

June 2019

Principal: S. Kaskens

Vice-Principals: L. Houghton, C. Wilson



## Upcoming Events:

- ◆ Prom
- ◆ Exams
- ◆ Commencement
- ◆ Report Card Pick-up

## Principal's News

Bethune Parents and Students:  
Thank you for a wonderful year at Bethune. We have produced 9 newsletters this year, with each one highlighting a variety of events, activities and accomplishments. And we aren't finished yet! This month, we continue to celebrate and acknowledge our students with the Silent Auction Art Show, the Math Awards Ceremony, the Athletic Banquet, the Music Banquet, the Grad Barbeque, Prom, and of course, Commencement. I would like to send my congratulations to all of our graduating students. Thank you for your positive school

spirit over the last 4 years, and thank you to your parents for their support.

This week, all students will receive their yearbook. On behalf of the staff and students, I would like to thank the yearbook editors and their team for the great work. The yearbook is a wonderful collection of memories and accomplishments, and we know that you have spent most of your Friday nights staying late to meet all your deadlines. Congratulations on a job well done! For those students returning to Bethune in September we are looking forward to a great year ahead and the newly elected SAC is already making preparations for a variety of student activities.

Please note the following dates:

Exam Review/Final Marks:	Monday June 24 AM only
Commencement:	Thursday June 27 1:00 pm Bethune Commons
Report Card Pick Up:	Friday June 28 10:00-10:30
Start of Summer School:	Tuesday, July 2

Students who are not able to pick up their report cards on June 28 should pick it up in the front office from July 2 – July 12 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

## Bethune's New Time Schedule – September 2019

Beginning in September, Bethune's school day will start 8:50 a.m. and will end at 3:05 p.m.

Thank you to the students, staff and community for your input and suggestions on changing the start time. We continue to look for ways to improve traffic safety, and we hope that shifting our start time by 10 minutes will improve traffic congestion at David Lewis Public School during their drop off time.

## Exam Review and Report Cards



Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup> is Exam Review Day. This is an opportunity for students to see their marked exams. Exams will be reviewed but students will not be able to take their exams home.

If students wish to discuss their exam in further detail with their teacher that day, they can make an appointment with the teacher between 1:00-2:00 pm.

On Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, students are to come to school at 10:00 am to pick up their FINAL report cards. Report cards will be available to be picked up in homeform classes from 10:00-10:30 am.

The schedule for Exam Review Day is:

8:40 – 9:00	Day 1, Period 1
9:05 – 9:25	Day 1, Period 2
9:30 – 9:50	Day 1, Period 4
9:55 – 10:15	Day 1, Period 5
10:20 – 10:40	Day 2, Period 1
10:45 – 11:05	Day 2, Period 2
11:10 – 11:30	Day 2, Period 4
11:35 – 11:55	Day 2, Period 5
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch – Caf Closed
1:00 – 2:00	Teachers available/ Credit Rescue
2:00 – 3:05	Staff PD/Credit Rescue

## Graduating and Leaving Students - Sunsetting TDSB accounts

TDSB accounts for graduating students or students leaving the TDSB will become inactive at the end of the school year. This includes their G Suite for Education Accounts (i.e., Drives, Mail, Calendar, Sites), and access to their H://Drive content.

To prepare for this transition, students will need to either move/download the content using [Google Takeout](#) or use [Google Transfer](#) to transfer their content using their personal Google account. Any content on their H://Drive will also no longer be accessible and should also be moved/downloaded.

## Business SHSM News

The Business Department is wrapping up the second year of our Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program.

This year 32 grade 11 and 12 students enrolled in the program and they each received training and certifications in Customer Service, Business Etiquette and Effective Networking.

Recently, SHSM students attended a workshop at Ryerson University's DMZ Sandbox where they learned to fine tune their entrepreneurial skills and they took a tour of the Ted Rogers School of Management. Many of these students

also participated in the Junior Achievement Company Program where they developed their own companies with the help of local businesses and many competed in DECA competitions.

This year all 13 grade 12's in SHSM were successful graduates of the program. Next year we will have 30 new entrants to this growing program. Congratulations to our graduates and welcome to our new SHSM students!

