

Blenheim District High School

Home of the Bobcats

February Newsletter



Principal: Mr. Mark Sherman

Vice-Principal: Mr. Murray Hunt



Principal's Message

Welcome to everyone for Semester 2. Congratulations on all your successes from Semester 1 – students will be receiving their reports today during their homeroom period. 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 student 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.

We would like to welcome Rhodri Goodall back in his new role of Literacy Support Teacher for the two months leading up to the OSSLT (Provincial Literacy Test) that takes place March 31st.

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 upon 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 and our next meeting is Thursday, Feb. 10th, room 10 @ 7 PM.

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. Parent-Teacher interviews will take place March 29th. Call the school to arrange appointments. The regular **Mid-term Marks** are distributed to students in homeroom on Thursday, April 21st.

Thanks to all the people who donate their time and effort to our school. The Blenheim community and surrounding area provides fund-raising opportunities, job placements for co-op students, and numerous supports to our young people and dedicated staff. We continue to appreciate all your efforts to help make Blenheim District High School a great place to live and learn.

Sincerely,
Mark Sherman
Principal

Guidance Office

Beginning the third week of February the Guidance staff will start the 2011/2012 course selections process on the web.

To prepare for online course selection, Guidance counselors have been meeting with all Grade 9, 10 and 11 classes and returning Grade 12 students to talk about Pathways, prerequisites and graduation requirements. These Guidance sessions give students the opportunity to do some preparatory work and students are directed to share their course planning at home with their parents. Students were issued their own course calendar 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 2, 2011. 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. Upgrading a mark takes considerable effort and a significant change in study habits, commitment and approach. Surprisingly, most re-takes deliver a lower mark than the first attempt.

Graduating Students

In mid-November, 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 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 20. A liaison representative from 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 plan to run 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 the spring. Further information will be forthcoming. Students and

parents are invited and encouraged to attend. OSAP applications will be available to students online 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

The main goal of student success is to ease the transition between elementary and high school, and to work with at risk students of all grades. Student success has a variety of programs to work towards these goals. Throughout the semester, at risk students are monitored by the student success team. All grade 9 teachers receive "student profiles" which show the performance levels of students while in elementary school. Grade 9 and 10 at risk students are encouraged to attend "Back on Track", an after school homework club that runs each semester. Back on Track is offered in addition to Math help which is also offered each semester. Student Success also offers Credit Rescue which is a chance for students to come into a classroom after writing their exams to finish up any missing assignments. We also offer a credit recovery class for students who were close to passing a course, but failed to meet certain expectations. In preparation of the OSSLT, we run an after school literacy class where students who scored poorly on the mock OSSLT are encouraged to attend. Here at BDHS we also have an "at risk" co-op program for those students who have difficulty in the traditional classroom environment.

Student Council

This year's Student Council has been busy planning many events. All of the classes this year received a "Random Act of Kindness" from Student Council. Student Council along with the student body made this year's fundraiser a very successful event. Special days, dances and charities have also been planned and implemented this year.

A Charity "12 to 12" is intended for April this year. There has also been some planning for "Love Week" and St. Patrick's Day. Students will begin planning for the Prom in March.

The students this year have been positive and receptive to new ideas and opportunities. BDHS students and staff appreciate their hard work and effort!

International Student Exchange / Second Language Opportunities

Students in French classes have been hearing about opportunities for exchanges to Europe and Quebec. Summer exchanges to Switzerland, Spain, France and Quebec as well as 2-3 month school-year exchanges to France, Switzerland, Belgium, Spain, Germany or Italy are an incredible opportunity for language acquisition and travel experience. According to some of our Bobcats who have taken up the challenge in the past, it's worth leaving behind all that's familiar to embark on the adventure of traveling to see another culture up close and live in another language with another family. Initial applications need to be completed soon so appropriate matches can be made. Have a look at www.iseontario.on.ca for more information, and pick up application forms in Room 35.

