

Blenheim District High School

Home of the Bobcats

February Newsletter



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

School Motto
Spero Bene Agere
Hope to do well



Principal's Message

Welcome everyone to Semester 2. Congratulations on all your successes from Semester 1 – students will be receiving their report cards today. I would suggest to parents and guardians that now would be a great time to review your son's or daughter's course selections as you look over their semester one results.

If you have any questions regarding your student's success or choice of courses, please call the staff in Student Services or the Administration Team. We try very hard to fill students and parent driven course requests but there will always be a limited number of course options available to students to switch to at this late date. Students who are seeking courses to fill their compulsory credits are given preference.

The entire Student Body and Teaching Staff would like to wish retiring teachers Gil Bureau and Liz LeClair well in their new endeavours. We would also like to welcome Mark Bunning back to the school in his new role in Student Success and Science; and Rhodri Goodall back in his role of Learning Centre teacher. We also have the

pleasure of welcoming Peter Jacques to the school in his new role as a Technology instructor. I invite all Community Members to keep checking our website (www.southkent.net/~bdhs/) for current activities, games and school events. The **Dates to Remember** page is the quickest page from which to get a snapshot view of important school dates. The minutes of all the **School Advisory Council Meetings** are also posted on the website, as well, if you wish to keep your finger on the pulse of the school. Parents and Guardians are always welcome to attend.

As a last reminder, **Interim Reports**, early notices sent out for students who may have credits deemed at risk by their instructor are mailed out immediately after March Break. The regular **Mid-term Marks** are distributed to students in homeroom on Friday, April 23rd.

Thanks to all the people who donate their time and effort to our school. We appreciate your efforts on behalf of our young people and dedicated staff.

M. Sherman

Guidance Office

Beginning the third week of February the Guidance staff will start the 2010/2011 course selections process on the web.

Prior to these visits, students will have the opportunity to do some preparatory work with their teacher and at home with their parents. Students were issued

their own course calendar today which contains a yellow planning sheet. Instructions for online course selections will be given to students during the 3rd and 4th weeks of February. Students are to work on selecting courses at home or school until Wednesday, March 3, 2010. After that date, students will be locked out of the site, and any course changes will need to be made in the Guidance Office. A verification sheet indicating the courses selected by the student will be sent home for parent approval. Requests for changes may be made on the form.

When selecting courses, students are reminded to think carefully about their decisions. We encourage parents and students to discuss course choices with each other. ***The courses selected now will greatly impact on the program we are able to deliver next year.*** Students are expected to follow through with their commitment to the courses they have selected, timetable permitting.

Course Loads

The Lambton Kent District School Board states that all students must be full-time.

- Students are expected to carry 8 courses in Grades 9, 10, and 11
- 4th year students are expected to take a minimum of 7 courses
- Students may return for a 5th year to take additional courses or to upgrade marks. These students will be strongly encouraged to take 3 courses per semester

Graduating Students

In mid-October, every graduating student was invited to participate in a Grad session to outline timelines and expectations for post-secondary applications. All applications to post-secondary schools are completed online. In November and December students had the opportunity to complete this process in our computer lab. Students were then able to apply for their programs of choice either at home or at the school. Assistance with applications has been and continues to be available for any student experiencing difficulty. Simply come to the Guidance Office – if we don't know the answer, we can soon find it.

Graduates and their parents are encouraged to book visits soon to the schools they are considering. Individual visits are arranged with the schools by the student. During March Break; all post secondary institutions hold OPEN HOUSE programs with activities for students and information sessions for parents. Check out the Bulletin Board across from Guidance or post secondary websites and print material for dates and times.

An information night for parents of Grade 11 and 12 students was held on October 22. Liaison representatives from a local college and a local university complemented our presentation about applying for scholarships and bursaries as well as apprenticeship, college and university applications processes. We were excited about the turnout and will consider a similar event next fall.

Community Volunteers Hours

Any student who is intending to graduate with an OSS diploma, during or at the completion of this year, must submit their completed Community Involvement Form including signatures to the Guidance Office by April 1.

Awards and Bursaries

Graduating students are required to submit their profile sheets and applications for local awards, scholarships and bursaries to Guidance by April 1. Keep listening to the announcements and reading the posted flyers on the Bulletin Board outside Guidance.

OSAP

We encourage **all** students to consider applying for OSAP. An OSAP application is necessary to be considered for the Queen Elizabeth II Aiming for The Top Scholarship and for some post-secondary bursaries. An OSAP presentation will

take place in May. Further information will be forthcoming. Students and parents are invited and encouraged to attend. OSAP applications will be available to students online in May at www.osap.gov.on.ca.

Learning Centre

Accommodations for exams were made available and included: computer use, reading/rephrasing of test questions, quiet work area, extra time, material support for projects/research, editing proofing of assignments, books on tape, extra supplies and individual help upon request.

Students are encouraged to take charge of their learning responsibilities and seek assistance as soon as they encounter difficulty. Parents should support this learning process by encouraging good study habits, by reviewing the day's lessons or by just talking about the school day events.

