Dear Parents and Guardians,

By now you should have received the 1st report card. Hopefully you have booked appointments with teachers for the evening of December 5th. If you were unable to book a time with teacher, and you have some concerns, please do not hesitate to contact teachers via email. Please visit our website for email links to all the teaching staff.

The month of December will be a busy and exciting time at Bethune. We look forward to the “12 Most Wonderful Days of the Year Campaign”, where all proceeds will support a local charity that is chosen by our student council and other leadership groups. Our Winter Music Night is on December 12th and we have invited students from our feeder schools to a Concert on December 13. Our annual SAC Talent Show will take place on the last day of school before the winter break, December 21. Finally, on behalf of the staff at Bethune, I’d like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season.

Our next Parent Council Meeting is on February 3rd at 7:00 p.m.

Sandy Kaskens, Principal

Grade 8 Parent Info Night

Bethune’s staff and students showcased the school on November 21st for Grade 8 Parent Information Night. We started the evening with a medley of songs performed by the Wind Ensemble, then had a school tour led by the REPs and ESL Mentors. Our SAC representatives and student leaders also shared information about our award-winning programs (i.e. Mindfulness and Eco-Schools), course offerings and their favourite things about Bethune. Our guests also had the opportunity to connect with our teacher department leaders at their subject booths, and they appreciated the opportunity to connect with staff and students. With 500 people in attendance we were proud to be a part of Bethune’s school community. Thank you to the REPs, ESL Mentors, Wind Ensemble, SAC, Student Leadership Club members, Guidance Department, ACLs and administrators for helping plan this evening. Your contributions have made the evening a success and I look forward to welcoming Bethune’s future families with you.

Ms. Villamin
Annual ESL Speech Competition

This month, in all the ESL classes students could be heard reciting their speeches and practicing their public speaking skills. It is the ESL speech competition season! Congratulations to all ESL students for their hard work on their speeches. It is never easy speaking in front of a large audience, but it is especially difficult in a second language! Students first competed in their classes and then in the school. The judges had an extremely difficult job choosing only one winner in each category! Thanks to Ms. Blom, Mr. Till and Mrs. Houghton for their time and their support of the competition. Thank you also to our dedicated and witty MCs who helped calm the speakers’ nerves: Belinda Bai, Rickey Li, Xiaofei Lin, Alex Meng and Celine Zhou. Thank you also to our official timekeeper, Lucas Liu, for your fine work.

Special congratulations to our Bethune Champions, ESL A student Chen Liu with a speech on his Sister, ESL C student Lucy Luo with a speech on Favouritism, and, ESL E student Tina Yang, with a speech on Pressures, Barriers and Conformity. They will represent Bethune in the TDSB East ESL Speech Competition, held at our school on December 2nd. We congratulate them and wish them all the best as they showcase the very best of Bethune! Ms. Soni

Bethune Teachers support Movember Campaign

Movember funds men’s health projects around the world, focusing on men’s health research and transforming the way health services reach and support men.

Men’s health is in crisis. Men are dying on average 6 years earlier than women, and for largely preventable reasons. Unchecked, prostate cancer rates will double over the next 15 years. Testicular cancer rates have already doubled in the last 50. And across the world, one man dies by suicide every minute of every day, with males accounting for 75% of all suicides. Movember addresses this crisis on a global scale. They fund groundbreaking projects all over the world, engaging men where they are, to understand what works best and to accelerate change. Thank you to our Bethune teachers for supporting this effort: Mr. Harrop, Mr. Tzotzis, Mr. Mueller, Mr. McCabe and Mr. Lee.

(taken from https://ca.movember.com/)
Musical Notes!

