Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful holiday.

Thank you to all the parents who attended our last Parent Council meeting. We enjoyed an informative presentation on cannabis, and more importantly, how we, parents and educators, can educate teens on the effects of cannabis. Our next parent meeting is on February 3 at 7:00 p.m.

If you are the parent or guardian of a student in grade 9, please note that immediately following the holiday break, all grade 9 students will begin a series of workshops on Mindfulness. Specifically, students will learn to use mindfulness as a way to focus their attention and manage their emotions. A total of 6 workshops will take place over the next few months. The workshops will be scheduled and delivered by their Geography, Phys. Ed and French teachers.

On January 20, students who are in grade 12 semastered math will write their final exam. Students who are writing the exam may use the morning to study and their math teachers will be available in the library until the start of lunch. The exam will begin at 1:00 in the cafeteria. For all other students, January 20 is a regular day. Classes are not cancelled.

At the end of January, all teachers will inform students of their “mark-to-date”. For grade 12 students who are applying to university, these are the first set of marks that will be transmitted to OUAC. We will not be issuing a formal report card, but parents will have an opportunity to meet with teachers at our next parent-teacher interview night, which is scheduled for February 13.

Ms. Kaskens

Upcoming Events:

January 14: Therapy Dogs at the school during lunch
January 17: Pajama Day (SAC)
February 3: Parent Council, Library, 7 pm
February 13: Parent-Teacher Interviews
February 14: P.A. Day
February 17: Family Day Holiday
Annual Staff vs. Student Beep Test for Charity

Our Healthy School’s committee once again organized our annual Staff vs. Student Beep Test to raise funds for the Canadian Cancer Society. We had 10 teachers and 12 students take on the challenge of earning the top female and male Beep Test runners. It was a close competition but the students successfully outlasted the teachers. Mr. Oortwyn and Ms. Aziz defended their championship titles in the teacher division while Jacky Ji and Belle Au Yang ultimately won the entire competition. Thank you to all of our participants and audience members, because of you we were able to raise funds for the Canadian Cancer Society. We look forward to seeing how far our old and new participants will finish for next year’s challenge but until then, stay healthy Bethune!

Ms. Aziz

SAC Update

Welcome to the year 2020! On behalf of the Student Administrative Council (SAC), I would like to welcome everyone back from the winter break and wish everyone a happy and healthy new year. This school year SAC hosted many awesome events including: SAC grade nine BBQ, Halloween Haunt, Costume Contest, Twin day, Twelve Most Wonderful Days fundraiser and to wrap up 2019, the annual Talent Show.

The many clubs and councils at Bethune come together to fundraise for charity every year, leading up to the holidays. This campaign is called the Twelve Most Wonderful Days of the Year. It is a series of twelve days leading up to the winter break that consists of activities, games, and food sales to raise money. This year, the staff and students at Bethune showed a lot of spirit and participation during the Twelve Days. The charity we chose to donate to is the Canadian Cancer Society. It is a national, community-based charitable organization of volunteers whose mission is to eliminate cancer and enhance the quality of life of those who have the disease. Some of the fundraisers included bake sales, holiday cards, a photo booth and pieing teachers in the face. We are very lucky to have students and teachers who are always showing school spirit!

To end off the year of 2019, SAC held our annual Talent Show! This year we got to showcase so much talent! There were twenty performances, and many brave and talented individuals who showcased their amazing skills. Some of the acts included singing, dancing, piano, ukulele, guitar and speed painting. Many of the performances were songs from the past decade. What a great way to end the decade with spectacular performances.

Now, SAC is currently planning a few events such as Pyjama Day, Love Week and one of our big events to be held in February for all grades, our annual Semi Formal. The theme this year is “OVO: Black and Gold”, inspired by Toronto’s very own Drake! It will be on Friday February 21st at Scarborough Convention Centre. We know the students are looking forward to participating in the events SAC has in store and we can’t wait! Until then, sit back and enjoy the next few months!