*Mr. Najak*

## Bethune ESL Mentors

The Bethune ESL Mentors had a wonderful year! They worked tirelessly all year to help the newcomers to Canada and to Bethune. They could be seen at Parent-Teacher nights, Grade 8 Parents' Night and at their monthly get-togethers. Of course, their final event, The Running Man, was a huge success full of lots of fun, laughter and running! Thank you to all members

for their support and dedication this year!

Special thanks go to our executive members who planned and organized these events: President Shirley Zhang, Vice-Presidents Walter Ng & Winnie Liu, Public Relations Victoria Shen & Alicia Gan and Secretaries Christine Chen & Celeste Hua.

*Ms. Soni & Ms. Wright*

**Mentorship  
... the  
backbone  
of a  
healthy  
community**





## Newcomer Day Festival

On Thursday May 16<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Rzezniczek's grade ten drama classes had the opportunity to participate in the Newcomer Day Festival at Nathan Phillips Square; this was Toronto's fifth annual festival.

The goal of the festival was to welcome and show support for all newcomers arriving in Canada. When we arrived, hundreds of people had already gathered with more on the way. Many organizations had set up stalls with plenty of support tools to assist newcomers in getting settled into life in a new country. Food trucks had arrived to offer some extra food choices.

Our grade 10 drama students were there to take part in the *Welcome Gesture* after lunch. The gesture was a movement piece created by Andrea Nann from Dreamwalker Dance. Andrea is a dancer, and she was the guest artist who worked with drama students at Bethune, to create the *Welcome Gesture*. The movement piece symbolizes the acknowledgement of everyone

around us, and is meant to show that everyone is welcomed here. When it was time to do the gesture, people had gathered on a big stage to guide the gesture, while the drama students had lined up on the second level of the square. The students acted as leaders during this time, since everyone could simply look up and see how the students were correctly doing the gesture, and follow along. It was beautiful to witness, everywhere I looked, there were people doing the gesture to welcome and accept other people. Everyone was synchronized and united for the entirety of the Welcome Gesture.

Later, live music was played by a variety of local artists, and Mayor John Tory delivered a wonderful speech about our city, and our commitment to welcoming people from everywhere to live in Toronto. By the end of the day, the students were glowing with pride and joy, for participating in the festival. They won't forget this day any time soon.

*Lucas Montano-Dong, student*



## Business Students' Ventures

The grade 9 and 10 students in the Introduction to Business classes participated in the Learning Partnership's Dragons' Nest Program to raise money for charities. Thank you to our business mentor from the Bank of Montreal, Siva Vijayasekaran for your guidance and insights throughout the process where students learned how to plan and startup a business.

Three businesses were created; the Lock Fresh company made and sold locker fresheners. The Frutta company sold healthy granola yogurt fruit cups and the Sweet Scents company made and sold scented cupcake-shaped candles. Together these ventures raised over \$100 for Save the Children and the Sick Kids Foundation.

*Ms. Yeung*



## Science Olympics

Bethune Science Olympics had a great year with all the events! Our club organized speaker events throughout the year: Dr. Ronald Jhu who is a former mathematician professor at many universities worldwide, Julia Gibson who is an aerospace engineer, Prof. Roberto Abraham who is professor in the Department of Astronomy & Astrophysics at U of T and many more. We greatly appreciate all of our speakers' willingness to inspire the next generation of scientists.

During the "12 Most Wonderful Days of Christmas", we had a successful fundraising sale to help raise donations for the "Second Harvest". On April 12, many of our members and executives went over to Bedford Park Public School to host a science fair for all the elementary students. Thank you to Mrs. Pitt for working so closely with us throughout the planning process and trip.

Last but not least, Bethune Science Olympics participated in Science Olympics at Western University. Execs held engaging study sessions to train each participant, while everyone spent the whole school year studying for this big event. Big congratulations to team INDYcator (Sarah An, Cloris Su, Sophia Ma and Kathleen Sun) for placing third for their event and the teachers (Mr. Ishi and Mr. Mueller) for placing first place in the teacher event!

