

Dr. Norman Bethune C.I. Newsletter

October 2016

Principal S. Kaskens

Vice-Principals N. Dyal, L. Pagnotta



Principal's News

Hello Bethune Parents/Guardians, We've had an amazing September, with record numbers of students signing up for various clubs and activities and our fall sports teams are in full swing. Parents can refer to the attached document, which is an updated version of extra-curricular opportunities available to students. Parents are also reminded of our October parent council meeting on October 17, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. Any parent who wishes to be considered for the parent council executive can email sandy.kaskens@tdsb.on.ca.

If necessary, an election will take place at the October meeting. I would also like to extend an invitation for parents to attend our Awards Assembly on October 6 at 1:30 p.m. Over 100 students will be receiving awards for the achievements last year. Those students

have been given a letter by the school and have been encouraged to invite their parents and/or friends to the ceremony. School will be dismissed that day at 1:00 p.m.

Our school trustee, Manna Wong will be holding at Ward Forum meeting on October 13 at 6:30 p.m. at David Lewis Public School. All parents are welcome to attend.

As you may be aware, many of classes this year are quite large. As a result, Bethune has been allocated additional staff, and some classes will be reduced as a result. Some students in grades 9 or 10 may have their timetable slightly adjusted as new classes are created. We appreciate your understanding and patience. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or email.

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Supportive Community Services for Parents

There are times when families need a little support and below are a few agencies in the Scarborough area that may be helpful.

Chinese Family Services of Ontario

3330 Midland Avenue, Suite 229
Scarborough, ON M1V 5E7
(416) 979-8299

Services: provides professional individual, couple and family counselling with diverse life issues; settlement services; and other mental health services.

East Metro Youth Services 'What's Up' Walk-in-Clinic

1200 Markham Road, Suite 200
Scarborough, On M1H 3C3
416-438-3697

Services: a free mental health and addictions counselling service for youth and families to help with issues like depression, bullying, sexual identify, behavioural concerns, etc. No health card or appointment needed, first come, first serve basis.

Hong Fook Mental Health Association

3320 Midland Avenue, Suite 201
Scarborough, On M1V 5E6
416-493-4242

Services: provides a continuum of mental health services such as but not limited to counselling, case management, assessment, advocacy and special English as a second language class and house services to community members with mental health problems and their families.

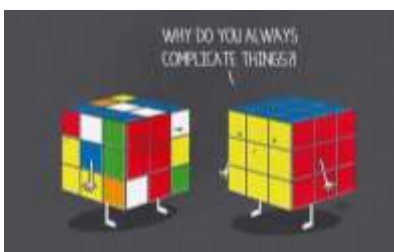
If you have questions or need additional supports, please call me, Lenka Covelli at 416-737-5243, Dr. Norman Bethune CI School Social Worker.

This month, Social Work Week is happening at the Toronto District School Board from March 7-13. Social Work Week is an annual celebration across Canada during the month of March highlighting the role and contribution of the profession in providing services to the public. This year's theme is: **Social Workers Help Turn Issues into Answers.**

Ms. Covelli, Social Worker

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Awards Assembly
- ◆ PA Day - Oct 7
- ◆ Photo Retake
- ◆ Halloween Dance
- ◆ Costume Contest



Anaphylaxis - Taking The Necessary Precautions

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that can be life threatening. This medical condition can cause a severe reaction to specific foods or other materials, and can result in death within minutes. Although foods such as peanuts, milk, eggs, and sesame seeds are the most common cause of anaphylaxis, insect stings, medicine, or latex can also cause a reaction. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. The TDSB is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and works with Toronto Public Health and other partners to ensure the successful implementation of Sabrina's Law, which came into effect on January 1, 2006.

Sabrina's Law requires every school board to establish and maintain an anaphylactic policy that includes strategies to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents in classrooms and common school areas. The TDSB has procedures for the prevention and management of anaphylactic reactions.

