Hello Bethune Parents & Guardians,

Our Parent Council co-chairs for the 2019/20 school year are Janaki Thiyagarajan and Sam Ko. Sam has been actively setting up a chat group (in Chinese) for Bethune parents and is pleased to report that over 100 parents are staying in touch and informed through this chat group! Parent Council meetings are an excellent opportunity to meet other parents and school staff, and to have ongoing conversations about issues that affect us all. We were so pleased to welcome over 40 parents at our October meeting. Parents commented that the meeting was very informative and helpful. Please consider attending our next meeting on Monday, November 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the library. At this meeting, there will be a school update from the Administration, the Guidance Department, and the Student Council. We will also have a presentation from the Toronto Public Library regarding programs that are available to the community.

We hope to see you there!

Ms. Sandy Kaskens

Upcoming P.A. Day Friday November 15th

There will be no school on Friday November 15th, as this is a Professional Activity Day for all staff. Staff will spend the day in professional development activities. School will resume on Monday November 18th, day 3 schedule.
We Day 2019

On September 19, 2019, the executive members of the WE Take Action Council had the wonderful opportunity of attending the annual WE Day Toronto event at the Scotiabank Arena. This celebration hosted audience from all over the city, including youth, educators and families, all in attendance to commemorate the year of action that changed the lives of many unfortunate across the world.

From an exciting lineup of guest speakers consisting of Rupi Kaur, David Suzuki, Nav Bhatia, Sarain Fox and many more, to seeing the WE Foundation’s very own founders Marc and Craig Kielburger, the students were greatly moved by the variety of real stories of change that were connected to global issues. By celebrating the differences that WE has created thus far in developing communities, the students now feel empowered to keep enduring against the odds of worldwide poverty. The team left the event with great inspiration and now have an expanded vision for the upcoming school year.

*WE Take Action Executives*

Girls Field Hockey

The girls field hockey team had an outstanding season playing in Tier 1. They kicked it off with their traditional tournament at U. of T., then played 4 regular season games, clinching a semi-final spot due to their 2 -1 -1 record. It was a close final and the girls battled until the end but could not put that orange ball into the net. We are so proud of all our girls and how far they have come and developed. Thanks to our goalie Anika Edward for 4 shutouts, goal scorers Jade Harris, Vivida Lin, Shirley Su and Sharon Su, and finally our seniors, Natasha Naorem, Belle Ouyang and Amy Zheng for being role models and holding down the fort at the back. The whole team demonstrated amazing sportsmanship and represented Bethune spectacularly. *"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."* Look forward to seeing you all back on the field next year!

*Ms. Aziz*
Arts Department News

Congratulations to the students in the Arts Department who received awards at our annual Awards Ceremony. During the event, the Wind Ensemble also had their first performance of the year. The band performed two pieces for the staff, students and parents in attendance.

In October, our Senior Drama students worked with Dennis Bush, award winning playwright, during a three day workshop at Bethune.

From Wednesday, November 27 to Friday, November 29, the Bethune Arts Department will travel north for their annual retreat. We will hold our camp at the Geneva Park YMCA Conference Centre on the shores of Lake Couchiching. This beautiful conference centre has excellent rooms and rehearsal halls, extensive grounds for outdoor activities, a lovely dining room and a very accommodating administrative staff.

While at Geneva Park, all of our students will enjoy team building activities, and recreation activities. Our music students will enjoy rehearsals, master classes, and workshops, with an outstanding guest faculty of musicians and conductors. Our camp faculty will feature conductors: Pratik Gandhi, from the Rouge River Winds, and Sharon Fitzsimmons, retired music teacher from Barrie. Brad Barnham, assistant conductor of the Bach Children’s Chorus, will be working with all of our vocal students. Visual Arts students will be working with artist William Ho, who is best known for his Chinese brush paintings and sculptures.