Student Success

A wide variety of strategies were implemented by the Student Success Team in an effort to make all students as successful as possible in their efforts to obtain credits. Nine grade 9 students deemed "at risk" by their elementary school were paired with staff mentors; a caring adult whom they could turn to if the need arose. A total of 12 previously failed credits were recovered through the Credit Recovery program.

Thirty-three grade nine and ten students were assisted with courses in which they experienced difficulty through the after school tutoring "Back on Track" program. Fifteen students participated in the "At Risk" co-op program, some leaving B.D.H.S. for a semester or part semester to experience full time work and earn up to four credits. All grade nine students participated in a study skills workshop and 18 students at all grade levels participated in the semester end "Credit Rescue" to complete missed assignments and secure their credit.

The Student Success program at BDHS recognizes that some students do not fare well in a traditional classroom environment and attempts to provide a positive educational experience for all students, even students who have previously withdrawn from school and have now chosen to return.

Student Council

Student Council has had a very successful school year! Every month student activities and classroom activities have occurred. There have been special weeks and days such as Halloween, World Wildlife Fund "wacky" days were organized, and Christmas events were also planned to encourage student involvement. The council has fundraised, organized Operation Christmas Child, organized a semi formal dance and continues to plan for other charities and functions for the new semester.

A Charity "12 to 12" is intended for February that will raise money for local charities. Also "Love Week" is planned to raise awareness and money for the Heart and Stroke Association. In March the students plan to run fun activities for St. Patrick's Day. Students will also begin planning for "Spring Fling" that is slated for May.

Student Council and Staff Advisors hope that our new grade nines get involved and that students who attend Blenheim District High School will run in the May elections!

Drama

Drama is a unique and culturally diverse experience. Actors are provided with the opportunity to explore and expand their confidence and emotions, as well as develop numerous skills: acting, voice, leadership, theatre technology, organizational, co-operative and social.

Our bounty of dramatic talent continues, and we are currently rehearsing for the Sears Drama Festival, which is to be held the last week of February. We are producing two plays this year: The Antigone in Warsaw, a drama about optimism in a time of poverty and desperate circumstances is directed by student Erica Nauta. Any Body for Tea? Is a quirky comedy of murderous old ladies (think Arsenic and Old Lace) directed by Susan Snobelen. Both have strong casts (fifteen students are actively involved on stage), and rehearsals have been great fun.

There will be a matinee performance for the students, and an evening performance for the public at the school on Friday, February 19 at 7 p.m. The festival performances will be at the Kiwanis Theatre, Chatham Cultural Centre, during the last week of February. Tickets can be purchased through the Cultural Centre at 519-354-8338, or at the door.

We encourage everyone to come out and support us at these events and, at the same time, enjoy the entertainment.

Library News

The BDHS Library has been put to much use, both by classes and individual students. It offers a quiet and warm atmosphere in which students can not only do research and type up assignments, but can quietly meet to go over work together, do group work, read magazines, or just use the computers. We have recently added over 100 books to the collection, including many classic graphic novels.

258 classes used the library this semester, and approximately 1,500 items were checked out in the same period.

Teacher Librarian, Mrs. McPeake, would like to thank Library Clerk, Mrs. Kim de Vito, as well as student volunteer Lily Gallagher, for their help in keeping the library running smoothly. We are also grateful for book donations by Mrs. Laurie Young and magazine donations by Mr. Neil Wood and Mr. Garry Lambert.

Notes from the Music Department

This semester the students had a busy time making music. The students of the senior music class (Grades 10,11 and 12) performed at The BDHS Commencement Ceremonies, the Remembrance Day Assembly, the Christmas assembly, the Town of Blenheim's Annual Carolfest and performed holiday music at concerts at both W.J. Baird and Harwich Raleigh Public Schools.

The Grade nine music class played for the Grade 8 students and parents on our Grade 8 Information Night in January. They performed twenty to twenty-five minutes of music before the program started.

Both groups represented BDHS very well. Congratulations on a job well done.

SAA Fundraisers

The BDHS Student Athletic Association recently completed another tremendous Citrus and Cookie Dough Fundraiser, thanks to the continued generosity of the Blenheim community. The funds will be used for Bobcat athletics to cover the cost of buses, referees, tournaments and league fees and uniforms. Hope you enjoyed your fruit and cookies. Again, a huge thank you for your continued support.

Our next Athletic fundraiser will be our annual Spaghetti Dinner



The poster features a large, stylized grey silhouette of a bobcat's head in the background. In the center, there are several overlapping yellow cards with black text and graphics. The top card reads "BDHS Bobcats Athletics" in bold black letters. To its right is a circular logo containing a black and white bobcat head. Below these, another card lists "Spaghetti Dinner" with details: "along with Salads, Breads, Desserts and Beverage", "TICKETS: \$10.00—Adults, \$ 5.00—Under 10 yrs." To the right of this is a card that says "Fundraiser Dinner 50/50 Draw". Below the cards, the text reads "All proceeds to Bobcat Athletics" followed by "BDHS Gilchrist Hall". At the bottom left, contact information is provided: "Contact person: Pat Jackson or Brian Pugh 519-676-5485", "Time: 5:00—8:00 p.m.", and "Date: Friday, March 26, 2010". A small bobcat head logo is positioned at the bottom right of the poster.

