

Dr. Norman Bethune C.I. Newsletter

November 2016

Principal S. Kaskens

Vice-Principals N. Dyal, L. Pagnotta



Principal's News

The last 2 months at Bethune have seen unprecedented numbers of clubs and student involvement. Our newest clubs include the Knitting Club, Club-Cubed (Rubik's Cube Club), American Sign Language Club, Plants at Bethune and the Latin Club. Please see attached an updated club list, along with the meetings days and times. It is not too late for students to join clubs, or even start a new one with the support of a staff supervisor.

Bethune was also pleased to host a delegation of high school teachers and administrators from the Netherlands. While in Canada, these educators visited various schools in Peel, Durham, York and the Toronto Catholic Board (as well as the TDSB). They were interested in Ontario's curriculum and the various opportunities that students have to fulfill their diploma

requirements and/or change pathways: summer school, night school, credit recovery, e-learning, transfer courses, coop, dual credits, etc. After speaking to a number of Bethune staff and students, and visiting classrooms, they were particularly impressed with Bethune! They commented that both the students and the staff are very "connected" to their school communities and seem to display a passion for learning and school involvement.

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 7th at 7:00 p.m.

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Concussion Policy

In March of 2015, the Toronto District School Board developed a Concussion Policy.

A concussion affects the way a person may think and remember things and can cause a variety of symptoms and signs. It is a brain injury that cannot be seen on routine x-rays, CT scans, or MRIs. You do **NOT** need to lose consciousness to have a concussion.

It is important for parents and educators to familiarize themselves with the steps to follow if you suspect a student has a concussion. Attached with this newsletter is a Concussion Tool (in English and Chinese) for parents, educators and students to review.

If you suspect a concussion, it is important to be examined by a medical

professional and inform the school. Nothing is more important than one's health.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Take Our Kids to Work Day
- ◆ Remembrance Day Assembly
- ◆ Report Card Distribution



Report Cards



Students will be receiving their first term report cards on Friday, November 25th. 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, December 1st. Beginning at

4:00pm on November 25th until 12:00pm on December 1st, 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 December 1st.

Hispanic Heritage Month

Hola! This is a very exciting time for all things Spanish at Bethune! In October students participated in the Sisi Latin America Film festival and they also enjoyed Latin American treats such as tacos and churros at Kensington Market. In celebration of Hispanic Heritage month, Spanish Club also hosted many exciting events including Bethune's famous Guacamole contest, Spanish giveaways and Dia de los Muertos (Day

of the Dead) face painting. Stay tuned for more to come! Olé!

Ms. Tibbet



Take Our Kids To Work Day

This year *Take Our Kids To Work Day* is on Wednesday, November 2nd. Our Grade 9 students are encouraged to spend the day at the workplace of a parent, relative, friend or volunteer host. This is the 22nd 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

Girls' Field Hockey

On Thursday, October 20th, the Girls Field Hockey Team ended their season with a 2-0 loss against MAC in their semi-final game. Despite playing one of their best games of the season and fighting through the rain at 8AM, the girls were unable to find the back of the net. We are very proud of our Lady Bears for finishing 3rd in Tier 1 as this was their first year playing against these challenging teams. 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 goodbye to 7 of our senior players – Theepika, Anson,

Chin Na, Sally, Juanita, Vivian, and Serena. We wish them the best of luck on their future endeavours!

Serena Ngo



**TAKE
OUR KIDS
TO WORK**

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO DREAM

Run For The Cure

On Sunday October 2nd, 17 Bethune students decked out in pink participated in the CIBC Run for the Cure held at U of T. It was a beautiful day to raise funds and awareness for a great cause. Some walked and some ran and they did it all

with a smile on their faces. Thank you to everyone who participated - we raised \$350 for breast cancer research. Way to go Bears!! I am proud of each and every one of you and I hope to see you next year!!!

Ms. Aziz



Awards Assembly

On Thursday, October 6th, Bethune formally recognized the outstanding achievements of more than one hundred Bethune students at our annual Awards Assembly. This gala event showcased award winners in front of their peers, parents, and all of Bethune's staff. All in all, there were over 300 people in

attendance who were able to socialize with award winners following the ceremony. Congratulations to all award winners and special thanks to students and staff who made this year's event a success! Photos from the awards ceremony have been posted to the school website: www.bethuneci.com



Grade 9 Drama Trip

On October 19, 2016, all grade 9 drama students had the opportunity to venture to Young People's Theatre downtown to watch Spirit Horse. This intimate and powerful play follows the adventures of two Indigenous children whose family is caught between traditional ways and

contemporary urban culture. Students were able to empathize with the plight of the characters and applaud their perseverance. As well, students were able to ask the actors and director questions about all aspects of theatre. It was a really wonderful experience for all!