Ultimate Frisbee

Ultimate Frisbee Intramurals have taken off with a bang this year. There are over 100 students involved from every single grade and the teachers are involved with teams of their own. Among the most

Although this may or may not affect your child directly, we want to raise awareness about this life-threatening condition. Students who have severe allergies to such food substances are exposed to a severe health risk when such products are consumed in their environment or shared with them. As prevention is the best approach, we ask that your child not bring any lunches or snacks that contain nuts.

If your child has health problems of any kind, please inform the office staff immediately so that the necessary health protection steps may be taken and to ensure everyone's co-operation for a safe learning environment.

Whether you are living with the allergy yourself, caring for someone who is, or concerned about people in your community, more information about life threatening allergies is available on the Anaphylaxis Canada's web site at <http://www.anaphylaxis.org/> or by calling 416-785-5666.

exciting news is that the Grade 9's have jumped on board with three teams of their own.

The fun spirit filled season will run until Thanksgiving.

Mr. K. Lee

Chess Club

Chess club has returned! Chess and games are played every Thursday after school in Room A106. Students are able to challenge each other in chess matches and

other strategic games. Playing chess not only makes you smarter, it's a great way to meet people and have fun. Everyone is welcome!

Ms. Soni

Spanish at Bethune

Olé Olé Olé, school is session and Spanish is back in full swing! This is a very exciting time of year for the Spanish club at Bethune. In the last week of September we celebrated European Day of Languages, where students throughout the school had the opportunity to show off their language skills for a prize. And, since October is Hispanic Heritage month

in Ontario we will be celebrating that too! This month, our grade 11 students will attend the Latin American Film festival where they will see "Un Cuento Chino". Also, throughout the month, Spanish Club will be sharing fun facts, Latin music and Latin food with the whole school, so stay tuned! Hasta la vista!

Ms. Tibbet

Cube³

New this year is Club³! A club that challenges students' problem solving skills. If you love cubing, need a stress-relief from school work, or if you're looking for like-minded puzzle-solvers, this

is the club for you. We will meet on Thursdays in the A-Wing. New members are always welcome. Remember: Life is like a Rubiks Cube. Sometimes you have to mess it up to make it better.

Ms. Soni

Take Me Outside Week

The weather was certainly our friend for Bethune's third annual Take Me Outside Week held during the week of September 19th. This event saw Bethune teachers take over 90 classes outside to learn, connect with our school's green spaces, and to get a good dose of "Vitamin N". Students in classes from all departments were observed learning in one of our two outdoor classrooms, out on the playing field, or in many of the little alcoves of nature on the school property. Classes were also entered into a contest for a class pizza party. Congratulations to Mr. Oortwyn's class - enjoy your pizza (even better, enjoy it outside!).

Bethune's event is part of a larger initiative of Take Me Outside, a non-profit Canadian organization which seeks to connect Canadians with nature and encourages us to be cognisant of our time spent outside. Statistics show that Canadian youth are spending an average of nearly eight hours a day in front of screens (computer, TV, mobile

devices). Take Me Outside strives to change this statistic and offers a prescription for "nature-deficit disorder", ultimately for the betterment of youth mental and physical health. For more information, go to www.takemeoutside.ca

Ms. Tutchener



Music Department News

The Music Department welcomes all our new grade 9 students to the program. The grade 9 band (Concert Band) rehearses every Wednesday after school from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. Attendance in the band is strongly encouraged for students taking grade 9 music.

The Bethune Band and Choir uniform is **All Black**: Black dress shirt, black pants or knee length skirt, black shoes, black socks/stockings.

Please note that there is a date change for the Winter Music Night. Our first concert of the 2016-2017 year will be on Monday, December 12 at 7:00 pm in the Bethune Commons.

We are looking forward to our annual

Music Department Retreat at Salvation Army Conference Centre at Jackson's Point in late November. The Grade 9 retreat is from Monday, November 28 to Tuesday November 29, and the Grade 10 to 12 retreat is from Wednesday, November 30 to Friday, December 2. Jackson's Point Permission forms for all ensembles will be distributed the first week of October.