Another worthwhile program that provides some government funding and possible awarding of a credit in French is the bursary programs offered to students 16 years of age and older. Students go to Quebec for a six-week summer course, sometimes staying with a family, sometimes in a campus residence. University of Western Ontario offers a credit at Trois-Pistoles, with applications due by the end of February. Check out www.explore.ca for more information.

Finally, for senior students interested in a job and language acquisition, www.summer-work.com is a great national program that attempts to place francophone and anglophone students in summer jobs that will not only give them job experience but total second-language immersion as well. This is run through the YMCA and has host families for students aged 16 and 17. Worth looking into!

Library News

This past semester, there have been many new additions to the library shelves; most of the additions are fiction. Classical literature has been removed from the general fiction shelves, given Dewey numbers, and shelved in the Literature section of the Non-fiction area. Their locations will need to be searched in the catalogues.

We have a new library automated system called *Destiny*. Hence, to find the Library catalogue on any school computer, look for the *Destiny* icon.

English novels and plays have been catalogued by library staff, and will now be checked out through the usual library channels, and returned to the library. These books are for English class students' use.

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.

Honour Students Grade 9

Cullen Aitken
Paige Broadbent
Beth Cowan
Andrea Houze
Hannah James
Teneshia Johnston

Kyle McKenzie
Isaiah Musyj
Julie Nauta
Craig Oakey
Kary Oliver
Vanessa Pepper

Austin Schives
Jocelyn Stirling
Madeline Sykes
Emily Toll
Helen Unger

Grade 10

Ben Bartlett
Michael Berry
Mary Boldt
Jessica Brundritt
Danielle Caron
Kate Clendenning
Reiss DeBrouwer
Alex Gardiner

Tricia Hamilton
Jared Hansen
Jordy Hope
Spencer James
Nancy Knelsen
Emma Koehler
Chelsea Naclerio
Evan Nanni

Blayne Oliver
Taylor Pardo
Sarah Preston
Heather Stone
Shalynn Szeremek
Alex Vandenberg
Josh Willemsen

Grade 11

Dylon Allaire
Stephanie Allison
Jeff Authier
Alisha Bartlett
Adam Deseure

Matt Hebblethwaite
Heather Jack
Whitney Jenner
Jenny Ji
Melissa Langis

Amber Nicholas
Breanne Nicholas
Avery Nicholson
Tyler Payne
Loralie Pollard

Taylor Doyle
Ashley Evans
Atlanta Flook
Olivia Flook
Michael Guenther
Nikkole Guttridge
Dominique Hamilton

Melissa Lansue
Dalton Loveday
Lawren Maris
Erin Massender
Kassia McQuiggan
Eric Montgomery
Rachel Nauta

Anna Richards-Velinou
Adam Skidmore
Lauren Uher
Kristin Wammes
Alana Wevers
Mcalister Zeller-Newman

Grade 12

Jodie Ball
Cassidy Cameron
Melanie Charbonneau
Melissa Coleman
Lauren Cramer
Andrea DeBrouwer
Billy Findley
Eric Hoffman

Krystyn Hoy
Jaimee Huckle
Jean Kelly
Amanda Major
Kaitlyn Morrison
Becky Pollard
Amanda Segeren
Tina Simonton

Rebecca Sykes
Nick Toll
Janai Van Eerd
Rachael Vandehogen
Alana Vandersluis
Kristen Wszol
Brittany Wysman



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

Dates to Remember

February 7 - 11

February 7 -11

February 15

February 21

February 24

March 11

March 13

March 14– 18

March 29

March 31

April 12

April 13

April 21

April 22

April 25

May 2 – 6

May 2

May 6

Love Week

Grad Pictures

Final Semester 1 grades to OUAC

Family Day

Pascal, Cayley, Fermat Math Contests

Interim Reports

Daylight Saving Time

March Break

Parent Teacher Night 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

OSSLT Grade 10 Literacy Test

Euclid Math Contest

Fryer, Galois, Hypatia Math Contests

Mid Term Reports

Good Friday

Easter Monday

Education Week

Full Disclosure

Spring Fling

School Motto
Spero Bene Agere
Hope to do well

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