Ms. Rzezniczek & Ms. Soni



ESL A, C & Mentors Trip to Camp Green Acres

The cold, rainy weather did not put a damper on the ESL A, C and Mentors trip to Camp Green Acres on October 17, 2016. Students enjoyed seeing true Canadian Nature as we drove to Markham. The beautiful, changing leaves, the rolling hills, cute sheep and magnificent horses were all on display at the Camp. The students were able to bond with each other while challenging themselves with feats that they didn't think were possible! All this, topped off with delicious pizza and treats made for a

very fun, interesting and exciting school trip. Most students said they would love to do it again!

Ms. Soni



Grade 9 Science Trip

This year's Grade 9 Science classes participated in our annual ecology outing to the Etobicoke Field Study Centre. As part of our biology unit, students took part in a biodiversity inventory of the pond at the centre. As usual, they were apprehensive to get their feet wet in the pond, even though they had rubber boots. However, after a couple of minutes, they were happily scooping and catching pond life for inventory.

worthwhile because of the laughter we heard from the students as they experienced some hands-on science.

Mr. K. Lee



As teachers we know this trip is

Annual Music Retreat at Jackson's Point

From Monday, November 28 to Friday, December 2, 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. We all 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.

At Jackson's Point, our 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 Clarke, conductor of the Toronto Youth Wind Symphony, and sought after clinician and Music Fest Judge. He will work with the band students. Geoffrey Butler, conductor of the Toronto Choral Society, and the artistic director of Opera York and Brenda Ushimaru, Unionville School of the Arts Choir retired Choir director will be working with our vocal students. Toronto Opera director Alison Wong will be working with our Jazz Choir students.

This retreat will be an outstanding opportunity to develop musicianship, 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, OVF and OBA regionals.

Our annual Winter Music Night is on Monday, December 12, at 7:00 pm in the Bethune Commons. All of our ensembles will perform. Please note that this date has changed from the calendar sent out at the beginning of the year.

Mr. Sylvester

Girls' Golf Team

CONGRATULATIONS to our SENIOR GIRLS GOLF TEAM. They are the NEW 2016/2017 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!

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!

Finally, the team celebrated their winning season at a team dinner on October 27. 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: Shiqing Chen, Michelle Li, Adrienna Tan, Shirley Tran, Marley Wright, Lucyya Ni, Kariza Yogar, and Yuki Yeung.

COACH – Ms. Cecco

Honouring Our Fallen Heroes

To show their respect for all the war heroes, our grade 11 French students put together a wonderful montage of pictures, newspaper articles and personal sentiments. They will also send

POSTCARDS FOR PEACE - personalized messages of appreciation - to francophone Veterans who have served in the past to thank them for their courage and sacrifice.

Mme Focseneau



Media Studies Excitement

On October 5, Bethune Media Studies (EMS301) students spent the day making documentaries. First they attended a Documentary Film Workshop in the Library, led by Mohamed Alborno and Jane Zhang, our guest documentarians. They brainstormed ideas for their films, created storyboards, interviewed students and teachers and spent the day filming their documentaries. In the afternoon, students attended a Sound and Video Editing Workshop led by Matthew Suftrin. Students edited their footage and created a short trailer for their films. Students are currently working on finishing their documentaries.

Coming soon...a Bethune Documentary Film Screening.

Ms. Rzezniczek



Born To Run

The fall air was crisp at 7:30 a.m. in the morning at the Bethune track. Oftentimes, the fog was just lifting from the fields. On clear mornings, we watched the sunrise over the houses to the east. The runners on the Cross Country Team at Bethune are not ordinary teenagers. Three times a week, they fought the urge to hit the snooze button and they got up to run. Their hard work paid off. Bethune XC had its most successful season in ten years.

The team participated in two mini-meets to prepare for the East Regionals. The meets provided a learning opportunity for our rookie grade nines. Veteran runner Matthew Cheung showed how it is done by winning the Senior Boys race at both meets.

The team's success at the East Regionals was unprecedented. Then runners qualified for the City Championships at Centennial Park. Matthew Cheung accomplished his goal and qualified for OFSAA in Port Hope on November 5. Sadly, the end of the season also means the departure of graduating runners. Congratulations on your career at Bethune and keep running.

A special thank you also goes out to the coaches. Mr. Scriven returned to share his passion for running. Ms. Fisher provided excellent technical knowledge and organization.

Enjoy your sleep, team. We'll see you in the fall.



Mr. Till

Geography/World Issues Class

On Friday September 30th, students in the Grade 12 World Issues class were invited to a Mock Refugee Camp at U of T downtown campus. A doctor from Médecins Sans Frontières Canada (Doctors Without Borders) gave an engaging presentation about her risky and challenging experiences working abroad and saving lives. Afterwards, students rotated between three stations to experience the different aspects of living in a refugee camp. At station #1, they learned about common illnesses and diseases as well as how to make an arm sling. At station #2, students gained a deeper understanding on the importance of clean water and good nutrition by applying their knowledge to case studies. Finally at the last station which is the highlight of the day, they learned how to suture a wound using real pig's feet! Overall, it was an eye-opening experience for everyone to go

through some of the issues faced by refugees, as well as understanding the value of international humanitarian aid and emergency relief. Stay tuned for more updates on activities/experiences in the World Issues class to learn and understand more of the Syrian refugee crisis.

