

Dr. Norman Bethune C.I. Newsletter

May 2017

Principal S. Kaskens

Vice-Principals N. Dyal, L. Pagnotta



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Upcoming Events

- ◆ SAC BBQ
- ◆ SAC Elections

Principal's News

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On Tuesday, May 8th, Bethune's Parent Council will be meeting for the final time for this school year. On behalf of the Parent Council, I would like to invite all parents to attend and contribute to our pot-luck dinner. During the meeting, we will go over all the school's end-of-year events and our plans for the 2017-18 school year. Our parent group has grown considerably, and I would like to thank our co-chairs, Terry Koo and David Tan, for their support this year. We will continue to reach out to the parent community to ensure that parents are well-informed of school events, and can offer feedback and suggestions for school improvement.

For those parents who have students in grade 12, your son/daughter has received an invitation to Commencement, which will take place on June 29 at the Toronto Chinese Community Church. We encourage you to attend to celebrate your son/daughter's graduation.

Parents are also invited to attend a Ward Forum on Equity. The TDSB is hosting a series of sessions that bring

No School - Monday, May 22nd

This is just a reminder that there will be no classes for students on Monday, May 22nd as it is the Victoria Day holiday. Classes will resume on Tuesday, May 23rd. Enjoy the long weekend!

together school communities to talk about strategies that will improve equity for all. These sessions will explore equity, consider what work has already happened in the school to improve equity, and help address the question: what's keeping us from doing more? Parents can register using the following link:

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/HowtoGetInvolved/EnhancingEquityTaskForce/EquityWardForums.asp>

Food, refreshments, interpreter, and childcare are provided.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Let us make our future now,
and let us make our dreams
tomorrow's reality.*

~Malala Yousafzai



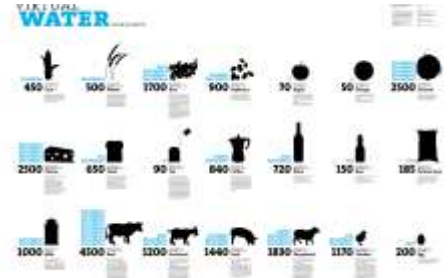
French in Action: Bethune EcoSchool Portfolio



We are so happy that as part of their portfolio for the TDSB EcoSchools Platinum audit, the staff advisors of the Bethune Environmental Action Team (BEAT) decided to include a few of the essays that our grade 11 French students wrote following the ECOLOODI workshop. The essays dealt with a wide array of topics, such as Virtual Water, Plastics in the Oceans, Fresh Water Resources in the World, Access to Drinking Water in Africa, Access to Water Treatment Plants in Africa, Natives People's Access to Water Sources, Water Systems in France, Canada and Bénin. EcoSchools certification at the

Platinum level is a much coveted award by the TDSB which recognizes student, staff, and community commitments to sustainability. We are proud to contribute, in our small way, to Bethune's status as a Platinum EcoSchool! **Bon travail Bethune!**

Mme Focseneau



Music Department News



The Bethune Festival Singers performed at the 66th annual Sounds of Toronto Concert at Massey Hall on Thursday, April 6. The Bethune combined choir joined 16 other choirs from across the city to sing a Medley from Rent as part of the Grand Finale of the concert.

at 7:00 pm. Tickets have been distributed to all students, and will be available at the door on the night of the concert.

On Thursday April 19, Bethune hosted a Mini Band Festival for Kennedy PS, David Lewis PS, Lucy Maud Montgomery PS, and Terraview Willowfield PS. Our adjudicator was Professor Mary Ann Fratia from the University of Toronto who worked with each band after they performed. At the conclusion of the Band Festival, the Bethune Wind Ensemble performed for all 250 visiting students.

Over the past fifteen years, Bethune ensembles have performed very well in Regional and National competitions. This year 104 students will perform at the MusicFest National Competition in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Our performing groups include: Festival Singers, Jazz Band and the Wind Ensemble. We have planned an overnight trip departing Bethune on the morning Tuesday, May 16th and returning late on the evening of Wednesday, May 17th.



