



# PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 2010

Ms. G. Lovett, Principal  
Ms. T. Jilderda, Acting Principal  
Mr. R. Wong, Mrs. J. Hughes, Mrs. N. Toic Vice-Principals

## IMPORTANT DATES

April 22	Special Ed Mtg. 6:30 pm James Hillier School
April 22-23	30 Hour Famine
April 29	Musical "99" (see more dates and times in Newsletter)
May 19	Night of Sketch Comedy
May 24	Victoria Day
May 28	Mustang Day
May 28	Relay for Life alternate date is June 11
June 4	Prom 8—12 p.m.
June 8-9	Grade 9 EQAO Math
June 10	BCI Spring Concert
June 12	Arts In the Park "Harmony Square"
June 21	Last Day of Classes
June 22-28	Exams

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



### BCI REBUILD UPDATE:

With every newsletter we get closer and closer to the time that we will be able to move into the new school. The entire staff is looking forward to this summer when that will happen. We have already started scheduling for a regular school day with all students attending from 8:45—3:00 starting in September.

Work on the rebuild is progressing well. The majority of classrooms have been painted, the ceiling grids are installed and floors will be laid beginning in the next few weeks. Shortly, work will also begin on restoring the grounds around the school.

Staff is preparing to pack and move one more time. Tech shops, the Music room and the Gym will be available for use throughout next year, however

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## NEWS FROM STUDENT SERVICES

1. Course Selections have just been completed for the 2010-2011 school year. A copy of the courses each student chose is included with the report card. Please check your son/daughter's choices to make sure these are the courses that they have selected for next year. If there is any change needed, have your son/daughter come to Student Services at the BCI campus, ASAP to make those changes. In September, students will have limited opportunities to change courses.
2. There is still an opportunity to apply to the **Co-operative Education Program**. Applications can be picked up in Student Services. Please return the application to Co-op or Student Services, as soon as possible.
3. Marks for senior students going to university are being submitted on Wednesday, April 21 to the Ontario University Application Centre.
4. Summer school applications will be in Student Services at the beginning of May. Students must register prior to June 29. Students are to return the applications to Student Services. There will absolutely be **no first day registrations**.

### REMINDERS

1. Community Service Hours are to be submitted to the main office at BCI. It is recommended that students keep a copy of the hours. This copy may be helpful in filling out job applications, resumes and even when applying for awards.
2. The **deadline** for graduating students to submit their **Community Service Hours is June 30th, 2010!!** If a student does not submit the proper paperwork by that time, he/she **will not graduate** in the fall. Also, both the college and university application centers check that students have completed the hours because it is a graduation requirement. If students do not have them submitted, offers of admission to post-secondary institutions may be withdrawn.
3. Scholarship and other helpful financial information can be found on our school website as well as in the Student Services office. Student Scholarships.org have released their new FREE Scholarship and Career Handbook at <http://www.studentscholarships.org/ontariobook.php>

### THANK-YOU

To all parents and staff who supported the piloting of the new course selection process this year. We were able to provide timely guidance and aid to over 90% of the student population. 100% of our currently registered students are registered for classes for the 2010-2011 school year.

## EXPLORE CO-OP/OYAP

Currently the Co-op Department is interviewing students for next year. Students can work outside our school environment to earn credits towards their OSSD.

BCI offers 1, 2, 3 or 4 credits in a Co-op placement. Most students are enrolled in a 2 credit package, either morning or afternoon. Some senior students who have all their compulsory credits will take a 4 credit (all day co-op). Occasionally a student will want the experience of a Co-op, and one credit will suffice. We do everything we can to match and accommodate the placement to the student's talents and interests.

Placements range from education, law enforcement, auto service technician, fire-fighting, truck and coach mechanic, carpentry, hairdressing, media arts, veterinarian, nursing, physiotherapy, aviation technology, information technology, tool and die making, dental hygienist, museum curator, business ownership, child and youth worker, and many more.

