

Blenheim District High School

Home of the Bobcats

April 2011 Newsletter



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



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

This newsletter is being sent out in time to coincide with the Semester Two Mid-Term Report Cards. We released Interim marks March 11th this term for any struggling students or for those falling off their regular pace. For a change this year, we ran Parent / Teacher interviews on March 29th, which was several weeks before the mid-term marks release to catch any problems early. It was very well attended, much more so than the traditional later date, so we will retain this scheduling for the present. That being said, teachers look forward to hearing from you about any concerns or inquiries you may have regarding your son or daughter and their academic progress – feel free to call the school and they will return your call.

The OSSLT – (Grade 10 Literacy Test) went very smoothly this year, as per usual, with an outstanding 99% participation rate. We not only have had very high levels of success at BDHS for passing rates, we post one of the highest attempt rates both in the LKDSB and provincially. Individual results get released in early to mid-June – stay tuned.

We are deep in the midst of our District Review process this year, where we put extra training and resources into the school with help from the Central Program Department of the LKDSB. One of the main goals that our own BDHS Curriculum Leaders Group chose to focus on was embracing 21st

Century technology. On this front, we have purchased and are currently installing a total of 17 new Smartboards (interactive computer based display/projection screens) in addition to the 6 we already had on site.

At this level of implementation, every teacher will have Smartboards access each and every period of the day as needed - to use the technology with the students. Very few schools in the Province have achieved this commitment to modern teaching practice. All the staff has been in-serviced at least once with the new technology and many have been to intermediate and now advanced training. The central review team comes to the school May 4th for a tour to check our progress towards our self-selected goals and report back to us. We made a trial run the other day to get the students used to people wandering into their classroom!

The BDHS School Advisory Council forwent its regular meeting last Thursday Night for five members to attend the evening put on by the central Parent Involvement Committee. They hosted a guest speaker, Annie Kidder, who is the Executive Director of *People for Education*. This group is an independent parent-led organization that conducts research into the impact of government changes on education and is an advocate for the needs of the student. When it comes to looking at parent engagement that leads to improved student results at school – these were

her top six suggestions that have been supported by the research:

- 1) Talk to your child about their school life.
- 2) Set reasonable but high expectations for them to work hard at school and achieve.
- 3) Go to Parent/Teacher interviews.
- 4) Read their report card and talk to them about it.
- 5) Go to school events such as: concerts, sports events, open houses.
- 6) Read to them at home, especially when they are little.

Six simple rules for success at school for your child.

Lastly, as always, visit our school website at (www.southkent.net/~bdhs/) to keep up with events and dates.

Our next School Advisory Council Meeting is May 12th, 7 PM in Rm.10. Remember this is our first year with a Spring Commencement – so set the evening of June 29th aside if you have a student graduating this year!

Thank you for your continued support of BDHS.

M. Sherman
Principal

FYI Parents/Guardians

Please review the address at the top of this report card. Report any changes to the school (519-676-5485) prior to the June mailing of the final report cards. Thank You for your attention to this matter.

Guidance Office

Grads

- Mid-term marks for Semester 2 will be sent to the OUAC/OCAS application centres April 28
- Final response date to accept a college offer is May 2nd
- 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 and click on "Scholarships" for details.

College Financial Info

Financial information for college applicants including bursaries, grants, scholarships and awards can be found by visiting www.ontariocolleges.ca and by clicking on "plan" and "Money Matters".

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 Shelley Guerin of King's University College in London will take place at BDHS on Friday, April 29 at 11:40 a.m. Interested students need to sign up in the Guidance Office and parents are welcome to attend.

Summer Semester

Summer Semester 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. A minimal registration fee will be charged. Eligibility is determined by the principal and vice principal of your school.

Summer Semester will be offered as an online program and will begin on July 5th. The course will begin with several days of in-school orientation at John McGregor Secondary School. After that, teacher help will be available at the school if a student needs face-to-face help with the course. It is recommended that Grade 9 and 10 students 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

There are also several courses offered as a new credit, rather than an upgrading opportunity. These courses run from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. from July 4 to July 30. Students must attend daily at JMSS in Chatham. See a Guidance Counsellor for more details.

Registration forms and more information about this year's Summer Semester 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 or 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

Counselling Opportunities

This semester, there have been a number of counselling services available to students at BDHS: from the Chatham-Kent Women's Centre, bereavement 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 May 26.