Please check out all of our pictures and performances at our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/DrNBethuneMusicDept/

Mr. Sylvester

The Bethune Spring Concert at the Flato Markham Theatre is on **Tuesday, May 2**

Bethune Wins Gold in Badminton



After a year of no Badminton in the East Region, Bethune Badminton's resurrection did not disappoint. We conquered our rival school teams with a gold medal finish in the East Region. We also finished first in the overall boys division, second in the overall girls division and another second in the overall mixed doubles division. After a successful East Regional tournament, we sent five teams to the City Championships on April 26th at the Pan Am Centre in Markham. After finishing several grueling matches, Cassidy Li reached her goal of finishing fifth in the Girls Singles Division and Alan Zhang finished with a bronze medal in the Boys Singles division. However, our season does not end at the City Championships! Heidi Jiang and Sharon

Chung will represent our school and city at OFSAA on May 4th-6th because they won Gold in the Girls Doubles Division. We are so proud of all of your accomplishments as a team. Your sportsmanship, dedication and resilience are truly inspiring. Go Bears Go!

Ms Villamin-Arenas



Be Well Bethune Week

We began our annual Be Well Bethune Week on March 31st, with a kickoff assembly hosted by guest speaker Victoria Nolan, a bronze medal Olympic rower. She shared her challenges of living with a disability and discussed the triumphs and successes she experienced through her hard work and determination. We were all inspired by her unmatched resilience!

For the week of April 3rd - 7th, the school continued with daily, wellness focused activities that served the purpose of spreading awareness about the importance of mental, emotional and physical well-being. This year's activities focused on the theme of Gratitude and all students were given a gratitude journal to colour, doodle and write in throughout the week.

We started with a mindfulness exercise for Mindful Monday followed by the movie Pay It Forward in the Commons. On Talk Tuesday, all students attended a Tedx Bethune assembly where our fellow Bethune students presented and shared their stories and perspectives on the meaning of Gratitude. Workout Wednesday inspired everyone to get active through Yoga and Open Gym and that evening, we hosted our first ever Family Badminton Night for students and family members to attend and enjoy. Thankful Thursday included many fun events such as stress ball making, Jenga, Chess and nail painting. A few of our students also went to the TDSB Health

Summit at Earl Haig to speak about our Wellness Program which was very well received by the other TDSB Schools!

We ended off the week with Friendship Friday where the English Media class hosted a Café style fundraiser in the Commons. The café collected money and food items to be donated to Syrian refugees and students who participated in this event enjoyed free refreshments, posed in the photo booth, did mindful colouring and socialized with each other. We closed our action-packed week with the beloved St. John's Ambulance Therapy Dogs. Their visit further helped students to relax and we really enjoyed having three dogs in the Commons at lunch!

It was an eventful, successful week and students really learned to cope and have fun. Thank you to all the students and teachers who were involved. We can't wait for next year's events but for now, remember to **Be Well Bethune!**

Healthy Schools Committee



Final Exams

June is just around the corner and so the Final June Examination Schedule along with Study Tips was distributed to students during their Home Form class on Thursday, April 27th. Parents should note their child's specific examination dates and times. In general, June exams begin on June 9th and

end on June 22nd. However, during this exam period, students are only required to be at school for their specified examination, on the dates and times indicated on their June Examination Schedule. Other important information about exams may be found on page 20 in the Student's Agenda.

Mr. Dyal

Feeder School Visits

On Tuesday, April 18th three of our Bethune students accompanied by Ms Villamin-Arenas visited our local feeder schools: David Lewis, Kennedy, Terry Fox and MacMillan. The purpose of this visit was to talk with the Grade 8 students who are coming to Bethune next year and let them know, from a student's perspective, what to expect of Grade 9 at Bethune.

Benson Lam, Jasmine Tong and Janet Wei did a superb job at engaging the Grade 8 students. The Grade 8s had many questions and our Bethune representatives did an excellent job answering all of them. The students are excited and enthusiastic to come to Bethune next year and be a part of our incredible community.

Mrs. Pagnotta



Bethune Hosts the GTA-CTMC Again



On the afternoon of Friday April 7, students from all over the GTA converged at Bethune for the Fourth Annual GTA-Canadian Team Math Contest (CTMC). This is the second year that our school has hosted the event and the excitement and energy that all these mathletes brought to the school was +vely electric!

The Canadian Team Math Contest is sponsored by the University of Waterloo and is a full day math competition that is held centrally at the University of Waterloo campus. The GTA-CTMC replicates the competition but at a local level. The organizers come from three schools: **Carol Miron** (Don Mills C.I.), **Judy Shanks** (Pickering H.S.) and our very own **Henry Tam**.

Invitations were extended to schools and math organizations all over the GTA and within a week registration was full! All told, we had 12 schools (two non-TDSB) and 1 math circle with a combined total of 22 teams of 6 students each. By comparison, the main event held at Waterloo only had 34 teams!

