

# Blenheim District High School

## Home of the Bobcats

### November Newsletter



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

School Motto  
Spero Bene Agere  
Hope to do well



#### Principal's Message

Semester one is now half over. The **Interim Reports** were mailed out October 15<sup>th</sup> for any credits that were deemed at-risk by the teachers or in courses where the instructor felt the student had really fallen behind. Thanks to all those parents who responded early and joined us in the process of having their son or daughter succeed. The **Midterm marks** you are receiving now will paint an even better picture of your student's progress to date. Quite often a low mark is indicative of reports and work not received or incomplete. Now is the time to contact the teachers directly over any concerns about academic achievement and work together to help improve student outcomes.

**Parent's Night** is soon here, November 17<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. The parents from the School Advisory Council will be barbequing for the **Teaching Staff** and any early arriving **Parents** that evening. It just a friendly way to say Thank You and Welcome at the same time. There will also be a free chance for parents to "Spin-For-A-Bobcat-Hat". If you get a chance please come join us. To keep aware of school happenings, the minutes of the School Advisory Council are always posted on the BDHS website [www.southkent.net/~bdhs/](http://www.southkent.net/~bdhs/).

Two short notices. Please note that the important summary sheet "**BDHS – Dates to Remember**" is posted on the website for quick reference. It contains all the significant dates for the year, including examination, report card and holiday dates. While on the school website, you might want to access the **Consent to Imaging** link. The way students are allowed to be photographed, imaged and recorded has changed in recent years. All parents and guardians should take a moment to read and acquaint themselves with the new permission system – it is designed with student safety in mind. There is also a **School Climate Survey** link as well that we invite all parents and guardians to visit and complete – as we value your input.

Lastly, thanks to all of the community members, local organizations and businesses who donate so much support to our graduating students. Commencement ceremonies were incredibly well attended and we had 55 major awards with over 40 Community Sponsors! Thanks to all the staff and students as well that work so hard to make these events enjoyable for all. The stage theme this year was **Bountiful Fall Harvest** – it was visually stunning and reflected well our rural roots.

M. Sherman

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

**Parent's Night**

Please call the *Guidance Office* to arrange appointments 519-676-5485 and provide a list of teachers you wish to see at the time of your call.

## Guidance Office

### Liaison Visits

All college and university liaison visits have been completed at this time. Senior students have been strongly encouraged to sign up for the information sessions presented by post-secondary schools. The presentations involve description of program, admission requirements, residence information etc. Attendance at these visits is an excellent first step in the college/university search.

### Campus Visits

It is recommended that students make an effort to visit the post-secondary schools which interest them. This is a great opportunity to see the campus, attend a class, discuss programs with faculty and tour the residence. Parents are strongly encouraged to accompany their son or daughter. Arrangements must be made by the students well in advance. P.A. days are excellent days to plan visits without missing valuable class time. Check your planner for P.A. dates.

### Graduating Students

Small group sessions were held with all college and university bound grads in October. Each student received a Grad Folder tailored to their destination needs. This month we will meet with students interested in apprenticeship or heading directly into the workforce. Materials given to these grads may include: On Your Way to Apprenticeship; On Your Way to College or University booklet; On Your Way to the Workplace Booklet; I Have A Financial Goal; a calendar of important dates, How to Make the Most of a Campus Tour, resume, cover letter, interview and networking tips and a list of websites to explore.

The BDHS Awards Bulletin has been distributed to each graduating student who plans to pursue a post-secondary program. It is the student's responsibility to carefully check criteria and keep an eye on these deadlines to apply for these awards. Students are also asked to check out awards and scholarships that are available. The amounts, the criteria, and the deadlines vary. Some websites to check out are: [www.scholarshipscanada.com](http://www.scholarshipscanada.com), [www.gwmisc.ca](http://www.gwmisc.ca), and [www.studentawards.com](http://www.studentawards.com).

*Every student who applied for an award last year did receive one or more awards at Graduation.*

*Parents are urged to review these materials with their son or daughter.*

### On-line Applications

The Guidance Office has arranged for computer lab sessions to assist students applying to college and university with their on-line applications. These sessions take place in November and December. Interested graduating students need to sign up in the Guidance Office for a computer lab session. If you haven't already done so, get down there!

