

Dr. Norman Bethune C.I. Newsletter

March 2017

Principal S. Kaskens

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ EQAO Literacy Test - March 30
- ◆ Be Well Bethune Week Kick-off Assembly



Principal's News

Dear Bethune Parents,
With spring almost upon us, we are looking forward to many events at Bethune. Every year, during the first week of March, Bethune celebrates "Random Acts of Kindness Week". Students and staff are encouraged to find ways to be kind and generous to each other, for no reason at all, except that it is a wonderful way to build a sense of community and friendship. In that past, students have found post-it notes on their lockers with words of encouragement, the staff have been given coffee and thank you cards from the SAC, entire classes have been visited by other classes delivering treats, the list goes on!

Kindness Week ends with the much anticipated March Break (March 13-17). We hope that students can use

this time to enjoy a well-deserved break from their studies, and can return rejuvenated and ready to take on the last portion of the school year. Finally, parents are reminded that the EQAO literacy test will be administered on March 30 for all eligible students. Classes are not scheduled for this day. We will be providing snacks for all participating students. For more information on the literacy test, parents can visit Bethune's website, or www.eqao.com.

Ms Kaskens



No School - March Break

This is just a reminder that the March Break runs from March 13 – 17 inclusive. We hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable break and we look forward to seeing everyone on Monday, March 20.

French Fun!

This year again, all our grade 10 students celebrated *Mardi Gras* with fun activities, music and fancy treats! Last month, on February 28, we gathered together at lunch time to celebrate this old festival traceable to medieval Europe in the XVII century and reaching New Orleans in Louisiana in the XVIII century. We may not have had the lavish street processions of maskers with

carriages and horseback riders that can be seen in cities in the francophone world at this time, but our students prepared dazzling masks and followed the *Mardi Gras* tradition of wearing gold, green and purple colours and the *Zydeco* music made for a great ambience and lots of fun!

On aime bien s'amuser! Mardi Gras, c'est chouette!

Mme Focseneau



French in Action: Trip to Saint-Donat, Quebec

Bonjour à tous! What a super fun time was had by all the grades 10 and 11 French students who travelled to Quebec last month! Saint-Donat is surrounded by 115 acres of woodland where we were given ample opportunities to enjoy winter at its best. The truly Canadian winter - lots of snow! - the enthusiasm of the participants, the beauty of Mont Garceau and the variety of the activities from winter sports of all kinds (downhill and cross-country skiing, skating, snowboarding, tubing, snowshoeing) to French language workshops on diverse cultural and environmental topics, to cooperative games, to making and recording music, the entertainment generously provided to us by professional, local comedians and

musicians and, last but not least, the Quebec *cuisine*, all contributed to a one of a kind experience no one is likely to forget!
Quebec, we'll be back!

Mme Focseneau



French in Action: Gr. 11 French ECOLOODI Workshop

Bonjour à tous! Great French news at Bethune!

Our students were given an opportunity to participate in an educational and interactive workshop adapted to the curriculum and focusing on the preservation of water resources and aquatic ecosystems in today's world. We welcomed at Bethune ECOLOODI, a non-profit organization which introduced a variety of water-related issues engaging our students in interesting and awareness raising activities through short videos, role plays and discussions. The diverse topics presented during the workshop were the starting point for

research projects that students will share at a *table ronde* to be held during the *Water Week* this month.

Bon travail, Bethune!

Mme Focseneau



Shades of Our Sisters

On our February PD Day, thirty-one students in grade 11 and 12, from Visual Arts, Media Studies, and Social Science travelled to Ryerson University to view a special exhibit called Shades of our Sisters. The exhibit focused on the issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Transgendered, and Two-spirited people, by focusing on the lives of two murdered indigenous women Patricia Carpenter and Sonya Cywink. Students viewed two short documentaries about each girl, and then had time to move around the multimedia exhibition and look at artifacts from their lives, including home videos, toys, pictures, letters, among other things. In December, students in Media Studies, and Social Science created feathers that would be used as part of this exhibit. The goal was to collect 1200 feathers to represent each of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous

Women, Girls, Transgendered, and Two-spirited people. Students from Bethune (and across Canada) included messages of support for the women in their lives, messages which focused on ways to prevent violence against in their community, and stories of lessons learned by the women in their lives, on each of these feathers. These feathers were included as part of a medicine wheel, which was at the center of the exhibit. Students from Bethune really enjoyed trying to find their feathers on the medicine when they had time to travel around the exhibit. For many students this exhibit served as an opportunity to do some research into the issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, as these classes will be participating in a similar multimedia installation at Bethune on March 9.

Ms Blom



Music Department News

On February 14 over 200 Bethune music students participated in the Ontario Band Association Music Festival.

The Grade 9 Concert Band under the baton of Andria Kilbride scored a Gold and Silver Award Rating with their performances of Horkstow Grange by Percy Grainger and Ghost Dancing by Brant Karrick. Congratulations to Matthew Liu who received the Music Leadership award for the Concert Band. Special thanks to our soloists: Sam Li and Jay Wu on Trumpet and the entire percussion section for their great performance in Ghost Dancing. The Concert Band also received an "Overall Outstanding Performance" award from the adjudicators that was presented at an awards ceremony on Friday, February 17.

