

# Blenheim District High School

## Home of the Bobcats

### April Newsletter



Principal: Mr. Mark Sherman  
Vice-Principal: Mr. Murray Hunt



#### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

This newsletter is being sent out in time with the Semester Two 2010 Mid-Term Report cards. Parent-Teacher Interviews are being scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 to 7:00 PM. To book a time slot to see any teacher of your student, please call the school at 676-5485 and ask to speak to Student Services. The Mid-term report is an excellent guide to help students focus on improving their in-class performance in order to achieve the course credit or the right grade for program acceptances and/or awards. We encourage parents to come out and check in on their son or daughter's progress while there is still time to make significant improvements in their outcomes.

We would like to thank the staff, students and community members who contributed to the success of

our recent Athletic Pasta Fundraising Dinner. Slightly over \$2,000 was generated to put towards athletics programs and teams here at the school.

Recent improvements around the school include a total repaint of the technical wing and a substantial repaint of the main gym. We have as well invested in some new fabrication equipment for the manufacturing room, including a CNC conversion for one of our lately acquired milling machines. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Marilyn Hearn who has been working so hard to complete the ongoing Hall Art installations about the school. We have approximately seven new panels completed at this stage both in the lower and upper halls and the effect is quite dramatic. We are hoping to install major Bobcat themed murals in both the

Tech hallway and Gilchrist Hall – so stay tuned!

Lastly, I will use this printed space to promote your visiting our school website ([www.southkent.net/~bdhs/](http://www.southkent.net/~bdhs/)) where you can easily keep up to date with upcoming events such as our all-grades Welcome Spring Prom Dance –themed *Red Carpet Romance* – Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 to 10 PM and the fact that exams start June 21<sup>st</sup> this year. Minutes of the most recent BDHS School Advisory Council are posted as well as important dates and student opportunities.

Thank you for your continued support of BDHS.

M. Sherman  
Principal

Parent's Night

*Tuesday, April 27, 2010  
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.  
Please call the Guidance Office to arrange appointments  
519-676-5485*

## Guidance Office

### Grads

- Mid-term marks for Semester 2 will be sent to the OUAC/OCAS application centres April 24
- Final response date to accept a college offer is May 1st
- Final response date to accept a university offer is May 28th
- NOTE: students may accept an offer prior to the common response date, but will not be compelled to make an earlier decision.

### eINFO Scholarships

Potential applicants can search the scholarships that are available to first-year students at Ontario's universities. Students can search by university, annual dollar value range, required grade range and other useful criteria. By performing multiple searches, students can ensure that they find all the scholarships available to them.

Go to [www.electronicinfo.ca](http://www.electronicinfo.ca) and click on "Scholarships" for details.

### OSAP

Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) <http://osap.gov.on.ca>

OSAP provides financial assistance to qualifying full-time and part-time students attending a post secondary institution. Applications are completed and submitted on-line. They will be forwarded to the student's choice of institution. If problems are encountered, do not hesitate to contact the financial aid office of that school for assistance.

An OSAP presentation for senior students by Wendy Bedard of the University of Windsor will take place on Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. Interested students need to sign up in the Guidance Office and parents are welcome to attend.

### Credit Success Opportunities Summer School

Summer School is an opportunity for students to both improve their skills and upgrade their academic achievement in courses they have already attempted during the school year. Students must have achieved a mark of 40% or more to take advantage of this opportunity. A minimal registration fee will be charged. Eligibility is determined by the principal and vice principal of your school.

Summer School may be offered as an online program if enrollment numbers are insufficient to run in-school classes. Summer School will begin on July 5. If the course is available as an online program, the course will begin with several days of in-school orientation. After that, teacher help will be available at the school one day per week if a student needs face-to-face help with the course. If the course is in-school, students will be expected to attend daily during the three weeks of the program. (8:30am – 12:30pm)

Lambton Kent District School Board plans to run the following courses as upgrading credits:

- Grade 9 Geography
- Grade 10 History
- Grade 10 Civics or Career Studies
- Grade 9 and 10 Math, English, or Science
- Most Grade 11 Math, English or Science
- Some Grade 12 Math, English or Science

ENG 4U is the only course that is offered as a new credit, rather than an upgrading opportunity.

*Registration forms and more information about this year's Summer School program should be available in the Guidance Office in mid-May.*

**Ontario Universities' Admission Information Service**

Ontario secondary school students applying for admission to an Ontario university who do not receive an offer of admission can inquire about possible openings at other Ontario universities through the OUAC beginning June 1 to mid August... Visit [www.ouac.on.ca](http://www.ouac.on.ca) or [www.ouac.on.ca/101/referral.html](http://www.ouac.on.ca/101/referral.html)

**Ontario College Application Service**

Similarly, students applying for admission to an Ontario College can inquire about the status of college programs at [www.ontariocolleges.ca](http://www.ontariocolleges.ca)

**Counselling Opportunities**

This semester, there have been a number of counselling services available to students at BDHS: including HEART (healthy relationships and self-esteem for female students), bereavement counseling, addictions counseling, and support from the Public Health Nurse. Watch for these excellent programs again in the autumn and contact the Guidance Office for further information.

