

Dr. Norman Bethune C.I. Newsletter

September 2017

Principal: S. Kaskens

Vice-Principals: L. Pagnotta, C. Wilson



Principal's News

Hello Bethune Parents/Guardians, Welcome to the 2017/2018 school year! I'm happy to report that school got off to a great start. We have welcomed about 250 grade 9's and have organized a number of activities to help them adjust to high school and get the most out of it. Our senior students have been impressed with their enthusiasm and their willingness to ask questions and seek assistance when needed.

All grade 9 parents/guardians are invited to our curriculum night on Thursday, September 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. We promise to give you useful information (and some treats!). There is also an ESL Information session at 6:00 p.m. in the library.

Our first parent council meeting is on Monday, October 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the library. Our meetings are informative and they are an excellent way for parents to meet other parents and to provide the school with valuable feedback and input. Please consider attending our regular meetings!

We are looking forwards to our annual Awards Assembly on Thursday, October 5. Over 100 students will be recognized for their achievement and leadership from last year. Award winners are encouraged to invite their best friend(s) and of course, their parents, to this ceremony. It takes place at Bethune beginning at 2:15 p.m. with a reception to follow. Grade 9 students are also welcome to attend (school will be dismissed early that day).

Finally, as we begin a new school year, I'd like to encourage parents to get involved. We welcome your feedback, and want to work with you and your child. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail the school. Our staff will be happy to help.

You can look forward to our newsletter every month for information about programs and up-coming events. Please be sure to visit our website at www.bethuneci.com

Thank you for your continued support.

Content

Principal's News.....	1
School Day Schedules.....	1
2017/2018 Bethune Staff.....	2
Twitter.....	2
BEAR.....	3
Social Work.....	3
Lockdown & Fire Drills.....	3
Concussion Policy.....	3
Anaphylaxis.....	4
Bell Times & Punctuality.....	4
School Safety.....	4

Upcoming Events

- ◆ ESL & Grade 9 Curriculum Night
- ◆ Spirit Assembly
- ◆ Club Carousel
- ◆ Grade 9 BBQ
- ◆ Terry Fox Run
- ◆ Photo Day
- ◆ Leadership Camp

School Day Schedules

SCHOOL DAY SCHEDULES				
PERIOD	REGULAR	LATE START	BEAR (FRIDAY)	ASSEMBLY DAY
1	8:40 - 9:55	10:30 - 11:20	8:40 - 10:10 (9:50 - 10:10 BEAR)	8:40 - 9:40
2	10:00 - 11:15	11:25 - 12:20	10:15 - 11:25	9:45 - 12:00
3	11:15 - 12:25	12:20 - 1:15	11:25 - 12:35	12:00 - 12:55
4	12:30 - 1:45	1:10 - 2:05	12:40 - 1:50	1:00 - 2:00
5	1:50 - 3:05	2:10 - 3:05	1:55 - 3:05	2:05 - 3:05

2017/2018 Bethune Staff

This year we welcome back many of our staff members and we look forward to a wonderful year ahead. We also have new staff members to Bethune. We welcome

Ms. Christofi, Ms. Cipollone, Mr. Harrop, Ms. Harrop, Ms. Le, Mr. McCabe, Ms. Oyeneye, Mr. Petric, Ms. Ravneet, Mr. Ross and Ms. Wilson.

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*"It is noble to
teach oneself; it is
still nobler to teach
others."
Mark Twain*



Adam, D.	Teacher	McCabe, R.	Teacher
Anderson, M.	Teacher - ACL	Mueller, M.	Teacher
Aziz, W.	Teacher - ACL	Najak, A.	Teacher
Barratt, C.	Teacher	Ng, C.	Teacher - ACL
Barrile, A.	Teacher	Oortwyn, E.	Teacher - ACL
Barrs, L.	Teacher	Oyeneye, K.	Office Assistant
Berdar, S.	Caretaker	Pagnotta, L.	Vice Principal
Blom, M.	Teacher	Parizadeh, R.	Teacher
Ceccol, D.	Teacher	Parmar, D.	Teacher
Chard, L.	Teacher	Pegg, D.	Head Caretaker
Chow, A.	Teacher	Petric, B.	Teacher - ACL
Christofi, B.	Office Assistant	Pham, H.	Teacher
Cipollone, M.	Teacher	Pitt, C.	Teacher
Coutsoyannopoulos, D	Teacher	Rao, V.	Teacher - ACL
Covelli, L.	Social Worker	Rappos, A.	Teacher
Cullum, M.	Safety Monitor	Ravneet, R.	Teacher
Daniels, R.	Teacher - ACL	Ross, D.	Teacher - ACL
Eisenberg, H.	Teacher	Rzezniczek, M.	Teacher
Eliopoulos, M.	Teacher	Scott, R.	Teacher
Fisher, L.	Teacher	Scriven, C.	Teacher
Focseneau, S.	Teacher	Selvam, A.	Teacher
Harrop, C	Teacher	Soni, N.	Teacher - ACL
Harrop, N	Teacher	Sopielnikow, E.	Caretaker
Ho, B.	Sr. Office Assistant	Stojanovski, B	Teacher
Hum, J.	Teacher	Tam, H.	Teacher - ACL
Ishiguro, J.	Teacher	Tenn, K.	Office Administrator
Jessa, R.	Teacher	Thornton, A.	Caretaker
Jiang, J.	Settlement Worker	Thurairasu, P.	Caretaker
Kaskens, S.	Principal	Tibbet, D.	Teacher
Kilbride, A.	Teacher	Till, M.	Teacher
Kim, G.	Teacher	Tutchener, J.	Teacher - ACL
Lac, J.	Teacher	Van Den Eynde, B.	Teacher
Ladwa, K.	Office Assistant	Villamin-Arenas, A.	Teacher - ACL
Le, D.	Teacher	Villote, N.	Teacher
Lee, J.	Teacher	Watson, T.	Teacher - ACL
Lee, K.	Teacher - ACL	Webster, H.	Teacher
Lo, J.	Sr. Office Assistant	Williams, G.	Teacher
Luong, B.	Teacher	Willoughby, A.	Teacher
MacLellan, N.	Teacher	Wilson, C	Vice Principal
Makris, S.	Teacher	Wojcik, M.	Teacher
Malisani, J.	Teacher - Acting ACL	Wright, C.	Teacher
Mathrani, N.	Educational Assistant	Yang, F.	Settlement Worker