A huge thank you to all our staff supervisors, this year wouldn't have been as successful without you. To end off the school year, execs are opening and interviewing members for potential executive positions for the next school year!

*Mr. Ishiguro, Mr. Parmer, Mrs. Pitt,  
Mr. Mueller, Mrs. Kim*



## Drama Club News

This year, the Bethune Drama Club was formed by William Li and Genevieve Messiha, who wanted to promote theatre arts in the school, especially among students who might not be able to take Drama. With Ms. Rzezniczek as the advisor for the club, we created posters and put them all over the school to promote the club. We had a lot of applicants and so we held interviews and auditions and we started meetings in January. The group is a mixture of students who take drama, and those who don't take drama but love to be part of it. We picked a ten-minute play by Bradley Hayward, for our first performance, called *Friend Request*. It deals with social media and how, thanks to a series of ill-fated friend requests, a photoshopped picture

of a student spreads like wildfire among a group of teenagers. Genevieve directed the actors, and William took on the role of tech lead. The best part about being in drama club was the friendships we created with people we would not have otherwise met. We have a group of people who like to act, and we have a group of people who like to do tech and be behind the scenes. We have a lot of fun socializing at lunch, while we work together to put on this play. We will be performing *Friend Request* during the Bethune Art Gallery Show, on May 30th. Now that we have a group of people interested in putting on plays, we hope to do a longer show next year!

*Genevieve Messiha*



The TDSB has adopted a new, board-wide [Student Dress Policy](#) effective September 2019. [Learn more!](#)

## A Year of Music at Bethune

Our music students and teachers have had a very successful and enriching year. It started out with several performances in the early fall. The Wind Ensemble performed at the Annual Awards Ceremony in October and Grade 9 information night, and the Festival Singers and the Symphonic Band performed at Bethune's Remembrance Day ceremony.

Our Area Music Day occurred on November 14 where 240 grade 8 students joined us at Bethune for a day of music making, leadership and team building workshops and an introduction to what it is like to be a BCI music student. Not only did the feeder school students from the area get to work with Canadian composer and educator David Marlatt, but they were lead through leadership games and activities by the Bethune Music Council. The trip proved to be a rewarding, musical, educational and FUN day!

Throughout the month of November, we were busy preparing and planning for our annual Arts Retreat to Geneva Park. During the days up north, the students worked with professional conductors Geoffrey Butler, Colin Clarke, Sharon Fitzsimmins, Paul Sylvester and our new Vice Principal, Laura Houghton. The staff and students and clinicians loved the new venue and are eager to start planning next year's Arts Retreat.

The hard work at our retreat paid off in the end with a fantastic performance at our annual "Evening of Festive Music" in the Bethune Commons in December. Our students performed to a packed audience and celebrated our last week before the Winter Break. We also treated our feeder schools to a shortened version of our winter concert the following day.

The new year was celebrated with a yearly tradition...Festival Season! Our Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band and Concert Band performed at the OBA Concert Band Festival in York Region and worked with some incredible adjudicators such as Colin Clarke from the Toronto Youth Wind Orchestra, Shelley Axelson McCauley from Montclair State University in New Jersey, and John Climer from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Each of our three bands received Gold Standard Awards and each group was the recipient of a special section award. The Festival Singers participated in the Ontario Vocal Festival in Oshawa and received a brilliant workshop with Cynthia Peyson Wahl from Winnipeg, Manitoba. The Stage Band competed at the Music Alive Festival in Richmond Hill and received a Silver Plus rating from York University's Ron Westray. All of our performing ensembles were invited to compete at the National level with MusicFest Canada.

In April we invited our feeder schools to participate in a Mini Jazz Band Festival with our very own Jr. Jazz Band. This year's clinician was former TDSB music educator, Peter Tompler. The concert bands from David Lewis P.S. and Kennedy Public School were also excited to participate in the Mini Concert Band Festival on the same day featuring former Bethune Vice Principal Rick Humphrey as our clinician. It was a pleasure to have Mr. Humphrey back working with the next generation of Bethune Music students.