This semester, we are holding a Dating Shouldn't Hurt assembly for Grade 9 students on April 20, 2010.

**Learning Centre**

Students at BDHS continue to work hard and use the Learning Centre to support their schooling. There are over 100 identified students making use of the Learning Centre and its resources in their educational journey. Some make use of this quiet environment to accomplish assigned work with minimal distraction, receive one-on-one assistance, and use assistive technology to achieve their goals. Students are encouraged to advocate for themselves by communicating with their classroom teachers.

**Student Success**

This semester, a significant number of students continue to be supported through various Student Success initiatives and programs. It is the goal of the Student Success Team to make all students as successful as possible in their efforts to obtain all of their credits. Mentoring continues to support Grade 9 and 10 students considered 'at risk', and an after school 'Back on Track' support class will be starting after midterms. Extra after school literacy support classes are already underway for students who experienced difficulty with literacy skills prior to writing the Grade 10 literacy test. A mentor program is also underway for those students have failed the literacy test in the past. Several students are also enrolled in a credit recovery class, working towards recovering as many credits as possible. A continuing growing program under the student success umbrella is the 'At Risk Co-Op'. Students who are struggling with one or more subjects, returning to school later in the semester or re-entering the school after exiting the system may be suitable candidates to leave the regular classroom environment and earn from one to four credits by working at a regular job. For information of Student Success, please contact Mr. Bunning, Student Success Teacher.

***STUDENT COUNCIL***

*Spring Fling will be Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup> with Student Council members hosting. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the crowning will be at 9:30 p.m. All parents are welcome to view the crowning.*

*Also Student Council will be hosting a Staff/Student BBQ in June. This will be held in the courtyard and we will be encouraging all students to attend to support next year's events.*

*Also, applications will be available for next year's Student Council. We are hoping to have current and new members make up the Student Council for the next school year.*

*Lastly, the Student Council for this year will be having a grade 12 and 5<sup>th</sup> year luncheon with staff members in June. The year-end assembly will also take place near the end of the school year.*

*The Student Council would like to thank the community for their continued support!*

## **SAA REPORT**

The SAA continues to plan and run events for the students at BDHS. The association is currently planning for this year's athletic banquet. The Banquet will be held Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at Glad Tidings Church. Athletes have already paid for their tickets and we encourage them to book the night off to celebrate the achievements made by this year's athletic teams. If parents would like to attend they may come to the awards portion of the ceremony.

## **GEOGRAPHY TRIP**

The 2010 Bobcat Geography trip is scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. A bus load of students will venture to Niagara Falls to visit places like the Welland Canal, Niagara Glen Park, Niagara River, and a guided tour of the Hydro Power Plant and Niagara Falls. Students in grade 9 and 10 are getting excited to experience the range of geography features that our area offers. This will be a wonderful trip for all.

## **Fourth Annual SAA Spaghetti Supper Another Success**

The 4th Annual Bobcat Spaghetti Supper was a success again this year with over 200 people attending and over \$2000 dollars raised for uniforms and team travel. Through the combined efforts of all of our sponsors and volunteers, the football team will have money towards new uniforms and the senior girls volleyball team can add to their Florida trip fundraising.

This year's event was held on Friday March 26<sup>th</sup> and featured a spaghetti dinner complete with buns, salads, drinks and a huge selection of parent-made desserts. The event ran "without a hitch" thanks to our many volunteers. Special thanks to our talented cafeteria ladies, Mrs. Carol Embury and Mrs. Cindy VanDyk for their expertise and hard work preparing the spaghetti and sauce and for working tirelessly throughout the event keeping things going and providing guidance to their novice crew. Thanks to the group of staff and athletes who worked hard preparing, serving and cleaning up after the event. Many hands made light work. Special appreciation goes out to our sponsors who donated the food for the evening meal: Biddell Foods and the Richards-Velinou family for the pasta, sauce, salad dressings and cheese, Bunsmaster Bakery and the Sabourin family for the buns, the Flanagan family and Sobeys for the salad fixings and the Toll family for the ground beef. Thanks again to Marc Eskritt and Blenheim Community Funeral Home for the coffee and Mrs. Simpson and the foods class for the salad preparation.

Congratulations to our 50/50 draw winner Mrs. Melanie McTavish; she was the lucky winner of the evening.

A final thank-you goes out to all our staff helpers: Mrs. Lobbestael, Miss Evoy, Mr. Goodall, Mr. Scott, Mr. Pugh and all the volunteers and members of the volleyball team who worked throughout the evening.

