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Friday, Jan. 15, 2021

From the Desk of the Principal

anton.skerritt@tdsb.on.ca

Congratulations to our Vice Principal

On behalf of the staff and school community I would like to thank Mr. Fewson for his years of service to our school. Mr. Fewson is a caring educator who was a valuable asset to our Admin team and the whole Birchmount Park community. In case you missed the letter this week, Mr. Fewson has been promoted and will be leaving us to take on his new role supporting the TDSB Virtual Secondary School as Acting Principal. We wish him well and continued success in this new chapter in his journey in education. Please find below Mr. Fewson's goodbye message.

From the Desk of Mr. Fewson- **New** Acting Principal the TDSB Virtual School

Birchmount Park Collegiate Institute is an amazing place, and it has been my profound honour and privilege to have served here as a Vice Principal for the last year and a half. Here I was so very fortunate to work with skilled and compassionate administrators and educators. Birchmount teachers are truly among the best I have ever encountered. Thank you for your passion, professionalism, and unending sense of purpose. I believe that the best measure of how a person views a school is a reflection of their willingness to send their kids there, and I would have gladly enrolled my kids at Birchmount in a heartbeat ... and, honestly, I'm sure they would have loved having their dad as the VP!

The many moving parts of a school could not possibly function without amazing Hall Monitors, EA's, and Caretakers, CYWs, and a (way cooler than me) Social Worker, and I regret not telling each of you more often how much I truly value the time and effort each of you spends in your own way to make our building a better place. Thank you!

Notwithstanding everyone above, everyone knows the real bosses of the school are the tireless crew that run the Main Office and Guidance. Bea, the Valkyrie of BPCI, manages and supports a tireless team of heroes who ensure that everything we take for granted is granted to each of us. Their difficult job makes all of our jobs easier, and I can't thank them enough for how hard they work.

Lastly, I want to thank the students of BPCI. At times you made me laugh, at times you kept me on my toes, and at times you made me run across the parking lot. In the end, you made me a better administrator each time you engaged me, challenged me, and showed me your powerful capacity to support one another. Years from now, you'll think of me – if you think of me at all – as an abstraction and, at times, an obstacle. I'll think of each of you as foundational in making me a better Principal. I am proud of each of you.

Be safe and be kind, and thank you all for everything.

Mr. Fewson

Important Dates

[Click here for TDSB important dates in Secondary School](#)

School Council Co-Chair Message

From your School Council Team

Join us on Facebook



[Click here for Birchmount Park School Council Facebook Link](#)

Any questions: Please email Candice.rees@tdsb.on.ca or Carol.warner@tdsb.on.ca

Next Week@ Birchmount Park Collegiate Institute

Monday Jan. 18	Tuesday Jan. 19	Wednesday Jan. 20	Thursday Jan. 21	Friday Jan. 22
Day 3 Gr 12 Maintain Mark After Date	Day 4	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3



Together we can make it across the finish line.



[Click here to view Derek Redmond's Emotional Olympic Story](#)

Guidance Corner

jo-ellen.grundy@tdsb.on.ca

Guidance is reminding all grade 12 students that applications for post secondary are due soon:
University applications are due January 15, 2021 and
College applications are due February 1, 2021

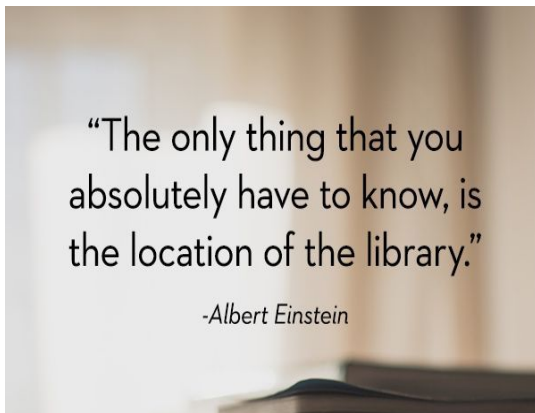
The Peer leaders have met and are planning visits to grade 8 virtual classrooms next week. It will be exciting to meet the students that will be joining our Birchmount Family in September.

January can be a difficult month for some people. Reach out to those around you to check in. We are all in this together and we need to support each other more than ever. If you feel you need support, please reach out to us for help. Off hour supports can be found on our website or by clicking here:



BPCI Library

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Find everything you need; fiction, information literature, research tips, subject specific resources and more.

Check out BPCI's Virtual Library OPEN 24/7 for academics and enrichment.

[Virtual Library](#)

Special Education/DD

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Resource Program

The hours to the Virtual Resource Room have been changed to provide support to students during asynchronous/independent learning periods. Click the link [Virtual Resource Room](#) and use access code: **2yyda47** to join the Google Classroom.

Students can access VRR daily from:

- 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM
- 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Students are also encouraged to email the Resource Room Team directly if they are unable to access VRR.

DD Program

Students in the DD program will continue to learn from home until February 10. The DD Team will continue to connect with the students and their families to provide instruction and support by email, Google Classroom and phone calls. Parents are encouraged to connect with their child's teacher if they need additional information or support.

BEAP Alumni feature in Leaf Season Opener

The Leafs are back in action with BEAP Alumni **Wayne Simmonds** making a significant impact in his first game defeating **Tyler Toffoli** (also BEAP Alumni) and the Habs. We will also be having our first session of our Nutrition Lecture series with Kyle Byron on Thursday, January 21. The link will be emailed to BEAP parents.

Nutrition Lecture Series for BEAP students and parents Thursday January 21, 2021 [Link to Follow](#)

Student Success and Gifted

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We hosted virtual meetings with leaders of various curriculum areas. The topic of discussion was how Credit Rescue has been working within each department. Along with each conversation came suggestions on how we can implement the initiative so that it supports our students to be successful academically. Credit Rescue is a Student Success initiative focussed on supporting students as they attempt to complete a course as opposed to having to repeat it. Students are offered extra time by their classroom teachers to submit missed assignments. They can also re-submit assignments to better display their learning of curriculum expectations in hopes of a better mark.

Large-scale check-ins with students have been happening.. In an attempt to support our students as best as possible we have been in touch with them via email, virtual meetings, and telephone. We would like to applaud our students for employing their resilience as they focus on their academic tasks, participate in their online learning environments and stay positive while in the midst of this pandemic. We remind them that mental health and physical health should be kept at optimal levels and that school expectations and overall well being should be properly balanced.



This is just a reminder that I am accessible everyday during my online office hours between 12PM and 2PM. Just copy and paste this link into your browser: <https://doxy.me/mrpguidance>

Have a great weekend everyone!

Teacher Quote of the Week

Good teaching is more a giving of right questions than a giving of right answers. — Josef Albers