On November 6, Bethune Music hosted our annual Area Music Day for our local feeder school students. Over 300 grade 7 and 8 students from Kennedy P.S., David Lewis P.S., Sir Ernest MacMillan Sr. P.S., and Terry Fox P.S. attended the full day workshop to develop their instrumental and vocal skills. The Bethune Music Council led the students through some team building games in the gym and Linda Beaupre, founder of the Bach Children’s Chorus, worked with the vocal students. The instrumental music students worked with Toronto area professional musicians in masterclass settings and they also participated in a mass band rehearsal with Dr. Colleen Richardson from Western University in London, Ontario. The busy day concluded with a performance by our Jazz Choir and Stage Band. Congratulations to the event organizer, Mr. Ross and our Bethune Music Council on a very successful day of music making, team building and outreach to our feeder schools.

The Festival Singers and Wind Ensemble performed beautifully for our school community during the Remembrance Day Assembly. The Wind Ensemble also entertained hundreds of prospective Bethune C.I. students and their families during the Grade 8 Parents’ Night on November 21.

Please join us for “An Evening of Festive Music” on December 12, 2019 at 7:00pm in the Bethune Commons to hear all of our fantastic ensembles showcase their hard work from the first part of the school year.

Ms. Kilbride

Winter Sports Up and Running

We’re back and it’s time to go for Gold again :) All our Winter Sports are in full swing including Boys Basketball, Girls Volleyball, Boys Ice Hockey, Wrestling, Curling and "NEW" to Bethune this year, Boys Indoor Soccer. Let the games begin. Stay tuned for updates as Archery and Badminton will be starting soon too! Go Bears Go!

Volleyball Intramurals

Bump it, set it, spike it! Our second intramural of the year is in full swing with 16 teams participating across the grades. Championship t-shirts are on the line - who will win the title?

Ms. Aziz
Churros, Chocolate, Paella y Merengue!

What a month it has been for Spanish students at Bethune! All grade 10 and 11 students had the opportunity to discover the Hispanic side of Toronto by exploring the wonders of Kensington Market. They tried churros, tamales and many other Hispanic treats, all while practicing their Spanish. The Market visit was followed by an afternoon at El Rancho where they learned how to dance Merengue and they tried an authentic Paella dish, deliciosa!

But the excitement doesn’t stop there. For the first time ever at Bethune, grade 12 Spanish students visited Chocosol for a chocolate tour. They had the opportunity to interact in Spanish, try many different types of chocolate and, they learned all about cacao and its origin.

Excellent day Bethune!

Ms. Tibbet

DECA Regionals Competition

On Friday, November 15 at Cedarbrae C.I., Bethune’s DECA team of 90 students competed at the 37th annual Toronto Regionals Competition. During the competition, students had the opportunity to apply their business knowledge and skills to problem solve a real world scenario. Students specialized in various occupational areas such as marketing, entrepreneurship, human resources and management. We hope everyone had a great experience, hope it was fun and we are proud of all of you!

Congratulations to the following students for finishing in the Top 10 of their categories for the exam and/or presentation: Jacky Liu, Ralph Yap, Ricky Situ, Hannah Xiao, Janet Wai, Vivien Li, Joey Zhao, Anna Zhou, Xin Chin Yan and Kelly Chen.

Congratulations to our Top 10 overall finishes: Jessica Peng and Janet Kuang in Buying and Merchandising Team Decision Making; Jeremy La and Calvin Chen in Finance Team Decision Making; Holly Cheung and Annie Cho in Hospitality Team Decision Making; Amy Cao and Carol Chen - 3rd place in Travel and Tourism Team Decision Making; Lesley Hou and Anjing Li - 2nd place in Buying and Merchandising Team Decision Making.

Congratulations again to everyone, good luck at DECA Provincials in February!

Ms. Yeung
Senior Girls Golf - Season Results

Our Bethune GIRLS GOLF TEAM accomplished a rare THREEPEAT as TORONTO REGIONAL CHAMPIONS!!! This title also extends our streak of winning medals to 16 consecutive years! In those years we have won 4 Regional Championships and countless silver and bronze medals in the East Region Championships. What a record!!!