The Wind Ensemble conducted by Paul Sylvester received two Silver Awards for their performances of The Second Suite for Band by Gustav Holst and Tir Na Nog by Carl Strommen. Congratulations to Lei Yu who received the Music Leadership award for the Wind Ensemble. Special thanks go to the following students for their solo work in the performance: Melissa Wong - piccolo, Cindy Li - Clarinet, Richard Zhang Clarinet, Thomas Cheng - Bass Clarinet, Sharon Sun - Oboe, Stephanie Liang - Bassoon, Jack Zuo - Alto Sax, Wenson Gan - Alto Sax, Lei Yu - Trumpet, Frank Zhong - Tuba and the

Trip to Kearney

For three days in January, Mr. Mueller and I had the pleasure of bringing 21 Bethune students from the Senior Geography classes and the Bethune Camping Club to the Scarborough Outdoor Education Centre, otherwise known at KEARNEY!

We had three days of outdoor learning which included tobogganing, snowshoeing, orienteering, survival firestarting and shelter building, nighttime cross-country skiing by torchlight, and solo night hiking. It was a marvelous time filled with outdoor learning, cooperation, and a little bit of risk-taking. Students who attended were, at times, pushed to their limits yet conquered their own personal challenges with a smile by the end of it all.

entire Baritone section. Congratulations to the Senior Band Percussion section who were amazing throughout the evening.

On February 22 the Bethune Stage Band competed at Music Fest Canada at Humber College. They received 2 Silver awards. The band performed Bernie's Tune, Sweet Dreams, and Uptown Funk. Thanks to our soloists: Wenson Gan & Jack Zuo on Alto Sax, Joyce Dao on Tenor Sax, Ben Guan on Trumpet and Kingson Fung on Piano.

Please check out our performances at our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/DrNBethuneMusicDept/

All these ensembles have been invited to perform at the MusicFest Nationals in Niagara Falls in May 16 & 17.

The Bethune Festival Singers perform at the Ontario Vocal Festival on Monday March 6 at Mayfield SS in Caledon. They will also perform at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music High School Choral Festival on Tuesday April 4. All of our vocal students will perform at the 66th annual Sounds of Toronto Concert at Massey Hall on Thursday, April 6 at 7:00 pm.

We have a date change for our Bethune Spring Concert at the Flato Markham Theatre. Our new date is Tuesday, May 2 at 7:00 pm.

Music Department

Mr. Mueller and I want to thank the students who attended for being so amazing. The SOES staff commented numerous times about how fantastic you were -- so much so that they want us back again next year! You made us proud to be Bethune staff. Thank you to each and every one of you.

Ms Tutchener





DECA

During February 9-11, many of our students in DECA competed in the 38th annual DECA Ontario Provincial Competition at the Sheraton Centre. They competed against over 7000 high school students from all over Ontario. They had a really great experience and lots of fun visiting downtown Toronto. The Bethune DECA team brought back 23 finalists medals and 3 plaques for top 7 finalists!

Congratulations to all our 48 members of Bethune DECA who competed in this competition for all their accomplishments. We are proud of ALL of you!

Congratulations to the following students who were finalists in their events:

- Amy Zhao - Restaurant Food Service Management
- Emily Yip - Principles of Business Management

Social Work Week

Social Work Week is being celebrated at the TDSB from March 6th – 10th. It is an annual recognition across Canada in March highlighting the role and contribution of the profession in providing services to the public. This year's theme is, **SOCIAL WORKERS: Real EXPERTISE. Real LIFE. Real IMPACT.** (www.oasw.org)

School Social Workers can help students,

Brian Chatland Park

Mr. Brian Chatland was a lifelong educator and coach and former vice-principal at Dr. Norman Bethune CI. He passed away in October of 2013 but his memory continues to live on. Recently the City of Markham approved a motion to name a park in his honour.

The park is located in the Cornell Community just north of the Markham Stouffville Hospital.

- Annie Wang - Buying and Merchandising
- David Ye - Human Resources Management
- Thomas Cheng and Karen Tan - Marketing Team Decision Making
- Jasmine Tong 9th Place - Principles of Marketing
- Kelly Tang 8th Place - Professional Selling
- Oriana Wong 7th Place - Business Services Marketing
- Emily Zhang 5th Place - Principles of Finance
- Jessica Chan 1st Place - Marketing Communications

Best of luck to our 10 delegates competing at the DECA International Career Development Conference in Anaheim, California April 24 - May 1!

Ms Yeung

families and/or schools with a wide variety of services such as, but not limited to, individual counselling, group counselling, community referrals, advocacy, multicultural outreach and parenting skills.

If you have any questions or need support, please contact the Guidance Office or contact me directly at 416-737-5243.

Lenka Covelli, School Social Worker