Aside from work experience, our students gain experience working with adults who enjoy their chosen profession. Many students are offered jobs and apprenticeships and the ability to apply to specialized post-secondary courses. Students can kick start their career by working on hours that can be used toward an apprenticeship.

Encourage your student to participate in Co-op to ascertain their compatibility with a career choice prior to making a huge financial outlay for college or university. Co-op ...don't leave high school with out it! For further information, contact the BCI Co-op Department: (519)759-3210 ext. 271017.

## B.C.I. ARTS DEPARTMENT—COMING SOON !!

**BCI PRESENTS "99" A MUSICAL REVIEW SHOW** highlighting some of the best that Broadway has to offer. Our cast of 35, and crew of 20 have been working all semester on this compilation, celebrating 99 years of BCI theatre history tradition!

<b><u>SHOW</u></b>	<b>Thursday, April 29</b> at 7:30 pm; <b>Friday April 30</b> at 7:30 pm;
<b><u>DATES:</u></b>	<b>Saturday, May 1</b> at 1:30 pm and 7:30 pm; and <b>Sunday, May 2</b> at 1:00 pm
<b><u>LOCATION:</u></b>	W. Ross MacDonald School, Theatre Auditorium Entrance, Parking in lower lot
<b><u>COST:</u></b>	\$10 per ticket

All proceeds will go directly to continuing to develop our musical theatre program in our new venue set to open in September 2010! We would like to mention that our past shows have performed for audiences as large as 3000-3500 people. This year, with our smaller seating capacity, we can only perform for a maximum of 1400 audience members. So get your tickets NOW! Tickets are on sale at the BCI Main Office, or through a cast member.

**BCI'S ARTS IN THE SQUARE** takes place on Saturday, June 12 in the afternoon and features all of our arts department—Visual Art display and grade 12 Exhibition, musical selections, dance and drama selections. This is a great event for the art students of BCI to get public recognition. It is a free event, so plan to attend and support the various arts programs BCI offers. We are proud to be the only school in the GEDSB to exhibit our artistic talents in this beautiful public space. We hope you will join us for the afternoon, 1-4 pm, on Saturday, June 12.

### **COMEDY SKETCH PERFORMANCE NIGHT**

Wednesday, May 19—BCI hosts a night of sketch comedy. Students in the Stage and Screen and Laurier Program will keep you rolling with laughter for this one night of comedy sketch entertainment—Polish Alliance Hall, 120 Albion Street, 7:30 p.m.—\$5 per person

### **BCI SPRING CONCERT**

The BCI Band will host the annual Spring Concert at New Covenant Church on June 10 at 7:00 pm. The concert will feature performances by BCI's many musical ensembles including the Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, Jr. Band, Vocal Ensemble, and much more. Come out and support BCI's music program, and enjoy a wonderful evening of music.

## **RELAY FOR LIFE—Friday, May 28th—Sat. May 29th 7:00p.m.—7:00 a.m. Tollgate Track**

This event is a non-competitive 12-hour relay around a track to help raise money and awareness for cancer research. All proceeds go to the Canadian Cancer Society. We need survivors for the Survivor's Victory Lap. If you have survived cancer or are currently battling the disease, we are holding this event to honour YOU. We are in need of survivors to walk around the track at the beginning of the event. If you know of anyone who might be interested in being honoured at this event, please call 519 759-3210 x 271406 or email: [meghan.cameron@granderie.ca](mailto:meghan.cameron@granderie.ca)

## FROM THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Senior Girls' Volleyball had an outstanding season with the ladies going to the city finals against North Park. They were unsuccessful in the city title but did advance on to CWOSSA in Owen Sound and competed very well!

Junior Boy's Basketball finished 3rd in the city and won the wild card to also advance on to CWOSSA in Kitchener. Great season boys!

