

Parent Council Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2018

Trustee Update- Manna Wong

Manna Wong hosts a Ward meeting every month and encouraged all parents to attend. The next Ward Meeting is scheduled for Nov. 12 from 6:30-8:30 at Lynngate Junior Public School. Trustee Wong also distributed the latest Trustee Newsletter.

School Team:

New Superintendent – Ian Allison

Trustee – Manna Wong

Parent Council Co-Chairs – Mirek Glowacki and Janaki Thiyagarajan

Admin. Team – Laura Houghton (New); Christina Wilson, Sandy Kaskens

Guidance & Student Support – Colin Ng, Abbie Villamin-Arenas, Lori Bernier, Eric Oortwyn

Head Custodian – Normand Jones (New)

School Opening:

Very smooth opening, despite construction that is still underway.

Grade 9's seemed to have had a very smooth transition.

They enjoyed a grade 9 BBQ, a club carousel day, and this Wednesday, they are attending camp.

Recent Events and Upcoming Events:

Fall Sports

Welcome Assemblies – focusing on student voice/advocacy

Terry Fox Run/Walk

Club Carousel

Leadership Camp at YLCC

Take Me Outside Week

Scarborough Green Loop Cycling Trip

Delegation Visit from Sweden

Photo Day

Orange T-Shirt Day

Intramurals

Awards Ceremony (Wed. Oct. 3)

College/University Info Night – Oct. 18

PA Day – Friday, Oct. 5

School Website:

www.bethuneci.com

Parents are encouraged to visit the website regularly for up-to-date information, school calendar of events, how to reach staff, how to report a concern, who to access for support, etc.

Facilities/Equipment:

Central A/C

Construction in Commons for Acoustics – Almost done! Allows us to have concerts and performances

Thank you to Doug Pegg (newly retired Head Custodian, for making Bethune awesome!)

New Wellness room has been created in Library area.

Guidance Update:

Oct 18 @ 6:45pm – Parents and students in all grades 9-12 are encouraged to attend Bethune's University and College Info Night. All the Ontario Universities and GTA Colleges will be here at Bethune to speak about their programs and admissions.

Oct 4 – Gr. 12 Post-Secondary Assembly. Counsellors will be speaking to all grade 12s about Post-Secondary destinations, the research, application and admissions process.

Oct 11 – College Panel. Several Colleges will be at Bethune to speak to grade 10-12 about their programs, joint-programs and degrees.

Oct 3 – Gr. 9 Leadership Camp. For all grade 9 students to develop Cooperative leadership skills, connect with other grade 9s and have tons of fun!!

Community Update (Sophia Chan 105 Gibson Centre):

A number of programs are available for students at 105 Gibson Centre. Brochures were distributed.

School Data:

EQAO Results for 2017/18:

Math

91% achieved at a level 3 or 4 in Academic Math (compared to 79% for TDSB)

*40% achieved at a level 3 or 4 in Applied Math (compared to 28% for TDSB)

* The percentage of students in grade 9 who take Applied Math has dropped from 19% in 2015 to 7.8% in 2018.

English

89% of first time eligible students were successful (compared to 81% for TDSB)

Key Points from Student Census, 2017 and Bethune Survey, 2018:

Emotional Well-Being:

Bethune students reported feeling the following *all the time/often (census, 2017)*:

- 42% nervous or worried
- 47% feel tired for no reason
- 45% feel under a lot of stress or pressure
- 78% worry about school marks
- 70% worry about their future
- 40% have difficulty making decisions about things

Highest Rated Stress Factors (School Survey 2018):

- Too many evaluations scheduled at the same time
- Post-Secondary Planning
- Parental Pressure
- Lack of time-management skills

Bethune students reported that the following makes it difficult to complete H.W. *all the time/often (census, 2017)*:

- 24% spending time with friends
- 37% social media
- 44% watching videos, Netflix
- 27% gaming
- 33% poor time management/ organizational skills

Safety:

- 49% reported that they have not met an adult at the school that they would feel comfortable going to for support/advice (Census, 2017).
- For students who reported that there isn't an adult in the school that they would go to, the #1 reason given is that they are not comfortable talking to a teacher about personal issues. (School Survey).
- 41% reported that they would not feel comfortable reporting bullying to a school adult if they and/or others were being bullied (Census, 2017).
- Some students use words like fag, retard, gay, n—, etc. (verbally and on social media) perhaps without an understanding of how these words/expressions may impact others (anecdotal).

Physical Well-Being (Census, 2017)

- 70% get fewer than 8 hours of sleep/night
- 22% rarely/never eat breakfast
- 39% get to school by car
- 65% eat fast food at least 1-2 times/week
- 50% drink pop, energy drinks, sweetened drinks at least 1-2 times/week

Discussion:

Parents and school staff discussed their concerns over the amount of time students are spending on social media, gaming, Netflix, and its impact on their learning , homework completion, relationships, etc.