



## May 2020 Newsletter

### Dates of Note

**June 1: Registration Deadline for September Full-Time Studies**

**June 3: PD Day (no classes)**

**June 5: "Wear it Wild" Day (WWF)**

**June 19: Last day for Food Drive Contributions**

**June 26: Last day of Term 4**

**June 30: Term 4 Report Cards Issued**

**July 6: Summer School Begins**

### Virtual Extra-Curricular Activities Schedule

Our virtual extra-curriculars have been running consistently thanks to your participation. Below is the current schedule. Keep up the enthusiasm, Blyth ET!

**Monday:** Eco Club with Ms. Palumbo, 1:15pm

**Tuesday:** Student Council with Mrs. Pace, 1:15pm

**Wednesday:** Yoga with Ms. Palumbo, 1:15pm

**Thursday:** Model United Nations with Mr. Jay, 1:00pm;  
Art Club with Beth, 1:00pm

**Friday:** Yearbook Committee with Ms. Celaj, 12:30pm

*(Foundations students wishing to participate in Yearbook will be dismissed from class early on Fridays.)*

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### Message from Student Council

Hi, Blyth Etobicoke! We hope that everyone is in good health and spirits. This month has been an important one for our Student Council, as it marked the start of our 2-month transition planning for the 2020-2021 school year. This is our time to begin closing things down for the current school year, while ensuring that we are ready to hit the ground running in the fall. In the coming weeks, we'll be finalizing our governing constitution, which will establish the framework for our student government here at Blyth ET for years to come, as well as making preparations for a change in the executive team.

At midterm, we would typically be hosting our families at parent teacher interviews and enjoying baked goods during our termly bake sale. Unfortunately, we aren't able to have one this term, but we invite anyone who's missing it to instead donate to a local food bank as Ms. Foley shared in her email this week. Lastly, we only have one month left of school! We are incredibly proud to see the participation in classes and clubs despite the unique context we find ourselves in, and we've never been more inspired. Keep it up Etobicoke!