In April the Festival Singers performed in the University of Toronto High School Choral Festival at the Faculty of Music's MacMillan Theatre. The Sounds of Toronto Concert at Roy Thomson Hall was definitely a highlight of the year for the members of the Festival Singers, Concert Choir and a few of our

instrumental students. This spring showcase concert for the TDSB is by audition only and our choir was selected to perform alongside hundreds of TDSB secondary school students.

Our annual Spring Concert was held at the Flato Markham Theatre on April 24. Once again, all of our large ensembles took to the stage to show off the hard work they had been putting in all year. Our Wind Ensemble and Combined Choir finale this year was "Can't Buy Me Love", a medley of songs by the Beatles.

Our Music Council had a very busy year, assisting with planning the Arts retreat. Halloween Haunted House, school events, fundraising, and organizing the Arts Banquet. The Music Department is very grateful for all of their efforts. Special thanks to the executive: Sherman Lin, Lydia Lai, Michelle Hua, Stanley Huynh, and Julia Kuo. We look forward to our Arts Banquet on June 26 when we will hand out awards and celebrate the wonderful musical year that we have had.

Our connection with our family of schools has always been of great importance to the music program at Bethune. This year, we hosted the David Lewis P.S. Spring Music Concert on May 9th in the commons. The concert featured the Jr. Band, Sr. Band, Jazz Band and Choir from David Lewis P.S. as well as the Bethune Festival Singers and Symphonic Band. Both of the Bethune groups joined forces with the Lewis groups and performed in mass ensembles to conclude the concert. It was a special night for both schools and we hope to continue the partnership in years to come.

Bethune Music's final performance of the year will be at Commencement on June 27. Students in grade 10 and 11 will make up the band, and the choir will join us to sing *Can't Buy Me Love* one final time. Music Department Graduation Awards will be presented at this time.

In closing, on behalf of the music staff at Bethune, I would like to thank all of the parents in our Music Community. Thank you for your support of our trips, your attendance at our concerts, your early morning drop offs, your late night pick-ups and your overall commitment to having your student continue with music at Bethune. Your children are our motivation and inspiration.

Andria Kilbride, Ann Willoughby, David Ross



## ICE Training for Careers Studies Students



On Friday, April 26, the Careers Studies students participated in Flashpoint Training's Innovation, Creativity & Entrepreneurship (ICE) workshop. Students had a lot of fun in various activities, team building and problem solving. Along with their peers, their ultimate task was to design a creative system to help students find a part-time job, volunteer experience and make

connections in the community that best fits their personal interests. Teams pitched their ideas to a panel judges and they got feedback on the effectiveness of their presentation, communication and their ideas.

Three winning teams received Tim Hortons gift card prizes but this was a great learning experience for all our students!

*Ms. Yeung*

## Bethune Music Council - President's Letter



I am humbled, honored and privileged to have served as President of the Bethune Music Council this year. The Bethune Music Council worked hard this year planning the unforgettable Geneva Park retreat, both the winter and spring concerts, and our Mother's Day Carnation fundraiser. They are a group of dedicated individuals that create a welcoming atmosphere for all students in the music program here at Bethune. I am inspired by the commitment the Bethune Music Council has for all things music.

My four years in the Bethune Music program has been of great value to me. Music has introduced me to life-long friends, provided me unconditional support from all my peers, and a place to call home. Every day in the C-Wing,

students, with different goals for after high school, join together to share their love of music. Music does not judge, it does not discriminate and during every rehearsal, whether it is band or vocal music, the C-Wing hallway lights up with unimaginable colour.

As the school year comes to an end, a new team of keen individuals will be serving on the Bethune Music Council Executive for 2019-2020. Congratulations to our upcoming President, Matthew Liu, Vice-President, Julia Kuo, Fundraising Director, Calvin Chen, Liaison Director, Maggie Gong, Public Relations Officer, Victor Sun and Secretary, Sophia Ma. You all show great potential and everyone cannot wait for the new heights the Bethune Music Council will reach next year!

*Sherman Lin, BMC President 2018-2019*

## Photos from the Spring Music Night at Flato Markham Theatre

