



September 2020 Newsletter

Dates of Note

October 2: Honour's Lunch 1:15pm

October 5: World Teacher Day

October 9: Thanksgiving Holiday (no classes)

October 12: Thanksgiving Holiday (no classes)

October 14: Virtual 1/2 Day; Parent-Teacher Meetings 12:30-6:00pm

October 30: Terry Fox Run 10:30-11:30am

October 31: Halloween

Message from Student Council

A few weeks into the school year and the positive atmosphere created by our students, both new and returning, means we are eager to begin Student Council. So far, it is pleasing to hear that all positions for the Student Council have been filled! The only exception being we will hold an election for the grade 12 representative position. The election will most likely be held next week so that after Thanksgiving we are up and running! In order to manage expectations this year, we must let you know that unfortunately many of our usual abilities are limited as we want to reduce in-person student contact outside of our cohorts as much as possible. However, we are excited to introduce events that will allow individuals to contribute to our shared goals while still following COVID-19 guidelines. We are excited to be working with our new council in a couple of weeks and helping the Blyth Academy Etobicoke student body!

~Blyth ET Student Council



Guidance Corner

I am very happy to be back on campus and excited to see students again. I am looking forward to working with them as they strive for academic success and personal growth. If students would like to make an appointment with me, they can simply drop by my office to schedule an appointment or send me an e-mail and we can arrange a time to meet. Virtual appointments via Zoom are also available.

Understandably, our current unprecedented circumstances can cause anxiety and stress in our

school community. I have created a group on Edsby called Mental Health Matters. There, you will find community resources that are available to students and families, as well as some anxiety-reducing exercises. As always, I am here to talk to students to guide and assist them.

Attention Blyth Etobicoke Graduates of 2021!

A group has been created on Edsby especially for you. I will share important information about "Life After Blyth" including post-secondary information, the application process, virtual tours, scholarships and graduation. Parents have been invited to the group as well.

Peace,
Mrs. Pace

Terry Fox: 40 Years of Hope

On Friday, October 30th, our school will commemorate the 40th anniversary of Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope by partaking in a nature walk (beginning at staggered times to follow physical distancing and cohort protocols). The walk will take place in periods 1 and 2 around 10:30-11:30am.



If you are a gr.12 student and are interested in earning volunteer hours, please contact Mrs. Pace to inquire directly about how you can help organize this event.

Please consider donating to this very worthwhile cause. [Donate online today!](#) We're aiming to collect \$3,000 in donations this year in order to surpass last year's total of \$2,930.65.

Watch for more information on fund raising incentives over the month ahead!

Virtual Extra Curricular Schedule

We look forward to kicking off our virtual Term 1 extra-curricular club meetings next week! Zoom links will be posted on The River in Edsby next week.

Monday:

Eco Club with [Ms. Palumbo & Ms. Tompkins](#) during Foundations @1:15; non-Foundations students are encouraged to join via Zoom

Fitness/Running with [Ms. Lewis](#) @ 3:40 pm

Model United Nations & Global Affairs with [Mr. Jay & Mr. Culbert](#) @ 6:00pm

Tuesday:

Social Justice & Outreach with [Ms. Brissett](#) @ 3:45 pm

Wednesday:

Student Council with [Mrs. Pace](#) @ 4:15 pm

Chess with [Mr. Jay](#) @ 6:00 pm

Thursday:

Math Party with [Ms. Duong & Ms. Tompkins](#) @ 3:40 pm

If you are interested in joining anything listed above and did not already indicate your intent to do so on your extra-curricular form, please e-mail the teacher(s) directly by clicking on their name(s) above. We hope to see everyone getting involved!

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)

The Term 1 UNSDG that our students and faculty are working on is #6: Clean Water and Sanitation. Here are a few examples of how this is being integrated into Term 1 courses:



Gr.12 English:

We are completing a poetry unit focused on works written by Indigenous writers in Canada. We will be looking at Indigenous traditions connected to nature, land, and water. We will also talk about current conflicts/issues, including pipeline plans over Indigenous land in western Canada and how many reserves do not have access to clean drinking water.

Gr.12 Data Management:

Our sustainable development goal of clean water and sanitation will be incorporated through the analysis of related statistics not only from our country, but other countries as well. Students will investigate how certain platforms can manipulate their statistics to help sway public opinion. For example, examining countries which say they provide clean water to all citizens in order to determine how many of those citizens actually have access to the clean water.

Gr.12 Advanced Functions:

Students will analyze graphs which show changes over time in Canada and other countries in terms of their accessibility to/availability of clean water and sanitation systems. They will interpret the rates of changes from different functions, draw conclusions and develop ideas for how the flaws discovered in the systems may be improved. They will use their conclusions to predict the development of sanitation systems in the near future.

Gr.12 Biology:

As acting marine biologists, students will learn about photosynthesis to help scientists in Australia determine why the coral in the Great Barrier Reef is bleaching. They will conduct virtual labs to guide their investigations.

Gr.11 Gender Studies:

Power relationships, (in)equality, and the gender pay gap: these are just a few of the concepts that students will investigate and analyze using current, real-world examples. They also happen to be key players in how the world's resources, including fresh water, are governed. An in-class debate on the topic will wrap up this unit.

Gr.10 Career Studies:

Students will learn about diverse career opportunities that all play a part in creating a more sustainable world. They will research a profession that is of interest to them and determine how people in that field can make a positive impact on the environment and in achieving equality in the world.

Gr.9/10 Foundations:

Every Monday, students will participate in Eco Club activities, which will involve the research, planning, and implementation of various elements of sustainability. The six categories of focus are: energy conservation, waste minimization, teamwork and leadership, school ground greening, curriculum, and environmental stewardship.

Gr.9 Science:

Students will take on the role of ecologist. They will assess the impacts of human activities on a particular ecosystem that has experienced some degree of damage. They will also provide a detailed report to the government agency that is currently trying to restore it and will create a project proposal that includes a new invention as a way to remediate the ecosystem.

We all play an important role in making our world a better place. Every single person's actions count!

**Spotlight on...
Summer Wong,**

Campus Administrator



I was born and raised in Parkdale and attended McMaster University for my undergraduate degree in English Literature, then George Brown to study Human Resources. I have experienced a variety of jobs in administration, customer service, and sales, but found passion in education. Shortly after graduation I was hired in the Upper School Day Office at Havergal College and would stay there for four years.

For fun I enjoy snowboarding in the winter and camping in the summer. Year-round I dance, and currently I am learning aerial silks and trapeze. About a year ago, I adopted a beautiful Boxer mix named Gretchen who enjoys walks through High Park and chasing ducks by the lake.

Having just moved into the neighborhood, I am enjoying the parks, the water, and the

people. I am looking forward to my time at Blyth as we transition through this difficult time, and work together toward an excellent school year ahead.

Principal's Note

This morning, as I did a final review of this newsletter, I was checking links to make sure all were in working order (nothing worse than clicking on a link that is not properly functioning). As I clicked on the link to our school donation page for Terry Fox, I did a double then a triple take. I was shocked to see that since I sent out our link to you yesterday at noon, you have already taken us over half way to our goal of \$3,000. I cannot thank you enough for your donations in support of the 40th Anniversary of Terry's Marathon of Hope. Great way to start the day and our fundraising campaign.

You're pretty awesome Blyth ET. So incredibly proud of this community.

-Laurie Foley