Twitter

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter! We are always posting all of the fun and exciting learning opportunities that are taking place at Bethune! Check us out @tdsb_bethuneci.



BEAR - Be Excited About Reading

Every Friday during period one, students will take part in the Bethune school wide reading program. Everyone – staff and students – will read in silence for the last twenty minutes of period one. Students are to bring their own choice of reading material: a novel, a comic book, Manga or even a magazine – the choice is yours. Students can visit the Library to see the wide range of reading materials available.

Social Work

My name is Lenka Covelli and I am the school Social Worker at Dr. Norman Bethune C.I. In this role I get the privilege of working with students and their families, teachers, and other support staff to maximize a student's educational experience. This is done through a variety of means such as individual counselling, referrals to community agencies, consultation, and advocacy. Areas of support include but are not limited to: anxiety; transition to a new country;

gaming/computer concerns; bullying; child abuse; depression; family issues; mental health; social relationships or social skills; self-esteem; sexuality and stress. Please see the attached flyer regarding information on parent workshops available through CAMH if you are concerned about your child's excessive video gaming or misuse of technology.

If you would like more information on how to access services, please contact the Guidance Department.

Lockdown & Fire Drills

At the beginning of each school year, our students and staff prepare for the year ahead by establishing the foundations for a successful year. One of the ways we know we can help students be successful is to create a safe environment in which to learn. Though no one ever wants to see an emergency happen at a school, it's important for school staff to be equipped to deal with those situations, should these occur.

The safety of students and staff is a top priority at our school and to that end, as with all emergency drills, it is essential that we are prepared and understand the importance of procedures that will help ensure the safety of everyone in our school.

The TDSB has taken steps to ensure your child's safety while in school. Each school has developed emergency preparedness plans that include steps staff will take in the event of an emergency, how staff will get students away from possible dangers, and how students' families will be contacted.

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.



"Life affords no greater responsibility, no greater privilege, than the raising of the next generation."

C. Everett Koop





If you **CANNOT**
be on Time,



Then
Be **EARLY**



Anaphylaxis - Taking The Necessary Precautions

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that can be life threatening. This medical condition can cause a severe reaction to specific foods or other materials, and can result in death within minutes. Although foods such as peanuts, milk, eggs, and sesame seeds are the most common cause of anaphylaxis, insect stings, medicine, or latex can also cause a reaction. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. The TDSB is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and works with Toronto Public Health and other partners to ensure the successful implementation of Sabrina's Law, which came into effect on January 1, 2006.

Sabrina's Law requires every school board to establish and maintain an anaphylactic policy that includes strategies to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents in classrooms and common school areas. The TDSB has procedures for the prevention and

Bell Times & Punctuality

Being punctual is a life skill that is important to learn. When your child is late, it causes disruption to the learning that has begun in the classroom and may result in your child missing important information. Arriving to school ten to

School Safety

Our first priority is student safety and one of our main concerns is the traffic congestion on Fundy Bay before and after school, as well as motorists using the parking lot to drop off students. Many students are dropped off on the west side of Fundy Bay Blvd or on the north side of Bamburgh Circle, and then they have no choice but to cross the street during the busiest time of the day, often with motorists stopped on both sides and other motorists driving around the stopped cars. Recently, Toronto City Council approved changes to the traffic signs and by-laws on Fundy Bay and Bamburgh in an effort to reduce the risk for pedestrians. The traffic by-laws will be such that motorists will not be legally permitted to stop on the west side of Fundy Bay (to drop off students), nor will they be permitted to turn left onto

management of anaphylactic reactions. Although this may or may not affect your child directly, we want to raise awareness about this life-threatening condition. Students who have severe allergies to such food substances are exposed to a severe health risk when such products are consumed in their environment or shared with them. As prevention is the best approach, we ask that your child not bring any lunches or snacks that contain nuts.

If your child has health problems of any kind, please inform the office staff immediately so that the necessary health protection steps may be taken and to ensure everyone's co-operation for a safe learning environment.

Whether you are living with the allergy yourself, caring for someone who is, or concerned about people in your community, more information about life threatening allergies is available on the Anaphylaxis Canada's web site at <http://www.anaphylaxis.org/> or by calling 416-785-5666.

fifteen minutes before the bell ensures your child isn't late. Please refer to the school bell times on the front page of this newsletter to ensure your child practices punctuality and is prepared for learning.

Fundy Bay from Bamburgh during the morning drop off times. We expect the transportation department to change the signs sometime this fall. In the meantime, we are pleading with parents and students to exercise caution during drop off and pick up times. Please refrain from dropping off your child on the side of the street opposite to the school (whether it is on Fundy Bay or Bamburgh). We also ask that parents refrain from driving into the various parking areas for drop off or pick up. The front of the school is a fire zone, and the side and back lots are not drop off/pick up zones. Many students use the walkways in this area as their route to school. We have communicated these concerns to students as well. Thank you for your cooperation and support.