Mr. Sylvester



Passing of Mr. Joe Jonsson

It is with great sadness that we inform the Bethune community of the passing of one of our former math teachers, Mr. Joe Jonsson. Mr. Jonsson passed away suddenly on Saturday, September 24. Mr. Jonsson retired from teaching just this past June. He was a teacher for 39 years and taught at Bethune for 33 years. He stayed well beyond his retirement date because, as he said so many times, "I still

love what I do". He was a committed educator who cared deeply for his students and he taught them so well. He made math accessible to students who struggled in math and he gave them confidence, and he challenged and inspired those who excelled in math. Mr. Jonsson has had an incredible impact on so many staff and students. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Jonsson's family.



Before...



After...



New Year, New Library Learning Commons!

It has been an exciting time at Bethune's Library! Today's libraries are changing, modernizing into 21st century "Learning Commons" that better serve the needs of our students, staff and community. Library revitalization ideas for Bethune have been in the works for quite some time now and I am happy to say that last June, we were able to turn our visions into reality! We are moving towards a Learning Commons model that allows for flexible spaces for a variety of activities. We have incorporated more casual seating near windows and café style tables with charging stations. We have reconfigured shelves that were formerly long aisles into shorter units, which has opened up the space and made it brighter and more inviting. Although it is still a work in progress, staff and students have been very happy and excited over the library transformation.

In addition to exciting transformations, we have also been busy getting our library programs up and running. We have brought in all the grade nines for a library orientation where students learned how to

locate and use library resources. Our Library program emphasizes Research and Inquiry across the subjects. As part of the orientation, all new students were given their very own research handbook, *Research Success @your Library*. This is a valuable resource published by the TDSB that helps guide students in all stages of their research.

We have also been showing classes the new TDSB Virtual Library. The website has been updated over the summer and includes many amazing features and online resources. Students can access the [Virtual Library](#) from home through Academic Workspace. Passwords are required to access some of the resources from home. The passwords can be found in their agenda books on page 26.

Also, our congratulations go out to Winnie Su in grade 12!! She has won a free book in September by making a submission on the [TDSB Just Read it](#) page. Read a good book lately? Share your book recommendations on *Just Read it* for your chance to win prizes!

Ms. Katrivanos

College or University? Which Path is Right for Your Child?

Choosing a path towards post-secondary education can be an exciting and stressful time. Bethune's teachers and Guidance department are here to assist your child and your family with post-secondary planning. Colleges and universities will be running information sessions at Bethune throughout the school year. We encourage all interested parents or guardians to attend two information sessions which will be taking place this month.

The first is a College Panel that will speak to our students on Wednesday, October 12, 2016 from 10:00-11:15am.

The second is a University Information Night on Wednesday, October 19, 2016 at 6:30pm.

Both sessions will discuss valuable

information about the application process, admission requirements, specific program details, and resources. We hope to see you there!

Other things to consider:

Going to University is a popular choice for Bethune's students but the option of going to College should not be overlooked. Here is why:

40% of all new jobs created within the next decade will be in skilled trades and technology.

Source: Skills Canada

The number of university grads enrolled in colleges has increased by more than 40% over five years. *Source: Globe and Mail*

84% of recent college graduates found employment within six months of graduation.

Source: Colleges Ontario

Ms. Villamin-Arenas

Terry Fox Run

This year Bethune participated in its 3rd Terry Fox Run and each and every student and staff participated which was a first!!! It was fabulous to see the whole school out to celebrate Terry Fox who was such an inspiration. Our goal this year was to be like Terry and raise \$1 for every student. While we are continuing to fundraise, we have reached $\frac{3}{4}$ of our goal

so far. Thank you to all staff and students for your support of this great cause. You can still donate online to the school run or pick up a pledge form in the main office. A BIG thank you to Blaze for their motivating music and to the ABC for collecting donations and encouraging all participants. See you next year!

Ms. Aziz