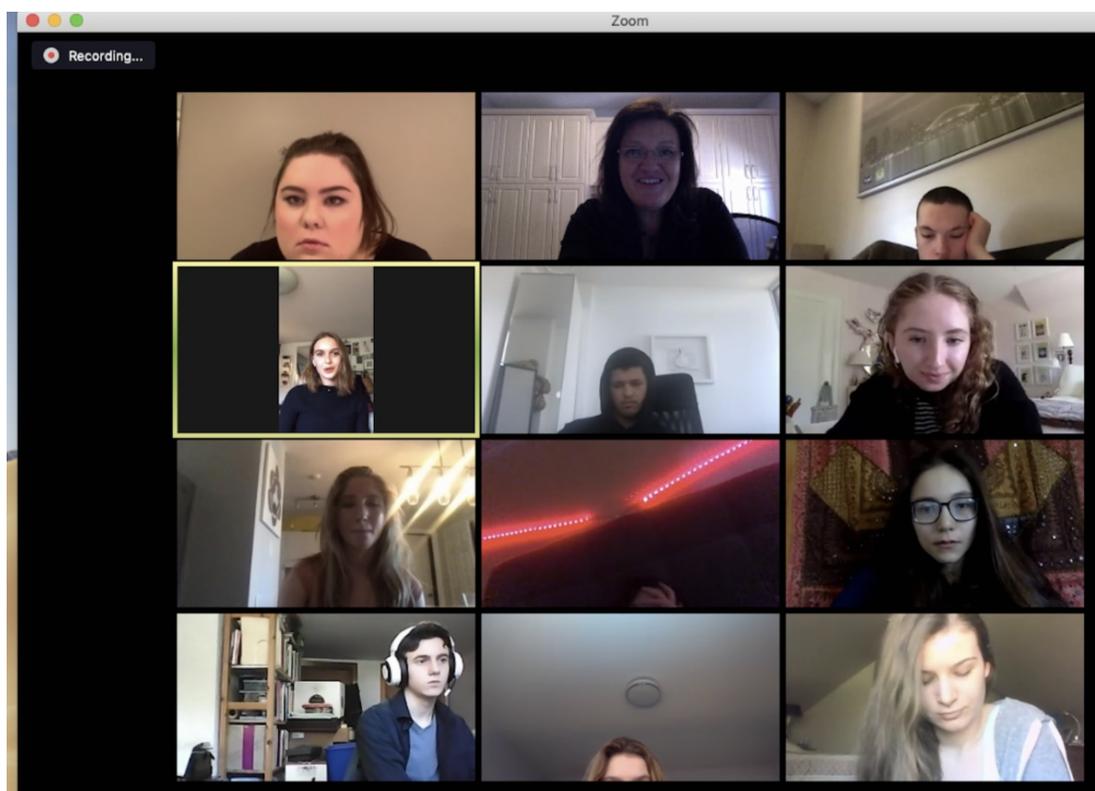
## Guidance Corner

As part of our University Preparation Sessions, Blyth Etobicoke was proud to have three Blyth graduates from the class of 2019 join us for an informative Zoom chat. Many thanks to Oliver, Sarah and Zofia for answering our graduates' questions and helping prepare them for their next chapter. It was heartwarming to hear how Blyth helped prepare them for their first year and how well they did! The Student Life Network has created an excellent resource for students to virtually tour Canadian Universities and Colleges. Click on the link below to explore!

<https://blog.studentlifenet.com/2020/03/25/virtual-tours-campus-student-guide/>

Stay well,

~Mrs. Pace



### Budding Blyth ET Author

During quarantine, many in our community have taken up various hobbies and experimented with creative activities which they had not engaged in or had time for during the "before" times. We thought it would a great idea to profile some of these activities in our remaining newsletters for the year in an effort to share and hopefully, inspire!

Sammy has had a passion for creative writing long before the pandemic changed the world. Our virtual schedule has allowed Sammy to spend even more time creating his literary masterpieces. Sammy has generously shared one of his most recent pieces, which he categorizes as fan fiction. As this genre is largely

misunderstood, Sammy has included an explanation below:

*As a writer, I would love to create stories when I am older. I am in love with creating characters and developing their lives through my stories and my plot points and ideas. I am a teenager with hundreds of ideas. I even wrote my own three part short story that I would love to publish. However, like I said, I am a teenager, and I am unsure if I would be able to get my stories out there without ridicule. There is a form of writing called 'Fanfiction'. Fanfiction is when a writer takes characters that previously exist in another work, and puts them into different scenarios in another 'universe'. For example, if someone wants to take the characters from a random tv show and then put them into the Star Wars Universe, that is okay! However, they must give absolute credit to the creators of the universe and the characters. This is what I did in my new story that I am in the process of writing. I took characters from the musical 'Hamilton' and I am putting them in the universe of the book 'The Darkest Minds'. In my story, the characters that are in Hamilton are not like the historical figures. The musical takes the figures and creates them as characters with certain personality traits expanded and enlarged to the point where they are different people, but with the same names. They also do not look the same way as the historical figures.*

*I take those characters from the musical and I put them into the universe of the book titled 'The Darkest Minds', which is a novel where children all around the world get a strange disease that gives them superpowers. So, as a result, I put the characters into a world, as kids and teenagers in high school settings, and I am creating the story of their lives through their powers. A further explanation of the story is in the story 'mainframe' that gives who the characters are, content warnings, some things that are going to be in the story, and the summary.*

*"Fanfiction is what literature might look like if it were reinvented from scratch after a nuclear apocalypse by a band of brilliant pop-culture junkies trapped in a sealed bunker. They don't do it for money. That's not what it's about. The writers write it and put it up online just for the satisfaction. They're fans, but they're not silent, couchbound consumers of media. The culture talks to them, and they talk back to the culture in its own language." -Lev Grossman*

With a better understanding of the genre, we invite you to read Sammy's short story entitled [Reds and Oranges are Rare](#).

Thank you for sharing your gift and your work with the Blyth ET community, Sammy, and we can't wait to see you publish your first book in the near future!  
Request your autographs now, everyone!

If you would like to share your hobby or interest for our next newsletter, please contact Ms. Palumbo now!



Shown here is Maia F.'s mask, thoughtfully created using magazine clippings.

10 personality traits. Students also provided Mr. C with explanations of the images selected to create their masks.

Thanks, Mr. Culbert, for demonstrating how psychology can be explored through a fun and educational art-based assignment!