Sessions for College applications are Nov. 24, 25 & 26. University applications are Dec. 1 & 2.

Both college and university applications are Dec. 3. Students need to bring their Grad Folder with them for their session.

Final deadline for university applications – January 3, 2010.

Final deadline for college applications – February 1, 2010.

### U.S. Schools

Students needing more information about the SAT for admission to U.S. colleges should see Mrs. Jobin for the SAT practice test, registration procedures and general information. Most U.S. colleges do not require a SAT score from Canadian applicants, but students intending to play NCAA sports at U.S. schools must write this standardized test. Some U.S. based scholarships require candidates to have written the SAT for consideration. It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that the on-line application is completed and forwarded to the applications centre prior to the final deadline.

## Learning Centre

During the month of September and October, identified grade nines, returning students and those students who are new to BDHS were interviewed. Individual Education Plans (IEP's) were discussed and a consultation sheet was sent home with each student. The consultation sheet needs to be signed and returned as soon as possible. If you still have your sheet sitting at home, please forward the signed sheet to Mr. Goodall.

Students are encouraged to stay in the classroom for daily instructions and attend the Learning Centre for projects and test writing. Further, students are encouraged to be self-advocates, to be aware of their own learning style, and to be able to discuss this with each of their teachers as early in the semester as possible.

As parents and caregivers, encourage your child to communicate and share what they have learned at school each day, as it has been proven that communication with parents and teachers is critical for student success. Take an active role in your child's learning by asking questions, and engaging your child in conversations around school. This will result in being aware of what your child is learning and how well he or she is grasping new concepts and skills.

## Student Success

The B.D. H. S. Student Success team is offering a number of initiatives to foster school wide student success.

**Grade 9 mentoring** - a number of grade 9s who may need the extra 1 on 1 support of a caring adult have been paired with one of our staff members. Mentoring provides an avenue for students to have an adult who can assist them personally if problems arise.

**Student Success Co-Op** - One section of students, including several students who have recently returned to school again have been placed in co-op positions ranging from half day to full day placement. Co-operative education allows students to earn credits while working in the community investigating a possible future career and at the same time learning valuable work expectations in a "real world" setting.

**Credit Recovery Courses** - Credit Recovery permits students who have previously failed courses to recover the missed essential expectations rather than repeat the entire course. More than one credit can therefore be recovered in one semester.

**Back on Track** - Organization, study skills and after school tutoring in Numeracy and Literacy plus other subjects will again be offered to grade 9 and 10 students who are experiencing difficulty in one subject or more.

**Grade 9 Study Skills Workshops** - study skills workshops have been planned for all grade 9 students so that they can properly prepare for the semester end exams as well as ongoing tests. If any senior students would like to learn "how to study more effectively" please speak with Ms. Asher so that they can be included in a separate workshop.

**Monitoring and support of "At Risk" students in all grades.** As part of the Ministry Student Success initiative, all students who are lagging behind in obtaining credits will be monitored and supported for attendance, truancy, and work ethic issues that may be jeopardizing their performance.

For more information, please contact M. Asher, Student Success teacher.

## Mathematics

**Math Help (Catch those little problems BEFORE they become big ones!)**

Monday  
11:00 – 11:25  
Room 103

Tuesday  
11:00 – 11:25  
Room 111  
And  
2:20 – 3:00  
Room 110

Wednesday  
2:20 – 3:00  
Room 107

\*\*\* or see any math teacher to arrange alternate times.

## Poinsettia Fundraiser



The Senior Girls Volleyball team is raising money for upcoming travel and competition expenses by selling poinsettias. If you are interested in purchasing contact Mrs. Jackson at 519-676-5485 ext 227 to place your order and then visit the school to pay your \$12.00 before November 30, 2009.

Thank you for your support.

## SAA Fundraiser Citrus and Cookie Dough

The BDHS Student Athletic Association is running its annual fundraiser this year with a little something extra in time for Christmas. This year the students will be selling navel oranges, grapefruit, and tangelos in a variety of sizes just like we have for a number of years. In addition to the Citrus we will be adding cookie dough to the mix. For ease of ordering there will be just one form to fill out. We hope that by adding the cookie dough to the mix just before Christmas we can help with those treat trays that are so popular during the holiday season. The campaign will run from November 10 - 25 with pick-up on Wednesday December 9<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 - 7:30 in the gymnasium. This is an excellent Christmas gift. Please contact the school if you are interested in ordering any of the quality products that we are offering this year. **Product will only be ordered after payment has been received.** Thank you for supporting our student athletes.