Sydney Sollazo and Destiny Osmond were outstanding this season in wrestling with both placing in the City meet and advancing on to CWOSSA with Sydney finishing fourth at the OFSAA meet in Tillsonburg! Amazing ladies!



Spring season sports are currently underway: Boys' Rugby (Junior and Senior), Girls' Rugby (Junior and Senior), Track and Field, Boys' and Girls' Soccer, Girls' Fastball, finishing Badminton! Good luck to all athletes and their teams in the final school season!

### "SOUP, SANDWICH AND A SMILE"

The Soup, Sandwich and a Smile campaign was an amazing initiative that BCI took on this year. The students and staff prepared homemade broccoli and cauliflower soup and healthy whole wheat, meat and vegetable sandwiches for over 250 of Brantford's less fortunate.

The students set up in Victoria Park and showed our community how they can "give back". The initiative was inspired by a \$1000 grant given to BCI by the Brant County Health Unit. Special thanks to all the key teachers and committed students who made such a worthy event possible!



### MUSTANG DAY! Friday May 28th, 2010

This will be our last Mustang Day for the 2010 school year. It is a great opportunity for ALL students and staff to get together for the day and have fun and meet/see people you have not seen all school year. It will be held at Brant Park between the hours of 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. A light lunch will be provided for all in attendance. Come out and have fun!!!

### SENIOR PROM

Friday, June 4th will be our Senior Prom, between the hours of 8:00 pm and 12 midnight. Tickets will be on sale starting the middle of May. Don't miss out on your Senior Prom! This year's theme is "Under the Sea".



## BCI RETURNS FROM ITALY AND FRANCE

Over the March Break, twelve eager BCI students and staff travelled to Italy and France. We began our adventure in Rome, making day stops in Pompeii and Vatican City. After that, we drove to Florence, stopping in the beautiful medieval village of Sienna, which was a highlight for the students. In Florence we took a walking tour of the city, learning about the cultural achievements of Michelangelo, seeing the "David" and visiting the graves of Galileo, Michelangelo and Machiavelli. From there we travelled to Nice, visiting Monaco as well. The students had opportunities to see workshops in leather making, cameo making, and visit a chocolate and perfume factory. The students met many other students travelling from the United States and were amazing representatives of BCI.

The British Airways strike added some flavour to our departure, as we were "stranded" in France (a great place to be stranded). In order to get home, we were re-routed to London, where we stayed overnight and had a walking tour of the city (a very fast one). After one more pit stop in Boston, we returned home, exhausted but satisfied with all that we had seen. The food, the culture and the lifestyle were enchanting features of the trip!

*From Ms. Gokhale.*



### Principal's Message continued ....

Art, Vocal Music, Dance, Business, French, Fitness and Family Studies will all be holding their classes at Victoria for the first semester. The plan is to vacate the 1963 wing by the end of June so that renovations can take place with the goal to re-enter for the second semester. The main office will be located at Victoria for the summer. I know this has been a challenging couple of years but I promise—the new school is going to be worth it !!

On another note, I would like to thank everyone who took part in the BCI Elimination Draw on April 10th. We had a terrific turnout (500 people) and everyone had a wonderful time. What a great start to the celebrations for BCI's 100th Anniversary. The School Council worked very hard to organize the event and was able to raise just over \$20,000. Their intent is to direct that money into non-funded enhancements for the new school. Speaking on behalf of the staff and students, I want to express our appreciation for the strong support shown to BCI by our School Council and community. We are extremely lucky to have that.

## **MAKING TIME COUNT**

### **Stay involved through the year's end**

Summer vacation may be just around the corner, but your involvement during the final weeks of school is still vitally important. Remember to:

- **Keep track of important dates** and deadlines—write final exam dates, important activities and other school events on your family calendar.
- **Monitor homework.** It's great to get outdoors when spring arrives, but make sure your teen starts homework before he/she is too tired to concentrate.
- **Volunteer.** Ask how you can get involved—from your home or at the school. There are still many volunteer opportunities available.
- **Get your teen to school**—everyday. Attendance is as important at the end of the year as it was at the beginning, so make sure your teen has a great attendance record.

