

# Dr. Norman Bethune C.I. Newsletter

February 2017

Principal S. Kaskens

Vice-Principals N. Dyal, L. Pagnotta



## Principal's News

I would like to wish all of you happiness and good health for 2017 as well as a happy Lunar New Year – Year of the Rooster! Since we've returned from the winter holiday, we've been preparing for many upcoming events. Our next parent council is on Monday, February 6 at 7:00 p.m. We will cover many school updates at this meeting, and your input is important. Please consider attending. We have also been accepting optional attendance applications for the 2017/18 school year and decision letters will be mailed out to prospective Bethune students during the first week of February. It's hard to believe that we are already preparing for another school year! Students have been involved in the course selection process and are expected to have chosen their courses

by the middle of February. You are encouraged to discuss course selections with your son/daughter to ensure that they have chosen courses that will align with their post-secondary plans, as well as their interests and strengths. Bethune is also planning to offer a local summer school program again this year during the month of July. We are hoping to offer full credit courses in: grade 10 History, grade 12 Math (Advanced Functions), grade 12 English, and perhaps a grade 11 Leadership Course. Students will receive this information in the coming weeks and will have an opportunity to sign up. Information will also be available on the website. As usual, if you have any suggestions or feedback, please do not hesitate to call or email the school.

*Ms. Kaskens*

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### Upcoming Events

- ◆ Interim Report Card Distribution
- ◆ Semi-Formal

## Interim Report Cards

Students will be receiving their interim report cards on Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please be aware that this is not an official Ministry report card, but rather a progress report (mark to date). However, these are the 1<sup>st</sup> set of marks that will be uploaded to colleges and universities for those who have applied. Please take a moment to review your child's report card. If you have any concerns with your child's progress in

any of his/her classes, please feel free to contact the teacher to discuss your concerns by phone or email.



## No School - February 17 & 20

This is just a reminder that there will be no classes for students on Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup> as it is a PA Day and that the school will be closed on Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> for Family Day.





## Feliz 2017!

It has been a great kickoff to the year for all things Spanish at Bethune. Spanish Club hosted piñata making sessions for the whole school where students had the opportunity to unleash their creativity while celebrating Mexican Culture. Also, all grade 10 Spanish students discovered the Hispanic wonders of Kensington Market where they indulged in Churros and other treats. They also enjoyed Latin dance lessons and Spanish paella! Qué delicioso!

*Ms. Tibbet*



## Music Department News

The Bethune music students have a busy February schedule. The Grade 9 Concert Band and Senior Band are performing at the Ontario Band Festival at Le Parc (8432 Leslie Street) on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>; Grade 9's at 6:00 p.m. and the Senior Band at 8:10 p.m. This is a free performance and it is open to the public. Students must arrange their own transportation home. Busing will be provided to get them there.

The Jazz Band competes as part of the MusicFest Canada on Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at Humber College; Lakeshore Campus with a performance time of 2 p.m. on their main stage.

The Bethune Festival Singers perform at the Ontario Vocal Festival at Mayfield SS in Caledon on Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:20 a.m. This is also a free concert.

All vocal students are also preparing for their performance at Massey Hall as part of the 66<sup>th</sup> annual Sounds of Toronto Concert on Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

The Bethune Spring Concert will be at the Flato Markham Theatre on Monday April 10<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you at upcoming performances.

*Music Department*



## DECA

The Bethune DECA team will be competing at this school year's second competition, the 38<sup>th</sup> annual DECA Ontario Provincial Competition. It will be held at the Toronto Sheraton Centre from February 9-11 where over 6000 students will compete in case studies, business plans and attend conferences and leadership development workshops. Achievement at this competition will earn students the right to represent our

school and Canada to compete at the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Anaheim, California in April. Good luck to all our competitors!

Congratulations to Jing Zhong and Joyce Dao who ranked 25<sup>th</sup> in the DECA Stock Market Game – North Atlantic Region. They have now qualified to compete at the international competition.

*Ms. Yeung*

## Chinese Association

Happy Lunar New Year and welcome to the Year of the Rooster! Bethune's Chinese Association would like to wish everyone a very happy new year with good fortune, good health and prosperity!

This year, Chinese Association is once again bringing some new year's festivities to the school! We decorated the school with beautiful lanterns and Chinese couplets; there was a new year's carnival from January 25-27 full of activities for students to play in the cafeteria at lunch. On

January 30, red pockets with chocolate loonie coins were distributed to students wishing everyone lots of good luck!