We are so proud of all the girls on the team but especially the 10 who competed in the Championships. They are: Jackie Fang, Merry Gan, Vivien Li, Pei Yi Shen, Jessie Wei, Xin Chi Yan, Tina Yang, Edwena Yao, Angela Zhang, and Anna Zhou. They ALL learned how to golf right here at Bethune! Although learning was frustrating at times, and gave them many blisters, they never gave up! That’s what determination is. Although everyone played well at the Championships, special mention goes out to our top four golfers: MERRY GAN, PEI YI SHEN, JESSIE WEI, and EDWENA YAO. Incidentally, this was Jessie’s first year of golfing!

In addition, one of our golfers earned an individual honour after only 2 years of golfing! EDWENA YAO won the 2019-20 BRONZE MEDAL for INDIVIDUAL PLAY at this year’s Championships! CONGRATULATIONS to her and the ENTIRE team for another fantastic ending to another PERFECT season! Unfortunately we have to say good-bye to 7 of the girls who will be graduating this year. They are: JACKIE FANG, MERRY GAN, VIVIEN LI, PEI YI SHEN, JESSIE WEI, XIN CHI YAN, and ANNA ZHOU. Thank you girls for the memories, and the medals. We hope golfing will be in your future! Treasure these wins!

It’s been a pleasure coaching the teams and teaching golf for the last 16 years. The students at Bethune are special! Thank you for making my job so enjoyable and memorable!

Ms. Ceccol

Team Members: Christina Chen, Jackie Fang, Merry Gan, Yuting He, Vivien Li, Spencer Lu, Ellen Mak, Pei Yi Shen, Jessie Wei, Xin Chi Yan, Ailin Yang, Tina Yang, Edwena Yao, Naomi Yuen, Angela Zhan, Emily Zhang, and Anna Zhou.

“Courage is grace under pressure.” - Ernest Hemingway
The Arts in November

During the month of November, the students in Ms. Rzezniczek’s Film Studies class attended the Reel Asian Film Festival in downtown Toronto. The students watched a series of short films. This festival featured films from East, South and Southeast Asian artists in Canada, the U.S., Asia and all over the world.

In Visual Art, the grade 9 classes will be delving into colour theory and exploring water colours. The grade 10 students will be finishing off their charcoal unity and will be studying architectural structures. The grade 11s are learning how to felt with wool roving and the grade 12s are finishing their Zine unit and will be discovering modern and contemporary art during the month of December.

Last week, 230 students from Music, Visual Art, and Digital Art and Photography travelled north to YMCA Geneva Park in Orillia. The students were participating in our annual Arts Retreat where they had the opportunity to work together towards a common goal, learn new skills, and work with professionals in their field. Our Bethune Music Council, Bethune Creative Arts Council and the YMCA recreation staff worked with the participants to develop teamwork and leadership skills.

Our Visual Arts students worked with William Ho in a Chinese Brush Painting workshop. Some students learned to knit and needlepoint, designed t-shirts with solar printmaking, and created wire sculptures. The Photography students were able to capture some beautiful late fall photos off the shores of Lake Couchiching and focused on techniques in bird and landscape photography.

The instrumental music students worked with a total of 7 different guest conductors, including Pratik Gandhi from Rouge River Winds and Sharon Fitzsimmins of MusicFest Canada. Our students were treated to a vocal methods workshop, and band and vocal sectionals with our very own Vice Principal, Laura Houghton. Bradley Barnham from the Bach Chamber Youth Chorus also worked with the choirs over the three-day retreat. The students developed their ensemble skills, learned new repertoire in preparation for our upcoming winter concert and music festivals.

Ms. Kilbride
Bethune C.I. Music Presents...

An Evening of Festive Music

BETHUNE C.I. COMMONS
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019
TIME: 7:00PM

Tickets: Free

Winter Break is from December 23, 2019 to January 3, 2020 (inclusive)
Last day of school is December 20, 2019
School resumes January 6, 2020