Learning Centre

Students at BDHS continue to work hard and use the Learning Centre to support their schooling. 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 number of students continue to be supported through various student success initiatives. The goal of the Student Success Team is to ensure that all students are as successful as possible in obtaining their credits. Following interim reports, grade 9 and 10 students deemed at risk are provided a mentor, and are encouraged to attend an after school 'Back on Track' program beginning after midterms. Our after school literacy support class was a success this year with 18 grade 10 students enrolled. Students who had previously failed the literacy test were provided with a teacher mentor. The mentors provided tips and strategies to aid in successful completion of the test. Student Success also has a number of students enrolled in a credit recovery class working towards recovering as many credits as possible. 'At Risk Co-Op' continues to be a successful program at BDHS. 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 up to four credits by working at a regular job. For more information on Student Success, please contact Mr. Bunning, Student Success Teacher.

STUDENT COUNCIL

- *Student Council has been running Wacky Wednesdays and will continue to do so until the end of May.*
- *Student Council will be hosting a Staff/Student baseball game in May. This will be held at the Memorial Ball Diamond across the road.*
- *Student Council will be having a grade 12 and 5th year luncheon with staff members in June. The year-end assembly will also take place near the end of the school year.*
- *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.*
- *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 8th 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.

Student Leadership Conferences

- HOBY** Hugh O'Brien Youth conference will be at the University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus and will be attended by Emma Koehler on April 29, 30th and May 1.
- RYLA** The Rotary Youth Leadership workshop will be attended by Sarah Preston, Evan Nanni, Melanie Charbonneau and Matt Hebblethwaite. They will attend May 13, 14, and 15, 2011 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 5. Erin Jackson and Derek Bowers will be presenting a workshop, with the following students attending a variety of other workshops: Michael Berry, Ricky Bowden, Danielle Caron, Megan Fleming, Colleen Hall, Jared Hanson, Randi Hoglund, Spencer James, Abbey Lee, Taylor Pardo, Hans Peter, Heather Stone, Jacob Unger and Brodie Van Bostel.

Dates to Remember

April 22	Good Friday
April 24	Easter Sunday
April 25	Easter Monday
April 29	OSAP Presentation
May 2 – 6	Education Week
May 8	Mother's Day
May 23	Victoria Day
May 25	Grade 8 Orientation
June 7	Undergrad Ceremony
June 8	SAA Banquet
June 20	Father's Day
June 22	Last day of classes
June 23-28	Exams
June 29	Graduation
June 30	P.A. Day



CO-OP DEPARTMENT - SEMESTER 2, 20010/2011

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 14th from 11:45 – 1:45 in the Cafeteria at BDHS. We look forward to seeing you there.**

PLACEMENT	POSITION
Resistance Welding	Welder and Machinist
Fat Jimmy's	Cook Assistant
Blenheim Bus Lines and Painted By Dave	General Labourer and Automotive repair
Chartwell's	Cafeteria Cook Assistant
Blenheim Community Village	Maintenance and General Labourer
McQuigan's Plant Company	Horticultural Assistant
Blenheim Meats	Meat Cutter Assistant
Ron's No-Frills	Stock Person
Growing Together Daycare	Early Childhood Educator Assistant
Tom's Discount Rent All	General Labourer
Provincial Offences Court	Law Clerk Trainee
Municipality of Chatham-Kent	Maintenance Worker
Growing Together Daycare	ECE Assistant
Blenheim Community Village	Therapist Assistant
South Ridge Veterinary Clinic	Vet Tech Assistant
Provincial Offences Court	Clerk Assistant
Blenheim Veterinary Hospital	Vet Tech Assistant
Ontario's Fun Connection	Office Assistant
Erin's Dance Studio	Dance Teacher Assistant
Fitness Zone	Fitness Trainer Assistant
Zimmer Controls	Electrician Assistant
Blenheim Physiotherapy	Therapist Assistant
Shopper's Drug Mart	Pharmacist Assistant
Sobey's	Bakery Assistant
Kent Fabricator's	Welding Assistant
Roy's Auto Repair	Assistant Mechanic
John McGregor Secondary School	DSW Assistant
U of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus	Lab Assistant
Cobblestone Stables	Assistant Stable Hand