After some opening remarks in the library, the competition began in earnest with the Team Event. Half the teams stayed in the library while the rest gathered in the cafeteria. Working together in their teams, students had 45 minutes to solve 25 questions **without calculators!** At the end of the first event, all the students assembled in the cafeteria for a nutritious snack before jumping into the second event: the Individual contest.

For this part of the competition, calculators were allowed but students had to work individually to solve 10 questions in 45 minutes. The individual scores from the team members were then totaled together to obtain the team score.

The final event was the fast and furious Relay Event. Each team was subdivided into two sub-teams of 3 to form a relay chain. Each person receives a question that they must solve. However, they must pass their answer to the next person down the chain who needs that answer to complete their question which they will then pass on to the next person. Only the final answer counts so it is vital that each person in the relay gets their portion right. All this happens in 8 minutes (4 if you want a bonus score).

After the official math competition events were over, we decided to add a fun Trivia Challenge Event to offer something fun and

entertaining for our mathematicians as they waited for the competition results. Doing challenging math builds up one's appetite, so all the participants were treated to a delicious pizza dinner.

After the feast, we had our closing Award Ceremony. This year we awarded prizes to the two students who achieved a perfect score on the Individual contest: Jack Xu (Unionville H.S) and Thinula De Silva (Toronto Math Circles). We also gave prizes to the top three teams: Unionville H.S. (both teams) and Toronto Math Circles. As an added bonus, prizes were also awarded to the team that won the Trivia Challenge Event (Toronto Math Circles). Prizes were donated by the University of Waterloo and **Principal Kaskens**. All competitors received certificates of participation.

Hosting such a big event requires a lot of work and co-ordination. We are very thankful for all the student volunteers from the Bethune Math Club, Don Mills C.I. and Pickering H.S. They rearranged furniture, served food, marked papers and helped out in countless ways behind the scenes. We are also thankful for BLAZE and the caretaking staff for all their contributions.

As a way to further contribute to the community, a donation of \$100 from the proceeds of the contest was made to the fundraiser for Syrian refugees spearheaded by drama students at Bethune. Not only do we, as mathematicians, know HOW to count, we also know WHAT really counts!

Henry Tam



The 30 Hour Famine: A Fight to End World Hunger

It was in February 1971 when Ruth Roberts and 14 of her friends decided to lock themselves in a church basement for a day and a half to understand what children were experiencing during a continent-wide famine in Africa. This action drew attention to a news outlet and thus gained the support of World Vision. This movement is known as World Vision's 30 Hour Famine, and thousands of youth in Canada take part in this every year to raise awareness and fundraise to support hungry children and their families. Today, it is an international movement happening in 15 countries around the world.

On April 20th – 21st, Ms. Lac's Grade 12 World Issues class joined in on this life-changing experience. The 30 Hour Famine took place from 8:45am on April 20th until 2:45pm on April 21st. Participants of the famine had to forgo food and could only drink juice or water for 30 hours. Those who could not abstain from eating gave up their personal cellular devices (or something dear to them) for 30 hours.

Prior to the famine, participants conducted homeroom visits to inform their peers on the purpose of the famine as well as put posters around the school to promote the issue of world hunger. During the famine, the class hosted a variety of activities to raise awareness about world hunger as well as to fundraise for World Vision. Some activities included open gym, bake sales, and button making. Students also got a

chance to test their knowledge and learn more about world hunger through games like "Are You Smarter than a Ninth Grader" and "Kahoot".

The famine was a success since students are now more aware of the issue and together have fundraised over \$600 in which all proceeds go to World Vision to help hungry children and their families around the world. World Vision has six decades of experience in battling the global issue of world hunger. With donations, they can equip families with the knowledge and resources they need in order to beat hunger. This means teaching families smarter farming techniques, equipping them with better equipment and healthier livestock, improving their access to clean water, and providing malnutrition centres during a food crisis.

With just \$25 (a week's worth of lattes), you can help a family grow their own garden. For \$50, you can provide a family with two hens and a rooster (this can amount to 150 eggs a year for the family). And for \$75, you can buy a year's worth of lunch for a child.

It's not too late for those who'd still like to extend a helping hand! You can donate online at Bethune's World Issues class donation page at <https://goo.gl/QtFP6f>. Also more information about the famine can be found on the Bethune 30 Hour Famine 2017 Facebook page @bethune30hourfamine2017. Together we CAN make a difference and let's support a hunger-free world!

*Teresa Wang
Grade 12 Student*