Gayathiri Suweenthiran, SAC Secretary
An Evening of Festive Music

On the evening of Thursday, December 12, over 250 students were involved in our annual winter concert: An Evening of Festive Music. We had 10 ensembles perform a wide variety of music during the evening. Thank you to all members of our community who came out to support our students that night. During the concert, the Bethune Music Council conducted the “Miracle Minute” for our school-wide fundraising campaign entitled “The 12 Most Wonderful Days of the Year.” This year, the charity selected to support the Canadian Cancer Society. Our audience members raised an impressive $1165 in just one minute. Way to go Bethune community!

The music students also performed a condensed version of the winter concert for our Feeder Schools. On Friday, December 13, 350 students from Terry Fox P.S., David Lewis P.S., and Kennedy P.S., walked over to BCI to listen to our students perform. This annual tradition is in place to thank the feeder school teachers and students for attending our Area Music Day in November.

Thank you to the Bethune administration, office staff, caretaking staff, teaching staff, families, and community members for your support of our music program and outstanding students.

Andria Kilbride
New in Modern Languages

REEL Canada will be presenting 3 short films to our French students on Tuesday February 4th. A bilingual facilitator will be on hand to introduce and debrief each of the films. This will be an opportunity for students to learn more about French films and French culture.

Ms. McLaren

Music Department Updates:

Geneva Park Arts Retreat

During the last week of November, over 200 students went to YMCA Geneva Park for our annual arts retreat. Students had the opportunity to meet new people, make memories, and work with many talented clinicians and artists. The Bethune Music Council and Bethune Creative Arts Council worked hard to plan various student-led activities for the retreat. One of them included Flip Flop, which celebrated its 15th anniversary this year. It is a jeopardy-style game that was first created by BMC. It features different categories containing various mini-games such as “minute to win it,” guess the song lyrics, memorization games, and much more. BMC members spent a lot of time to film and edit parody videos, which is an annual crowd favourite. Another activity organized by BMC and BCAC was RISK. The game contains a central story where groups have to rotate through game stations to piece together the final message. The arts retreat brought students closer together through newly-formed memories and allowed them to develop their artisanal and personal skills.

Winter Concert and Miracle Minute

On December 12, the Bethune community gathered together for An Evening of Festive Music. Our annual winter concert featured our students and their passion for music, along with countless hours of hard work required to prepare for the event. The winter concert takes place during Bethune’s annual fundraising campaign called the 12 Most Wonderful Days of the Year. This year, Bethune will be donating to the Canadian Cancer Society, a charity that is committed to saving lives and researching new ways to prevent cancer. The audience had one minute to raise as much money as they could, while eight BMC members ran down the aisles collecting donations in buckets. The fundraiser was a success and managed to beat last year’s total with $1175! We would like to thank those who came out to celebrate the end of the year with us and donated to a worthy cause to help fight cancer. We hope to see you all at our spring concert in the new year!

Bethune Music Hoodies

Every year, The Bethune Music Council sells apparel to help boost school spirit and music department pride. This fall season, the music council sold hoodies featuring the iconic BCI Music twill appliqué and embroidery, which has been around for over 20 years. We were able to fulfill 88 orders from students and Bethune staff. Thank you to everyone who purchased one!

Ms. Kilbride
WE Bake for Change and Scare Hunger!

During the final weeks of school before the winter holidays began, Bethune held their annual “12 Most Wonderful Days of the Year” fundraiser. Our WE Take Action team had the opportunity to participate and organize their very own bake sale. Team members worked collaboratively to create advertisement posters and announcements, make baked goods and sell them during their lunch hour. From different cookies, cupcakes and brownies, there was an assortment of treats that this team prepared to raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society. Our WE Take Action Team also ran a successful food drive for the month of November and collected 935 non-perishable food items that went directly to Second Harvest, a non-profit food bank with the mission of hunger relief. To increase student involvement, we challenged the home form classes to bring in as many food items as they could, and rewarded the winning class with hot chocolate and treats. Congratulations to Mr. Jessa’s home form class for donating 193 food items! We are so proud of our school and our team for their great efforts on these two campaigns!

Ms. Villamin

Photos from Geneva Park Arts Retreat - Our Visual Artists!