## **WELLNESS**

### **Promote adequate sleep**

Your teen is busy with end-of-the-year activities and exams, but there's one thing that must be at the top of his/her priority list: Getting adequate sleep. Sleep affects memory and concentration skills.

Here are some tips for your teen:

- **Get** at least eight hours of sleep each night.
- **Have** a regular sleep schedule that includes week-ends
- **Avoid** caffeine after 2 p.m.

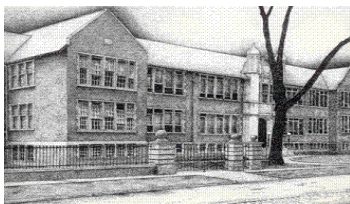
Source: Margery D. Rosen, "Sleepless Everywhere," Scholastic.com, <http://content.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=1461>.

## **DEALING WITH TOUGH ISSUES**

### **Talk about drug abuse with your teen**

If you suspect that your teen is using alcohol or drugs, take action right away. Talk to your teen about your concerns. For a successful conversation:

- **Listen.** Once you open up the subject, be prepared to hear what your teen has to say. Don't interrupt. If you find yourself getting upset, take a five-minute break before you continue.
- **Look.** Facial expressions often tell you as much as words. During the conversation, try to read your teen's body language. Does he/she seem to be avoiding your eyes? Is he/she looking at the clock? Those signals can tell you there's something he/she may not be saying.
- **Respond.** Repeat things to make sure you've heard them correctly.
- **Set limits.** Say that you expect your teen to obey laws for drug and alcohol use. Set some family "laws" too.



## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

### **How can parents ensure prom is safe and fun for high schoolers?**

**Q:** *My daughter has been invited to the prom, and I want this to be an enjoyable night she'll never forget. But I've heard that many of the kids drink on prom night. How can I know she'll be safe?*

**A:** For too many teens, the prom means more than a formal dress and a corsage—it means a night for underage drinking, and that can lead to serious problems. It's not just the danger of a car crash, although that's serious enough. Teens often binge on alcohol, drinking five or more drinks in a row. That can lead to alcohol poisoning or even death.

You can't go to the prom with your daughter, but you can:

- **Talk about drinking before the prom.** Send a clear message about underage drinking—that it is not allowed in your family. Brainstorm some ways she can say *no* to drinking.
- **Find out who is driving.** If your teen is riding in a limo, make sure the driver (or limo service) actively discourages underage drinking. Offer to pick up your teen from *anywhere* if she feels uncomfortable—no questions asked.
- **Find out how the school is promoting** an alcohol-free prom night. Volunteer to help.
- **Stay up until your teen gets home.** Or ask her to wake you when she gets in.

## **PARENT QUIZ**

### **Is your teen's social network safe?**

Parents may be vaguely aware of the potential dangers teens face on social networking websites, but most don't have any idea how to protect their teens. Answer the following questions *yes* or *no* to see if you're doing all you can:

- \_\_\_ **1. Have you spoken** with your teen about how much information he/she can safely share with her online friends?
- \_\_\_ **2. Have you reminded** your teen of the "Grandma rule"—that is, everything he/she posts in a public place should be something he/she would be willing to show her grandmother?
- \_\_\_ **3. Have you talked** about what makes a person a true friend? Being "friends" on a social networking site does not mean that person is your teen's *real* friend.
- \_\_\_ **4. Do you keep** the computer in a central place in your house?
- \_\_\_ **5. Have you installed** security tools on your home computer, including filtering software and a firewall?

**How did you do?** *Each yes means you are helping protect your teen from online dangers. For each no answer, try that idea from the quiz.*

For safety is not a gadget but a state of mind.  —Eleanor Everet