Thanks to our very supportive community, we couldn't have been successful without you.

Thanks one and all.  
Pat Jackson

## *Buongiorno from Italy!*

*Over the March Break, 16 students from BDHS teamed up with 20 students from Parkside Collegiate in St. Thomas to travel to the historical country of Italy. We saw many sites and learned a lot about the Italian culture. Some of the highlights were the Coliseum, the Forum, the Vatican, Pompeii, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, shopping in Florence, Orveiet (the medieval city on a mountain) and, of course, fabulous Venice.*

*We fit this all into a ten-day excursion. We arrived home exhausted but everyone agreed that it was an experience of a lifetime. When we threw a coin into the Trevi Fountain to hope to return to Rome again, we meant it. This trip was well worth the time and effort it took to plan out and all*

*students would like the chance to do it again. Anyone considering going on one of these trips should not hesitate to attend. These are well-planned out with a days-full itinerary that keeps us moving to see as much as possible. To describe it in a word ... AWESOME!!! Thanks to all the students who made this an enjoyable experience and for being excellent ambassadors for our school. Thanks to Mr. Maerz for taking care of this group of travelers.*

## Student Leadership Conferences

- HOBV** Hugh O'Brien Youth conference will be at the University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus and will be attended by Eric Montgomery on April 30, May 1 and 2, 2010.
- RYLA** The Rotary Youth Leadership workshop will be attended by Kenith Guinhawa, Raina DeBrouwer, Lawren Maris, Anna Richards- Velinou and Guido McGuigan. They will attend May 14, 15, and 16, 2010 and meet with other students from across Ontario, Michigan, Ohio and Rotary exchange students from all over the world.
- P.A.I.R.S.** This conference will be held on May 6. Jenn Lansue and Erin Jackson will be presenting a workshop, with the following students attending a variety of other workshops: Stephanie Allison, Derek Bowers, Lauren DeBrouwer, Ashley Evans, Atlanta Flook, Aaron Hart, Erin Massender, Nick McTavish, Rachel Nauta, Avery Nicholson, Madison Pilon, Mike Price, Maleah Robert, Karson Tennant and Tina Unger.

### CO-OP DEPARTMENT - SEMESTER 2, 2009/2010

Each semester the Cooperative Education Department relies upon our community support system to provide valuable hands-on learning experiences for Bobcat Coop Students. This semester our community partners are as follows:

**\*\*\*Note: Parents, Students, Supervisors and the Community are invited to join us for the Career Fair on May 14<sup>th</sup> from 11:45 – 1:45 in the Cafeteria at BDHS. We look forward to seeing you there.**

PLACEMENT	POSITION
Lasting Memories Flowers	Interior Designer/Decorator
Blenheim Decorating Centre	Interior Designer/Decorator
Remsik General Contracting	Carpenter's Assistant
Waycon International	Truck & Coach Technician
The Tanning Station	Esthetician
Ure Accounting Services	Financial Auditor/Accountant
St. Anne School	Teacher (Grade 6)
Heritage Dental	Dental Assistant
Blenheim Veterinary Hospital	Veterinarian Technician
Shopper's Drug Mart	Pharmacy Technician
The Fitness Zone	Personal Trainer
The Shock Doctor	Electrician's Assistant
The Municipality of Chatham Kent	Maintenance Technician
W.J. Baird Public School	Teacher's Assistant (JK/K)
RM Classic Cars	Graphic Designer
University of Guelph – Ridgetown Campus	Research Assistant
Blenheim Chevrolet Pontiac Buick GMC Ltd.	Automotive Technician
St. Anne School	Teacher (Rotary)
Harwich-Raleigh Public School	Teacher Assistant
Blenheim Community Village	Health Care Aide
Ron's No Frills	Stock person

## Dates to Remember



April 27	Parents' Night
April 30	Full Disclosure
May 6	Spring Fling
May 7	P D Day
May 7 – 10	Education Week
May 9	Mother's Day
May 17	OSAP Presentation
May 24	Victoria Day
May 26	Grade 8 Orientation
June 7-10	EQAO Math test
June 8	Undergrad Ceremony
June 9	SAA Banquet
June 18	Last day of classes
June 20	Father's Day
June 21-25	Exams
June 28	P.A. Day

### **Blenheim District High School**

163 Chatham Street South  
P.O. Box 990  
Blenheim, ON  
N0P 1A0

**Phone:**  
519-676-5485

**Office Fax:**  
519-676-4919

**Guidance Fax:**  
519-676-8153

**E-mail:**  
E-mail address  
bdhs@lkdsb.net

We're on the Web!  
[www.southkent.net/~bdhs](http://www.southkent.net/~bdhs)

School Motto  
Spero Bene Agere  
Hope to do well