Yearbook News

Please place your order for the 2009-2010 Bobcat Yearbook if you have not yet done so. Our orders for the 2009-2010 Bobcat Yearbook are down. We ask for your support.

The Yearbook, once again, is being designed by the Grade 11 and 12 Technical Design Yearbook classes.

Yearbooks last a lifetime and longer -- it is an excellent way to remember your friends and your High School years.

Yearbook students will be in the community in the near future to secure support by asking businesses and individuals to purchase advertising space in our yearbook. The community support is very much appreciated because by purchasing advertising space in the yearbook, more students, we hope, have the opportunity to buy a yearbook by keeping the price as low as possible.

Thank you to the businesses that have sent in their ad and payment. We appreciate your prompt response.

Honour Students

Grade 9

Ashley Bard
Ben Bartlett
Michael Berry
Mary Boldt
Jessica Brundritt
Kate Clendenning
Raina DeBrouwer
Reiss DeBrouwer
Alex Gardiner

Colleen Hall
Tricia Hamilton
Jared Hansen
Jessica Hyndman
Spencer James
Nancy Knelsen
Emma Koehler
Evan Nanni
Blayne Oliver

Taylor Pardo
Sarah Preston
Heather Stone
Brodie Van Boxtel
Ryan Van Raay
Dylan Webster
Tegan Williams
Joshua Willemsen

Grade 10

Dylon Allaire
Stephanie Allison
Jeff Authier
George Enns
Ashley Evans
Atlanta Flook
Michael Guenther
Dominique Hamilton
Aaron Hart
Matt Hebblethwaite

Alyssa Huckle
Heather Jack
Melissa Lansue
Dalton Loveday
Lawren Maris
Erin Massender
Guido McGuigan
Eric Montgomery
Rachel Nauta
Amber Nicholas

Breanne Nicholas
Avery Nicholson
Tyler Payne
Loralie Pollard
Anna Richards-Velinou
Adam Skidmore
Lauren Uher
Alyssa Vandenhende
Alana Wevers

Grade 11

Jade Aitken
Melanie Charbonneau
Andrea DeBrouwer
Charlotte DeBrouwer
Erika DeBrouwer
Brandon Fields
Andrew Fleming
Bowdie Gardiner
Savannah Greydanus
Nicole Houston

Erin Jackson
Jenny Ji
Jean Kelly
Amanda Major
Kaitlyn Morrison
Jacquelyn Patterson
Jeff Patterson
Sammi Pickering
Bree-Anne Pratt
Jessica Randall

Amanda Segeren
Tina Simonton
Rebecca Sykes
Willy Unger
Rachael Vandehogen
Emily Van Raay
Alana Vandersluis
Kristen Wszol
Brittany Wysman

Grade 12

Riley Aitken
Carley Atkinson
Jodie Ball
Karen Ball
Katelyn Bartlett
Carley Blunn
Kelvin Bokor
Erin Bowers
Melanie Boylan
Toni Cameron
Brady Campbell
Stephanie Campbell
Rachel Capeling
Erika Cayer
Justin Day
Quinn DeBrouwer
Morgan Farquharson
Lily Gallagher

Jennifer Gardiner
Skye Gladstone
Lauren Hebblethwaite
Tyler Hill
Amanda Houze
Caroline Howell
Shelby Huffman
Emilee Johnson
Bradon Kelly
Dan Knight
Taylor Knowler-Stepniak
Graydon Koehler
Henry Loewen
Jesse Loveday
Nick McGuigan
Amy Micallef
Katie Montgomery
Erica Nauta

Kayla Nicholson
Megan Pepper
Courtney Rayment
Nathan Richards-Velinou
Chelsea Russell
Eric Skidmore
Susan Snobelen
Colton Srokosz
Steven Stone
Katelynne Taylor
Johanna Thompson
Erin Tope
Cora Vandehogen
Robert Vandersluis
Oscar VanKeer
Katharina Wieler
Alicja Wolanski

Dates to Remember

February 9 - 13

February 16

February 17 -20

February 18

March 8

March 16– 20

April 2

April 7

April 8

April 10

April 13

April 17

April 24

April 28

May 1

May 4

Love Week

Family Day

Grad Pictures

Pascal, Cayley, Fermat Math Contests

Daylight Saving Time

March Break

OSSLT Grade 10 Literacy Test

Euclid Math Contest

Fryer, Galois, Hypatia Math Contests

Good Friday

Easter Monday

Semi Formal

Mid term Reports

Parents' Night

P D Day

Full Disclosure

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We're on the Web!
www.southkent.net/~bdhs

School Motto
Spero Bene Agere
Hope to do well