

# 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/](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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
- 4<sup>th</sup> year students are expected to take a minimum of 7 courses
- Students may return for a 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 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 says "BDHS Bobcats Athletics" with a bobcat head logo. Below it, a card lists "Spaghetti Dinner" details and ticket prices. To the right, another card says "Fundraiser Dinner 50/50 Draw". At the bottom, text provides the location, contact info, time, and date, accompanied by a small bobcat head logo.

**BDHS Bobcats Athletics**

**Spaghetti Dinner**  
along with Salads, Breads, Desserts and Beverage

TICKETS:  
\$10.00—Adults  
\$ 5.00—Under 10 yrs.

**Fundraiser Dinner 50/50 Draw**

**All proceeds to Bobcat Athletics**

**BDHS Gilchrist Hall**

Contact person: Pat Jackson or Brian Pugh 519-676-5485  
Time: 5:00—8:00 p.m.  
Date: Friday, March 26, 2010

## 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*

**Blenheim District High School**

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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