron Journey", Graphic Art - Best Creative <https://goo.gl/Tmgn45>

Judges Comments: *Script well adapted for younger audiences, good summary of uses, well researched for Canada. Nice, I like the use of the conversation between the two characters to move the story along.*

Amy Cao "Sterling Silver Earrings", Graphic Art- Best Research <https://goo.gl/f3CnTB>

Judges Comments: *Clear, concise and well researched, excellent references. Simple but effective presentation' graphic presentation is well laid out.*

Gavin Tse "Earth to Mechanical Pencil" Literary - Best Research <https://goo.gl/VbDO0f>

Judges Comments *A well-researched and referenced entry with clear citation of origin of illustrations.*

Rachel Tang "Aluminum Madness" Multimedia - Best Creative <https://goo.gl/ottB2L>

Judges Comments: *Good preparation material, excellent references, correct emphasis on Canada.*

Nancy Feng "Aluminum Figure Skates" Graphic Art - Honorable Mention <https://goo.gl/f3CnTB>

Judges Comments: *Very well put together, aesthetically pleasing, good information.*

A big congratulations goes out to ALL students who participated and submitted entries. We are very proud of you!

For a full list of results, see [http://earthsciencescanada.com/where/2017\\_results.html](http://earthsciencescanada.com/where/2017_results.html)

Ms. Tutchener

## Grade 9 Geography Summative Field Trip

It's that time of year again for our annual grade 9 summative field trip. Again this year, we will take our tour during the exam period. In lieu of a formal written exam, the grade 9 geography students will complete an assignment on an exciting tour visiting some of Toronto's many popular tourist attractions such as the Distillery District, Harbourfront, Little India, and the Scarborough Bluffs. We will stop for lunch at the famous St. Lawrence Market where students will have the opportunity to see and try some of their delicious foods such as the peameal bacon sandwich, Italian sandwiches, pierogies, and baked goods. This is a memorable fast-paced trip for students to learn about this diverse city

we call home, as well as a chance to visit some of these places that were studied in class. Thank you to all of our wonderful non-geography teachers who are joining us on the trip this time -- we cannot do it without you!

Ms. Tutchener



What on Earth is in your stuff?  
WHERE on Earth does it come from?

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## Girls Golf Team

Congratulations to our senior girls golf team. They are the NEW 2016-17 TORONTO EAST REGION CHAMPIONS!!! This makes ELEVEN consecutive years of finishing in the medals at the Regional Championships. All of the girls played extremely well the day of the championship but a special mention goes to our TOP four golfers: Adrienna Tan, Shirley Tran, Marley Wright, Yuki Yeung. This win was made possible because of the girls' commitment to the team. They made time to attend practices and attend the games. This accomplishment is even more rewarding because all of the girls, except for one, were introduced to golf here at Bethune!! This year we also had three novice golfers: Shiqing Chen, Kariza Yogar, and Yuki Yeung. One more

important fact, Bethune always has the largest team. This year our team consisted of eight girls! Last but not least, our team MVP for the 2016-17 season is Adrienna Tan. Congratulations!

Unfortunately, we have to say good-bye to last year's MVP, Michelle Li. Michelle will be graduating this year and has been on the team for four years. She will take with her many fond memories and many medals!!! Thanks for helping to create the memories Michelle. We will miss you!

We look forward to welcoming back the girls next year to continue our run for more medals!!! See you next year girls! FORE!  
Team members are: Marley Wright, ShiQing Chen, Lucyya Ni, Michelle Li, Shirley Tran, Kariza Yogar, Yuki Yeung, Adrienna Tan



## Excellence in Athletics

As our Spring Sports wind down and the year draws to a close, we can look back and reflect on yet another rewarding year for Bethune athletics. We had 25 teams run and over 20 coaches involved over 3 seasons. Many thanks to our coaches at Bethune who have instilled sportsmanlike

values in our athletes while inspiring them to be the best they can be. It takes countless hours and dedication to train our athletes and everyone's hard work paid off.

See the chart below for our list of accomplishments this year.