**Yearbook** The semester is going by quickly and there have been many photo-taking opportunities at BDHS.

Anyone who has not yet ordered a copy of this year's 2009-2010 Bobcat Yearbook may still do so by paying \$50.00 at the Main Office. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the School and leave a message for Mrs. LeClair.

Anyone interested in sponsoring our school by advertising in this year's Bobcat Yearbook along with next year's student planner may do so by calling the school and leaving a message for Mrs. LeClair. Letters will be sent out soon to previous sponsors/advertisers for this continued support.

Past Yearbooks, including last year's are available to purchase for \$50.00 each. We do not have all past yearbooks, but we may have the one that you wished you would have purchased when you were a student at BDHS.

## Take Our Kids to Work

This initiative is a national event that happens every year in Canada. Many Grade 9 BDHS students enjoyed their day in the workplace environment and have many interesting stories to tell. It is great for our students to be able to find a placement in which to participate whether it is with family or friends. Almost all Grade 9 students were able to find a placement for the day.



### Blenheim District High School

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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](mailto:bdhs@lkdsb.net) or  
website:  
[southkent.net/~bdhs](http://southkent.net/~bdhs)

## Dates to Remember

Nov. 17	Parent's Night
Nov. 20	Full Disclosure
Semi Formal	
Dec. 18	Last day of classes before Christmas
Jan. 4	Return to School
Jan. 11 – 13	Grade 9 EQAO Math Assessment
Jan. 13	Open House
Jan. 13	University Application Deadline
Jan. 14	Parent Council Meeting
Jan. 25 – 29	Exams
Feb. 1	First day of Semester 2
Feb. 1	College Application Deadline

## CO-OP DEPARTMENT - SEMESTER 1, 2009/2010

Each semester the Co-operative Education Department relies upon our community support system to provide a meaningful and knowledgeable practical experience for Bobcat Co-op Students. This semester our business partners are as follows:

### Morning Placements

PLACEMENT	POSITION
Painted by Dave	Auto Body Repair
SM Freight	Mechanic
KSR International Inc.	Engineer
Heritage Dental	Dental Assistant
Tecumseh Public School	Teacher
Blenheim Community Village	Nurse
Growing Together Daycare	Early Childhood Educator

Ontario's Fun Connection	Social Networking Researcher
Chatham Kent Health Alliance	Infection Control
Rumble Holmes	Carpenter
Municipality of Chatham-Kent	Maintenance Worker
Remsik General Contracting	Carpenter
Rondeau Provincial Park	Maintenance Worker
Blen. Chev. Pontiac GMC Ltd.	Mechanic
Tom's Discount Rent-all	Small Engine Mechanic
RM Classic Cars	Photography/Graphic Design
Canadian Tire Corp.	Mechanic

### Afternoon Placements

**\*\*\*Note: Parents, Students, Supervisors and the Community are invited to join us for the Career Fair on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 8:15 – 10:15 in the Cafeteria at BDHS. We look forward to seeing you there.**

PLACEMENT	POSITION
St. Anne School	Teaching Assistant (Gr. 2 & Gr. 6)
Blackburn Radio	Marketing Assistant
McLauchlin Wellness Centre/ Blenheim Physiotherapy	Medical Office/Physiotherapy Assistant
Jon Ern Farms Ltd.	Farm Operations Assistant
Riverview Gardens	Nurse
BDM Millwrights	Metal Fabrication/Welding Trainee
Ontario's Fun Connection	Marketing Assistant
DCA Automotive	Automotive Technician Trainee
Blenheim Decorating Centre	Interior Designer Trainee
Lasting Memories Flowers	Interior Designer Trainee
Postma Heating & Cooling	Heating & Cooling Trainee
Growing Together Daycare	Early Childhood Educator
Can Am Tractor Ltd.	Farm Technician Trainee
John McGregor Secondary School	Special Needs Teacher
Molly & OJ's Restaurant & Tavern	Kitchen Assistant
Erieau Pro Tackle	Pro Shop Assistant