## Personality Mask Project

Students in Mr. Culbert's Introduction to Anthropology, Psychology and Sociology class were tasked with creating a visual representation of their personality traits/characteristics using craft materials and other resources of their choice.

The instructions were that the mask must include representations of the student's persona including past experiences, aspirations, fears, talents, areas for improvement, hobbies, interests, family, friends, pets, dreams, and feelings, along with

## University Preparation Days

From May 12 - 14 at Blyth ET we hosted our inaugural University Preparation Days! Teachers ran university-style lectures and tutorials for grade 12 students in order to give them a first-hand understanding of what they should expect in the year ahead. For some, it was a fun challenge while for others, it was a valuable motivator and demonstrated the level of self-regulation and discipline required in university.

Science students in Ms. Tompkins' classes were particularly enthusiastic about how their biology lab was run, and they feel much more confident and prepared for university labs after this exercise.

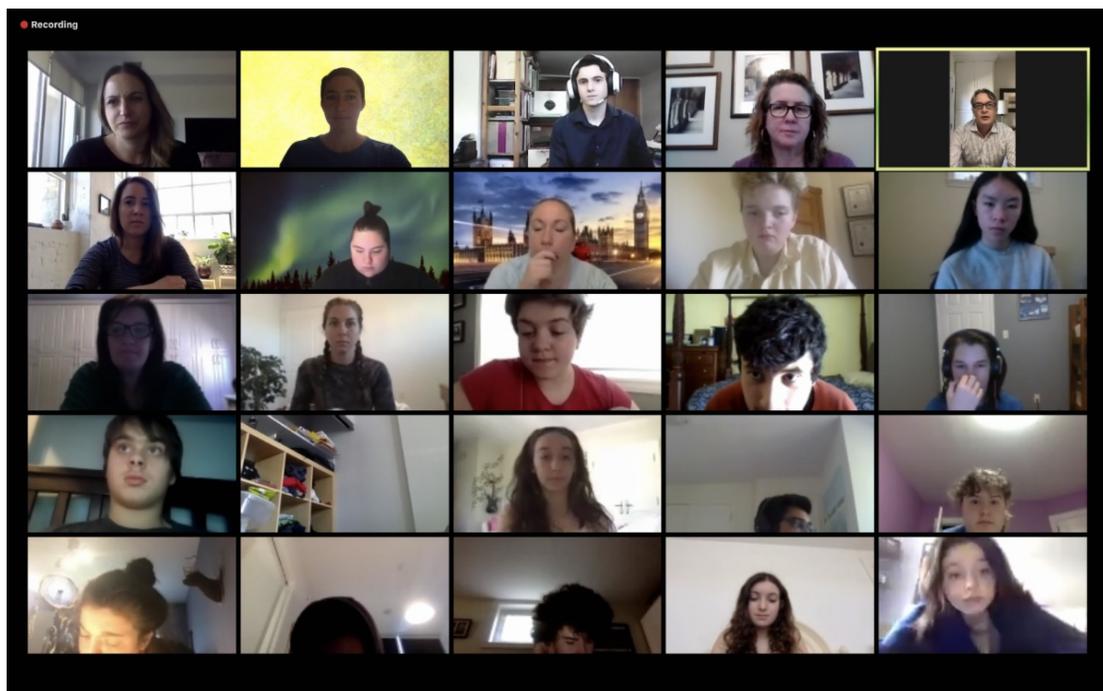
Expectations were high, but students rose to the challenge and are ready to ask more analytical questions, know what to expect in their first year labs and tutorials, recognize the importance of independent readings, and take more responsibility for their education.

## Guest Speaker: Gord Perks, City Councillor

On Wednesday May 20, Blyth ET had the pleasure of hosting a Zoom video conference with Gord Perks, Ward 4 Councillor (Parkdale-High Park). Students, teachers, and even parents joined in to hear what Councillor Perks had to share. His talk was extremely candid, informative, and valuable particularly when he spoke to his work to protect the environment.

Councillor Perks also took time to answer some of our questions, even staying on the conference longer than scheduled in order to do so. Through events like these, our school feels more connected to the community in which we reside and supports our goals to become more informed citizens.