The experiences that our Arts students are being offered are an outstanding opportunity to develop creativity, leadership and teamwork in a unique setting. They also provide our students with extensive learning activities to help prepare for their upcoming Winter Music Night (Dec. 12), music festivals, TDSB Creates, National Theatre School Drama Festival and Art shows.

Ms. Kilbride

Bethune Awards Assembly—October 2, 2019

True belonging doesn’t require us to change who we are. It requires us to be who we are.”
Life in Spanish at Bethune

Hola Bethune! It has been a great fall for all things Spanish. Throughout the last several weeks we have been celebrating Ontario Hispanic heritage month. The Spanish Club hosted many events including European Day of Languages, our famous guacamole contest, a Día de los Muertos party and coming soon will be our Piñata Celebration.

Our Grade 10 and 11 Spanish students will also participate in an excursion to Kensington Market and El Rancho restaurant where they will have the opportunity to try authentic Spanish Paella, deliciosa! Also, for the first time at Bethune, the grade 12 Spanish students will be participating in a Choscosol tour. They will discover the history and culture surrounding the incredible world of ‘el chocolate’! Stay tuned for more news to come. Hasta pronto!

Ms. Tibbet

Senior Drama Retreat – Student Perspective

For the second year in a row, I have had the opportunity to attend the Senior Drama Retreat in Studio T102, with the amazing writer, acting coach and fantastic person Dennis Bush. Mr. Bush has published over 40 plays that have been performed around the world. He is a sought-after writer and consultant for theatre, film and television. Getting the chance to even discuss dramatic ideas, acting, and writing is already quite a moving experience with Mr. Bush, but his workshops go beyond just talking about it. Mr. Bush comes prepared to teach. First and foremost, he cares so much for the Bethune drama students he met last year, that he took the time to write a whole play for this year’s submission to the National Theatre School Drama Festival for us. The play, entitled Almost True, is wonderfully written, with thoughtful dialogue and characters. I can’t wait to begin working on the staging. As well as this play being a priceless gift for Dennis to give this year’s senior Drama class, that’s not all he gave us during our retreat. Dennis, who is a professional in this industry with a seemingly endless amount of insight, also gave us the opportunity to create scenes based on prompts that he prepared in advance. He gave us the chance to present dialogues, create original scenes and perform monologues in special workshops, while he gave critical and impactful advice. During this process he helped shape how we can approach a dramatic text in the future.

At the end of the retreat, what we truly took away from these workshop, is that we have to think about a character’s motivation. There are no characters within dramatic works that do not have a motivation or reason behind their actions, thoughts, words, and body language. This, more than anything else, is necessary to know in order to attempt acting or writing. This invaluable knowledge that Dennis shared, will be used as an important tool when working on the play that he wrote for us. All of us in the senior drama class truly appreciate Mr. Bush’s generosity and kindness and we look forward to staging Almost True in February 2020.

Matthew Hernandez, Grade 12 Drama Student
Senior Drama Retreat Photos:
Chef à l’école

Bonjour Bethune! On Monday October 21st, the grade 10 French students had a unique culinary experience. We had the pleasure of a visit from Chef Rachel, an outstanding French Canadian chef. Room A109 was transformed into a fully functioning kitchen where the students enjoyed making a classic French Canadian dessert, “Les pets de soeurs”, which can be roughly translated to “nun’s pastries”. The halls were filled with the glorious aroma of the pastries which attracted some curious and hungry visitors. In addition to communicating in French, there were many opportunities for the students to be involved. The lesson concluded with the students listened to French Canadian stories while sipping on apple tea and savouring the tasty desserts. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed this fabulous interactive cultural experience. Merci Bethune!

Mme Barrile

Intraumurals Begin!

We had a solid turn out this year for our first intramural of the season - basketball. With 20 teams total, there were many exciting games to go around. A big congratulations to our Girls, Jr. Boys and Sr. Boys champs!! Stay tuned for info about our next sport....