Hello Bethune Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2019/20 school year! We have had a great start. We have welcomed approximately 280 grade 9s and have organized a number of activities to help them adjust to high school and get the most out of it. Our senior students have been impressed with their enthusiasm and their willingness to ask questions and seek assistance when needed.

Our first Parent Council meeting is on Tuesday, October 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the library. Our meetings are informative and they are an excellent way for parents to meet other parents and to provide the school with valuable feedback and input. Please consider attending our regular meetings!

We are looking forward to our Annual Awards Assembly on Wednesday, October 2nd. Over 100 students will be recognized for their achievement and leadership from last year. Finally, as we begin a new school year, I’d like to encourage parents to get involved. We welcome your feedback, and want to work with you and your child. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or email the school. Please visit our website (www.bethuneci.com) for all contact and email information. You are also welcome to complete an on-line form (through our website) if have any concerns (under “Parent” tab, and “Report a Concern”).

You can look forward to our newsletter every month for information about programs and up-coming events.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sandy Kaskens, Principal

P.A. Day & Holiday, October 11th and October 14th

There will be no school on Friday October 11th, as this is a Professional Activity Day for all staff. Monday October 14th is a school holiday, Thanksgiving Day. School will resume on Tuesday October 15th, day 4 schedule.

Fall Sports Have Begun!

Our Fall Sports season has kicked off with a variety of sports, including girls’ field hockey, girls’ basketball, girls’ golf, girls’ Frisbee, boys’ rugby 7s, boys’ volleyball and cross country. We are taking advantage of the beautiful weather and we wish all our teams good luck on their season. Stay tuned for updates in the next newsletter.

Ms. Aziz
Bethune Arts Update

The Arts department teachers have been busy planning an amazing year for the Bethune students. There are many opportunities for students to get involved in the areas of Visual Arts, Dramatic Arts, and Music. Students can join Art Club, multiple musical ensembles, Drama Club, and leadership groups. Our student leadership groups, the Bethune Music Council and Bethune Creative Council, have accepted applications for new members. Our teachers have been working together to create enriching and educational experiences for our student community. We are excited about our annual Arts Retreat which takes place November 27-28, 2019. We will be travelling to YMCA Geneva Park in Orillia. Permission forms will be available from our teachers in the coming weeks.

Visual Art News:

Mr. Chard and Ms. Rappos, our Art teachers, have been supplying art kits to students in grade 9 and asking senior students to enhance their art kits. Kits must be paid for using School Cash Online.

ESL Students Explore Nature

The ESL students had the opportunity to experience Canada's nature at its finest during their visits to Forest Valley Outdoor Education Centre. They were introduced to Canadian animals and plant life and got to venture out into the forest which included crossing a bridge over the Don River. Students found beautiful cardinals, made their own cedar tea and even started their own fires! Lunch consisted of delicious fire-roasted hot dogs and some very sweet marshmallows. Students played team games and got to know each other better all while practicing their English skills!

Drama News:

Ms. Rzeznicek has exciting things planned for the students enrolled in drama this year including performances at TDSB Creates, National Theatre School Drama Festival and our school. In October, we are welcoming back Dennis Bush to work with our senior drama students for a 3-day workshop.

Music News:

September has been a busy month around the music wing. By this time, students have all been assigned instruments, grade 9 vocal students are getting used to their morning class schedule and our rehearsals are in full swing. Our students have a few ways to keep informed with their class assignments and schedule of rehearsals; i) the monthly calendar in C-Wing shows all the rehearsal times and locations, ii) our Facebook and Twitter Feeds are updated regularly, iii) most music classes have a Google Classroom that they have been asked to join.

On Friday, September 13, the Bethune Music Council welcomed our new grade 9 music students with a lunch time social. We had a wonderful turnout with many new faces, music, photos and freezies. The BMC will be interviewing potential new members this week. Good luck to all students.
Student Services Events:

A great big welcome from the Bethune Guidance Department to all the new students in our Bethune family… especially all of our awesome grade 9s!!

In October, we have many events for all students, to learn about their opportunities after high school. Please mark them in your calendars and save the date.

**Thurs. Oct. 3 – Gr. 12 Post-Secondary Assembly (Per. 2):** We will be speaking to our gr 12s about Post-Secondary opportunities and how to research, plan and apply.

**Thurs. Oct. 10th – College Panel & Fair (Per. 2 & Lunch):** Our GTA colleges will be having a panel presentation at Bethune for interested students to find out more about what they have to offer…diplomas, degrees & joint programs.

**Thurs. Oct. 17th 6:30pm-9pm: College & University Information Night:** The University and GTA College reps will all be coming to Bethune to speak to our students and parents about their programs, facilities, supports and admissions. Parents and students of all grades 9-12 are invitees!! Last year, we had a packed house and we're expecting a huge turnout this year as well.

**Oct. 23rd–Oct. 24th – Ontario College Fair@ Enercare Centre:** for more info, check out [www.ocif.ca](http://www.ocif.ca)

SAC Welcome

On behalf of the Student Administrative Council (SAC), I would like to welcome everyone to the 2019-2020 school year! SAC is a student run leadership organization that is responsible for planning and hosting school wide events and acting as the voice of the student body.

The past few weeks have been very exciting for Bethune, especially our Grade 9s. To welcome our new Grade 9 students, we have held many spirit events. On September 19th, we had our annual Grade 9 BBQ where all Grade 9 homeroom classes participated in games and activities followed by a BBQ lunch. Our Bethune Reps prepared the food and BLAZE livened the atmosphere with some music. It was a day filled with lots of fun!

On September 24th, the Grade 9 students spent a day at Adventure Valley Camp where they got to participate in team building and leadership activities. At the end of the month, the SAC held elections to elect two new students to be the Grade 9 Representatives on the Council.

As the year is just beginning, SAC is currently planning some exciting events which include Spirit Week, Halloween Haunt and a costume contest. We know the students are looking forward to participating in the events SAC has in store and we cannot wait for Bethune’s school spirit to reach new heights this year! Until then, sit back and enjoy the month of October!

*Gayathiri Suweenthiran, SAC Secretary*

Second Harvest at Bethune

Last spring our students supported a fundraising campaign for Toronto’s Second Harvest. Second Harvest is a charity that rescues mostly perishable foods and delivers them to food banks, meal programs, children’s breakfast programs, community centers, drop-in centers, summer camps, women’s shelters, homeless shelters and centres for addiction and mental health treatment. Bethune raised $1756 during the campaign, which creates 3512 meals for our community. Well done Bethune!

*Mrs. Houghton, Vice-Principal*
Phishing Emails to Students

Similar to events in December 2018, some students have received a Phishing email message saying their account has been hacked and instructing them to transfer money to a particular Bitcoin account or a video will be sent to all their email and social media contacts. This message appears to be sent from the student email address to him/herself and, so far, has appeared in the student’s TDSB Gmail account. This is a known issue and students should delete any phishing messages of this nature.

If the student or parents feel the need to report any phishing messages, they can be advised to call the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501. The Toronto Police should only be contacted if the message was acted upon, e.g. Social Insurance Number was shared, money was paid, etc..

Students in Grade 9-12 can use Password Manager to reset their own passwords:
https://pmgr.tdsb.on.ca/PMuser

Know how to talk with your teen

- Cannabis & the Law
- Managing Use
- Risks & consequences
- Parent/Caregiver resources
- Youth Substance Abuse Program

Tuesday, October 15, 2019
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Dr. Norman Bethune Collegiate Institute
200 Fundy Bay Blvd, Scarborough M1W 3G1

To inquire, please contact Julia, your school settlement worker at 647-296-6572