



Blyth Academy Thornhill Newsletter

May 2019

Principal's Message

Spring has sprung here at Blyth Academy Thornhill (even if the temperature doesn't quite seem it!), and we have finally rounded the bend into Term 4. This final term is always a quieter one at Blyth Academy, leaving us time to reflect on the past year and plan for the next. With Prom tonight and Graduation coming up next week on May 9, I can't help but reflect on this past year and feel that buzz of excitement for things to come. I am so proud of our 2019 Graduates, the dedication and hard work they have put into their time here at Blyth is commendable and I look forward to seeing where life takes them all. We will be losing some very important members of our little Blyth Academy Family as they take the next step in their journeys, and while it is sad to know we will not have their smiling faces gracing our hallways each day next year, I am so thrilled for them to experience what comes next. As we say goodbye to our Grads, we are also in the midst of planning for next year and I am excited to share with you some new initiatives over the next few months! Stay tuned for updates!

Important Dates

May 9: Graduation (1/2 Day Schedule)

May 6-10: Spirit Week

May 15: Blyth Cross-Campus Beach Volleyball Tournament (Burlington)

May 17: RBC Financial Planning Workshop

May 20: Victoria Day (no classes)

May 28: Parent Teacher Meetings (3:30-6) - half-day schedule

May 29: OUAC Acceptance Deadline



Upcoming Events:

York University Research Study Visit

Measuring Judgment and Decision-Making in Youth

On May 1, Blyth Academy Thornhill was visited by Andrew Chan and David Remisch, students of York University who are working closely with Psychology Professor Dr. Maggie Toplak.

Dr. Toplak's research is currently focused on studying individual differences in judgment and decision making in adolescents. She has offered her and her students' time to act as a "Scientist in the School" for us, supporting our teachers in developing critical thinking practices and helping prepare our students for post-secondary. In return, our students are invited to participate in her research study.

Forms have been given to students and e-mailed home explaining her research in more depth and you can also find Dr. Toplak's website here: <http://mtoplak.info.yorku.ca/>. Participation in this study is completely voluntary, with all results remaining *anonymous*. Students who participate will be eligible to receive community service hours. Our Foundations program will be participating as part of their course of study, however the testing remains completely voluntary and no students will be required to participate if they do not wish to.

Please contact Danielle Kendall for more information!

Spirit Week! May 6-10

Blyth Academy Thornhill campus will be hosting a Spirit Week next week with each day having a new theme. Students are invited to participate in various activities throughout the week, including a raffle. The theme days for the week are as follows:

Monday: Pyjama Day and Waffle Breakfast

Tuesday: Sports Wear Day and Xavier Caffrey the Magician will be here

Wednesday: Wacky Wednesday (crazy hair, wacky patterns on clothes, etc.)

Thursday: Throwback Thursday

Friday: Film Friday (vote for the film you'd like to see on the blackboard!)

Blyth Academy Campus-Wide Beach Volleyball Tournament

On **Wednesday May 15**, Blyth Academy students are invited to participate in a beach volleyball tournament at The Wave Sports Centre in Burlington. Transportation (bus) will be provided directly to the sports centre from Blyth Academy Lawrence Park campus. The cost is \$5 for the day, with all money going towards charity.

Please email our Director of Student Life, Ms. Drabkin for any further inquiries about this event r_drabkin@blytheducation.com

Guidance Update

Mrs. Flanagan will be focusing her energies on pre-Grade 12 planning with Grade 11's this month. These meetings will consist of discussions about interests, goals and any potential plans for post-secondary education. We also have some special events coming up including hosting RBC Bank to present about financial planning and a Career Day.

OUAC:

May 29th - the last day you can expect to hear an Ontario University response

June 3rd - the last day to accept your offer, first day to make a financial commitment to most schools (i.e. residence and tuition deposits)

Staff Spotlight

Spotlight on.....

Mr. Nick Witzeman



Hello-I'm Mr. Witzeman!

This term, I'm teaching ETS4U (Studies in Literature) and HHG4M (Human Development through the Lifespan), but I'm primarily an English teacher, which is what I've been doing here at Blyth Academy for the last three terms.

Before I moved to Toronto in August 2018, I lived in Cincinnati, Ohio (birthplace of professional baseball-ask Jesse Levine), which is where I was born and raised. As a kid, I was always infatuated with reading and writing; I even wanted to be an author when I grew up! Some of my favourite books from childhood were *The Once and Future King* and, of course, the *Harry Potter* series. These days, I'd number Toni Morrison, William Faulkner, and Jane Austen among my favourite authors.

Outside of English literature, my biggest passion is music. I play piano and guitar, sing, and enjoy writing and recording music in my free time. In university, I co-wrote (and starred in) a 27-song musical called *Octets*. Now I'm working on a new musical about birdwatching with my wife, a bird lover and graduate student studying ecology at York University.

Location Updates

16 Degrees has visited us and are working on a plan to give our little home a facelift. New tables and chairs will be brought in, rooms will be reorganized, and clutter will be removed! On Monday May 13 1-800-Got-Junk will be visiting to clear out the clutter, leaving more room for students and teachers to put up their own wonderful pieces of work!

As always, if you have any suggestions or requests please do not hesitate to reach out!



Globeducate Award

Calling all would-be world travelers...Blyth Academy is pleased to share with you a new financial award aimed at providing our current Academy students the opportunity for a global education experience through our Global High School program next year. A \$5,000 scholarship is available for one deserving grade 11 or 12 Blyth Academy Thornhill student toward their participation in this exciting travel education program. This scholarship can be used toward Term 1 or 2 or the whole first semester of [Global High School](#) next year!

Interested? If you just said, "YES" in your head while you read this, here is what you need to do to apply...submit a short written response (100 words or less) to [Ms. Kendall via email](#) by midnight on May 9, 2019 answering the following question: What is your dream adventure and why?

For more information prior to application, please contact Virginia Woodall from the Blyth admissions team. She can be reached at 416-960-3552 or via email at virginia.woodall@blytheducation.com

Good luck to all applicants!

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