On February 3, in collaboration with Bethune ESL Mentors, it is our Chinese New Year Night Event! It will take place after school in the cafeteria from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. Students will be showing off their many talents with musical and drama performances!

*Ms. Yeung*



## Self-Defense

Our Grade 9 girls' self-defense classes wrapped up last Thursday and Friday with an attack day - way to go girls!!! The ladies learned so much and have gained a wealth of knowledge from this program. Our Grade 9 boys and senior classes are taking part in the program this coming week and we thank SAFE International for another great stint at Bethune.

*Ms. Aziz*



## Business Department News

We are very excited to offer students the opportunity to enroll in a new program at Bethune - Business SHSM Specialist High Skills Major (pending approval from the Ministry of Education, upon approval program will begin September 2017).

A SHSM program lets students focus their studies on a specific sector that interests them, career exploration, receive special training and certification while working towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). Upon completion of this specialized program, students will be recognized with a Red Seal Diploma at graduation.

The Business SHSM program will offer opportunities for students to develop entrepreneurial, managerial and financial management skills while focusing their

learning through a variety of Business Studies courses. Students will gain knowledge and develop career-related skills such as problem solving, effective communication, teamwork, leadership, innovation and creativity so that they can be better prepared for the world of work, post-secondary studies and future careers. More information will be given to students during option selection time this month. An information session will be held on Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at lunch in Room B207. This program is open to students who will be in Grade 11 or Grade 12 next year. Please feel free to contact any business studies teacher if you have any questions. Applications are due February 16<sup>th</sup> to Ms. Yeung or the Business Office.

*Ms. Yeung*



## Healthy Schools

On Monday January 16<sup>th</sup>, two therapy dogs visited our school! They trotted into the Commons for students to pet and admire at lunch time. By the looks of the faces plastered with smiles, we are certain that after meeting the dogs, the students felt relieved of any stress in that moment and those feelings were replaced with companionship and joy thereafter. Thank you Myca and Snowy for visiting Bethune!

Bethune's Fresh Start was a week-long event that allowed students to revitalize and prepare for the new semester and new year ahead. We wanted to focus not only on physical health but mental health and emotional health as well. To do this, we organized five events, one on each day of the week. On Monday we held an event called Resolution Revolution, where students were able to write their goals on a banner to be hung in the school. On Tuesday, we had a booth for art therapy which included slime-making, colouring, and finger painting. For students to increase their self-understanding, we had fortune telling and

personality tests on Wednesday. On Thursday, students were able to relax, drink green tea, and play cards with their friends. Lastly, Friday was a day to promote healthy eating, so we sold two types of healthy smoothies! The events were run by the Healthy Schools executives as well as the members, who contributed their time, posters, announcements, and effort in making Bethune's Fresh Start a success.

*Healthy Schools Executives*





## Bethune is Literacy!

February is a busy month in the library! White Pine book club continues and the books keep flying off the shelves! [Click here](#) to preview this year's White Pine Book selections. This month's meeting is on February 24<sup>th</sup> during lunch in the library. All are welcome to drop in.

February is **African Heritage month!** Our library has a wonderful collection of books to celebrate and promote African Heritage. These are put on display for students and staff to enjoy. We have the latest from important authors like Lawrence Hill and Austin Clarke.

In January, it was our pleasure to collaborate with the Geography department to help students learn about copyright, citation and how to find and use free images using Creative Commons. This exemplifies how school libraries can play an important role in helping students become effective and responsible digital citizens.

This month we are gearing up to help Grade 10 students prepare for the upcoming EQAO **Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test**. This year the test is scheduled on **Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>**. During the week of February **(Feb. 21-24)**, all grade 10

students will visit the library for an OSSLT orientation with their grade 10 Civics and Careers classes. The orientation will go over the format and layout of the test, the specific skills that will be assessed; the types of questions on the test, tips on how answer the questions effectively, the EQAO literacy terms and where to find extra online resources to prepare. During the orientation, all students will receive a folder of resources to take home to help them prepare for the test. Orientation week will be followed by **Cross Curricular Literacy week (Feb.27-Mar.3)**. Students will have the opportunity to practice literacy strategies and specific parts of the test in various grade 10 subjects. Students are encouraged to visit the [Bethune C.I. Literacy website](#). It has preparation guides, practice tests from previous years with answers and exemplars, and other links and resources that will help. There are two easy ways to find this website:

- 1) From Bethune's AW site → at the bottom under "Links" is [Bethune CI Literacy](#)
- 2) From [www.bethuneci.com](http://www.bethuneci.com) → Library → Bethune Literacy OSSLT practice

*Ms. Katrivanos*