Ms. Lac





BEAT/EcoSchools Kick-off

Six executive members from BEAT attended the annual EcoSchools Kick-off on Thursday October 13th at U of T Scarborough campus. Seven other TDSB high schools attended this event as well which is a great opportunity for students to work together, exchange ideas, and brainstorm new eco initiatives to bring back to the school. During this event, students learned about the importance of wild bees, different methods of transportation, food preservation and pickling. Everyone got to make their own jar of yummy pickles! In addition, Bethune was presented with another Platinum plaque for the school year

2015-2016 (yeah!) and we hope to maintain our high standards of sustainability for 2016-2017. Keep posted for "green" activities and events throughout the school year.

Ms. Lac



BEAT/Waste Reduction Week/Shoreline Cleanup

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Ms. Lac



DECA News

For the first few weeks of school, the club you could often hear being chanted across the school was none other than Bethune DECA! It has been another great start to the year for this club! From the many enthusiastic students who dropped by our booth during club carousel in September to our grand kick off meeting to our fun DECAlympics activities to students dedicated to preparing for the upcoming competition. Each week, members are signing up to get as much practice in as they can and are showing overwhelming interest and participation at our Thursday after school meetings. DECA members are fully immersed in the DECA spirit! With over 100 competition members and over 50 fundraising members (meetings on Wednesday after school) this year, Bethune DECA is looking stronger than ever!

DECA is an international business group for high school students dedicated to helping its members dive into the world of business. We strive to help our members grow as a person, and to develop lifelong skills that will help them in the future, such as the ability to speak confidently, to problem solve and to develop entrepreneurial skills for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management .

On October 31st, students competing at the Toronto Regional competition will be writing their exam online after school. November 5th, students will compete in their oral case study events at Woburn C.I. (2222 Ellesmere Road). Good luck to everyone! We are confident that this year will be one of the best for Bethune DECA!

Ms. Yeung



“A Day on Bay” - Financial Securities Field Trip

Hosted by the Jr. Economic Club of Canada, this field trip gives students an opportunity to experience Toronto’s Financial District! Students will begin the conference at the Toronto Stock Exchange! They will also

participate in interactive workshops to learn more about the fundamentals of finance such as budgeting, investing, trading, and financial portfolio management.



Ms. Yeung

Knitting Club

One of Bethune newest clubs, The Knitting Club, has had an amazing start. To date, we have 50 members, some of whom are experienced knitters, and others who are just starting! Knitting has made quite a come-back, as people are discovering that it a wonderful social activity and it helps to reduce our levels of stress and anxiety. As a bonus, knitters enjoy the pride of having created something. Our club, however, depends on the generous donations from others. Our hope is to donate our finished products to shelters and people in need in

our own community. If you have knitting supplies that are looking for a new home, please consider donating to our knitting club!

Ms. Kaskens



Planting for the Spring

The front of Bethune will be spectacular in the spring, thanks to the combined efforts from 2 clubs: “Plants of Bethune” and



“BEAT”. When we suggested that 150 tulip bulbs be planted in front of the school to commemorate Canada’s 150 Birthday, students eagerly volunteered to help out! Fifty of these bulbs were donated to Bethune as part of an initiative to support the *Highway of Heroes Living Tribute* organization. This organization is raising funds to plant a tree along the Highway of Heroes for every fallen soldier. As a thank you for the tulip bulbs, Bethune will be organizing a fundraising campaign for the Highway of Heroes Living Tribute.

Ms. Kaskens



Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC)

PIAC (Parent Involvement Advisory Committee) invites all TDSB parents to the 10th Annual Conference: *Parent Involvement Makes a Difference*. The conference takes place at Earl Haig Secondary School on Saturday, November 19, 2015 from 8:00a.m. to 3:45p.m. Register now at www.tdsb.on.ca/parentconference. Bussing, child-minding and interpretation

will be available through registration only. The conference is free of charge and includes workshops such as: Secondary Pathways; Post-Secondary Planning; Specialized Programs in the TDSB; French: Helping your Child Succeed; What About Math; Our School, Our Community, Our Space and more! For more information contact 415-395-4808.



Nutrition Program

Dr. Norman Bethune CI qualified once again for a Provincial Grant through the Toronto Foundation for Student Success to provide a nutrition program for students. The program is designed to provide a nutritious snack in the morning to students who haven’t had breakfast. Generally we have

fruit, cereal, oatmeal, cheese sticks, yogurt tubes and much more available every morning. The program will run throughout the year. We ask students to make a nominal donation (\$0.25) for each item. All monies raised will go back into the program to purchase food.