A huge thanks to Aidan T. for organizing this event! If you are interested in reading more about Gord Perks, visit his website [here!](#)



## Freshwater Poetry

As part of their World Cultures unit in Gr.10 Foundations, students have engaged in discussions about freshwater, its unequal distribution in the world, and how this affects



various cultures in the physical, social, economic, and environmental dimensions. Students were then asked to write a poem (style of their choice) about what freshwater means to them. Below are a few examples for you to enjoy.

*Activities by Maia*

From Michigan to California, Ontario to  
Florida, devastation trails our lands  
Unaware of contamination, we suffer isolated  
consequences  
Thousands of innocents displaced

Diseases infiltrating defenceless communities  
We stand tall, oblivious to active currents of change  
Forced to adjust the lens on the global eye  
Only then can changes be made  
We are gifted knowledge to better inform decisions  
Knowledge to develop technologies  
To insure we protect ourselves and those of the future  
A mission  
A vision for contamination free, healthy water for all  
Ensure water stays clean for generations to come  
Shield the issue from those susceptible  
Expose it to the ignorant and those in power  
Selfish to think of the mere consequences on ourselves  
A sharp increase in plastic entering our waters  
Fish, birds, mammals, turtles  
Destroy habitats, mating rituals, animals themselves  
Devastating consequences and can wipe out entire species  
Change  
The number one ingredient in a human body  
Yet we treat it as a unnecessary desire to life  
Outbreaks are not limited to countries with poor sanitation systems  
We must secure our water sources  
Together

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*Water by Sammy*

Going to the tap in my home  
Turning it on and holding a cup under it  
Watching it drip down into the container to quench my thirst.  
That's what water means to me.

The pool near my house  
Filled with children and adults alike  
Looking to have some fun or play on a hot summer day.  
That's what water means to me

The day the water got cut off.  
It had happened multiple times.  
My neighbourhood is by the lake, but they turned off the water for my sake  
That's what water means to me.

My friend got her water cut off.  
But it was different for her because it wasn't the city's fault.  
Who's fault was it? Her mother couldn't pay, so they made it halt  
That's what water means to me.

I hear songs about the liquid  
'There's Something in the Water' by my two favourite rappers  
A song about the differences a little bit of water can make  
That's what water means to me.

We only have three days to live without water.

But we are only able to drink 2.5% of it.  
If we listen to those songs about what is happening,  
We will see how much water means to us.

The number almost seem scary but we forget it  
We don't let it upset us because we just forget it  
But what if we see who needs the most of it,  
we will see how much water means to us

Going to the tap in my home  
Turning it on and holding a cup  
Watching it drip down... until the drip come to a stop

And I realize then.. How much water means to the world.

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Untitled work by Avery

Water is all around us  
In the earth  
In the ground  
In the air  
All around  
From lakes to seas to streams  
Water is pure  
it is natural  
it is healthy  
Water can help all  
Animals and people  
Water is simple  
Water is free  
it can help lives  
Water lives in you and me.

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*Anonymous Letter to the Water*

Dear Water,

Water water can't you see, all the fish are gone, over-fishing is the new biggest sin. Sharks being caught, killing life simply for the fin. Water water can't you see, all your biggest wonders such as dolphins stuck inside, never to be freed. These people don't care about them, it's all about the money, greed. Water water can't you see, everything is disappearing including your precious coral. Don't you think us humans should learn some proper morals? Water water can't you see, some people don't have you while others have gallons and gallons enough to fill a pool. Unfairness daunts our world but yet we still continue to be cruel.  
Your good friend who needs you dearly.

Sincerely,  
Human Kind



## Blyth ET Eco Initiatives Update:

As we are now more than halfway through Term 4, we are beginning to wind down our eco initiatives for this academic year. *Wear it Wild*, taking place on Friday 5 June, will be the final event of the year; a day that brings awareness to animals at risk of extinction as well as the health of the ecosystems in which they live.

The Eco Club will continue to meet every Monday over the remaining weeks to continue planning for next year. If you would like to join us yet haven't done so yet, you are more than welcome! Just send Ms. Palumbo an e-mail or Edsby message.

Great work Blyth ET! Keep up the energy!

*Pura vida,*  
*Ms. Palumbo*

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