*COACH – Ms Ceccol*

*Ms. Aziz*



TEAM	SEASON HIGHLIGHTS
Cross Country	4 Metro Qualifiers; 1 OFSAA Competitor
Girls Golf	East Regional Champions
Wrestling	1 City Champion
Curling	East Region Bronze Medal Champions
Badminton	Overall Regional Gold Medalists Girls Doubles City Champions Boys Singles Bronze Medalist 4 <sup>th</sup> place OFSAA Girls Doubles – A Flight
Track and Field	Jr. Boys City Champions; 3 OFSAA Competitors
Jr. Ultimate Frisbee	Semi Finalists
Sr. Ultimate Frisbee	East Regional Champions; City Finalists
Floorball	Semi-Finalists

*“You get the best effort from others not by lighting a fire beneath them, but by building a fire within.”*

*Bob Nelson*

## Bethune Says Farewell To...Mr. Brown

Congratulations to Mr. Brown who will be retiring this year from the TDSB. Mr. Brown has been teaching for 27 years in the TDSB, and at Bethune for 10 years. Since coming to Bethune he has been an integral member of the Business Department and has taught Computer Science and Math as well. His easy going nature and genuine friendliness will be missed by staff and students. Mr. Brown is loved by the students at Bethune – everywhere he goes students are trying to talk to him. This is a testament to his

approachability and commitment to all he did at the school. We are sorry to see him leave but happy for him to begin a new adventure! Thank you and good luck Mr. Brown.

*Mr. Malisani*



Happy Retirement



## Bethune Says Farewell To...Mr. Sylvester

It seems like just yesterday that we welcomed Paul Sylvester into the Music Department, but in fact, his career at Bethune started 31 years ago. In 1985, his first year of teaching, Mr. Sylvester was placed at Bethune C.I. teaching Music and Math. Ms. St. Denis was his math mentor and the head of the music department was Charles Benson. Ms. St. Denis got along very well with the young and talented tuba player, so she thought she should introduce him to a beautiful and creative photography teacher by the name of Audra Noble. Paul and Audra fell in love while teaching at Bethune and were soon married.

Mr. Sylvester taught in a couple of different schools after his one year at Bethune. Sir John A. Macdonald was his next school teaching Music and Math, then he moved on to Albert Campbell C.I. in 1991. Campbell would become his home away from home, where he held the position of Assistant Curriculum Leader of Music for the next 19 years. While at Campbell, Mr. Sylvester inspired thousands of students to love and appreciate music of all genres. Many of his students even continued their studies in music at the post-secondary level. Staff and students at Campbell will remember his numerous band arrangements, including Beethoven and Mahler symphonies, the Buster Keaton Silent movie event, and "A Circus Spectacular," which was an evening of circus music complete with trapeze artists in the Forum of the school. In 2001, Mr. Sylvester received his Masters of Music Education from VanderCook College of Music in Chicago.

In 2009, Mr. Sylvester had the opportunity to work as an Instructional Leader of Music for the Toronto District School Board. This leadership position was a natural fit for him. During this time, Mr. Sylvester mentored hundreds of music educators at both the secondary and elementary levels. He also developed an online instrument inventory database, was the Camp Director of Music By The Lake, and was involved with organizing countless events such as the Spring Festival Concerts and the Sounds of Toronto Concerts at Massey Hall. Mr. Sylvester also coordinated TDSB professional development workshops and conducted the TDSB Community Band and

the All City Symphony Orchestra.

In 2014, Mr. Sylvester needed a change and wanted to finish his teaching career back in the classroom. The chance to return to Bethune Music arose and he jumped at the opportunity to once again teach at the very school where he began his career.

Mr. Sylvester has the ability to create such beautiful music, connect with every one of his students, and capture the attention of his 100+ member ensembles week after week. Our students will never forget when Mr. Sylvester conducted his own arrangement of "I Vow To Thee My Country" on stage at the Flato Markham Theatre during his last concert in 2017. One hundred and twenty band members and seventy choir members performed his beautiful masterpiece. It was sure to be an unforgettable moment for Mr. Sylvester as well.

Mr. Sylvester's three years at Bethune C.I. have been very successful. He has led his ensembles to numerous music festivals, encouraged his students to continue their studies in music, planned 3 fantastic music retreats up at Jackson's Point and conducted ensembles at Bethune's two annual concerts as well as the OBA and Musicfest National competitions.

Bethune students will remember Mr. Sylvester for his wonderful band arrangements, his love of marches, his passion for cinema, his corny jokes, his tireless work ethic, his colourful and bountiful music tie collection, but most of all, his stories. Not a class goes by without a story about his cat, his beautiful wife Audra, or his grandson Gavin. He also likes to throw in some good old fashioned Army story from his days as principal tubist and Assistant Music Director for the Band of the Royal Regiment of Canada.

What's next for Mr. Sylvester? Well he will be taking some time to travel to Alaska and Australia, he will continue his position of Principal Double Bassist for the York Region Symphony Orchestra and he will continue to volunteer with the Markham at the Movies organization. He also plans to start playing the piano again, composing and arranging, and spending some time in his newly renovated music studio, complete with 7 tubas.

C-Wing won't be the same without you but you are always welcome to visit to share a story or two. We will miss you Tuba Paul!

*Ms Kilbride*