

BRANTFORD COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE & VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

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PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER, 2011



Ms. G. Lovett, Principal
Mrs. J. Hughes, Mrs. A. Myhal, Vice-Principals

COMING EVENTS

- Nov. 21—28** Grad Photos
Nov. 25 **PD Day**
Dec. 10 Living Arts Show
Dec. 15 BCI Christmas Concert
Dec. 17 Christmas Assembly
Dec. 26 - Jan 8 **Christmas Holiday**
Jan. 9, 2012 First Day of School
Jan. 17 Geo-Fair
Jan. 19 Gr. 8 Parent Info Night
Jan. 26 –Feb 1 EXAM DATES
Feb. 2 & 3 PD Days
Feb. 6 Semester II Begins
March 12-16 March Break

BCI SENIOR BOYS RUGBY TOUR GRAPEFRUIT & POINSETTIAS FUNDRAISER

The BCI Senior Boys' rugby team is having an Orange, Grapefruit and Poinsettia Fundraiser again this fall. Premium Oranges from California are \$35 for 40 lbs, (72 in a box); red Grapefruit will be \$28 for a 40 lb. box (48 in a box). The colours of the poinsettias will be Red, White and Jingle Bells and sold in sizes 6" flower for \$8.00; 8" flower for \$15; and 10" flower for \$20. All orders and money must be in by Monday, November 21, 2011.

The flowers and the fruit will be available for pick-up on Friday, December 2nd 3:15—6 and Saturday, December 3rd from 10:00—2 pm from the front hallway of BCI.

To order, ask a senior rugby player or email Bob Boos at rboos3918@rogers.com

Thank you for your support.
From the Senior Boys Teams.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL: Ms. G. Lovett

Things are finally getting back to normal at the school and as a result there has been a lot of new activity this fall. One of the most significant changes is that we have been able to re-instate or build student action groups. The Activism Club managed to stay together during the construction but is now growing and has recently involved themselves with re-starting the school's re-cycling program. Hopefully BCI will, once again, be environmentally friendly within a few weeks.

There is another group of students who have been trained in suicide prevention awareness. At this point there are about 40 students and a number of staff who have been trained to help others experiencing difficulties. The mental health of our students remains a concern and this group wants to make a difference.

A very large number of our staff joined together under the umbrella of a School Environment Committee. From this group we have a number of initiatives that involve a variety of people. Each off-shoot group welcomes the addition of any and all interested students. At this point there is a Safe Schools Committee, a Global Dignity group and the GSA Club. Issues such as bullying, equity and inclusiveness are included in the mandates of these groups.

As staff, we are very concerned with the erosion of student attendance. We all know that academic achievement is directly related to student attendance, yet each year we see more and more students missing more and more time. In an effort to understand, some students have participated in focus groups on the topic. There is also a survey available on the school website that invites input from parents as well as students. Perhaps by understanding the problem we will be able to provide some solutions.

The already active drama department is in full swing this fall with 3 productions currently in rehearsal. *Rent* will be showing Nov. 24 – 26; *A Case of the Munschies* in Feb. and *Annie* in April. The new auditorium is getting a workout!!

Fall sports have come and gone and the winter season has begun. The Phys. Ed. Program has had a terrific addition as well in the form of our new fitness centre. Not only is this facility available for classes during the day, staff and students can join the BCI Fitness Club – The Coral and use the equipment any day before or after school or during the lunch break. We are very lucky – it is without a doubt the best fitness facility in any school in our board.

I have only mentioned a few of the activities that are going on at BCI this fall. Every day brings another event or activity. It's hard to keep up! There is truth to the statement that there is something for everyone. Any student who wishes to be involved in the BCI community has many many options and opportunities so – Get Involved!!

"A CASE OF THE MUNSCHIES"
(DRAMA PLAY)

BCI students, under the direction of Ms. K. Lynas, are working hard on the extra-curricular drama production of "A Case of the Munschies". This student-written play, based on the childrens' stories of Robert Munsch, will be performed in the BCI auditorium on February 17th and 18th. Ticket prices will be \$5 for students and seniors and \$7 for adults. The play performance is ideal for all ages.



FESTIVAL OF LIVING ARTS SHOW



On December 10, 2011, BCI's Art Department will be hosting its very first Festival of Living Arts show. It will be a partnership between our students and Brantford's arts community. BCI's senior art class will be recreating famous works of art, past and present, using actors in costume and make-up to emulate the figures in the paintings. To round out the event the upper atrium will be home to local artists and art organizations from 12-4 p.m. at which time the show will begin in the auditorium. The cost will be \$5 per ticket.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

On potential inclement weather days, students and families have a number of resources available to aid them in becoming aware of a cancellation. Information on which zone(s) have been cancelled can be found by visiting www.stsbhn.ca under the "cancellations" icon by 6:15 am. In addition to zone cancellations, the "bus delays" icon will inform families and students of any routes that cross zones and are also subsequently closed. **BCI is ZONE 4.** The more traditional means of getting cancellation notifications will still be used. TV and radio organizations: CKPC (Brantford); 1150 CKOC; 820 CHAM; 102.9 KLite FM; 900 CHML; Y108; 197.9 CHTV, Moose FM; Easy 101/CKOT (Tillsonburg); CD 98.9 (Simcoe, and CHOW (Niagara).

Early dismissal will only occur in extreme circumstances. The decision to have students transported home early will be made by 12:00 noon and with the information being broadcast through the traditional means of regular inclement weather cancellations/delays.



BCI MUSIC DEPARTMENT CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Thursday, December 15th at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets \$10 for adults and \$5 for students
The performance will take place in the BCI theatre auditorium.

Tickets can be purchased at the door or by calling the school.



MESSAGE FROM GRAND ERIE

Many parents mistakenly believe the board insures their children for losses resulting from accidents and that gives rise to claims when they learn this is not true. Many of these claims can be prevented through effective communication to parents about the benefits of the Student Accident Insurance policy. This is a LOW-COST policy that is reviewed regularly by the board's benefit consultants and provides good value for the money.

The "Limited Plan" provides coverage for school days only and can be purchased for **\$3.50 per year per child** and includes a **10-year unlimited dental benefit feature.**

Packages were given out on "Registration Day" in August and are available in the main office at BCI if you did not receive one.

BCI GEO-FAIR 2011-2012



CGW4U Canadian & World Issues Course presents GEO-FAIR 2011-2012 !!!!!

Tuesday, January 17th, 2012 in the BCI Atrium
9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to view and interact with the students presenting their selected world issues.

All parents are welcome to attend!

ONE INSPIRES MANY



Our very own **Mrs. Mary Jonker**, geography teacher at BCI has won the opportunity to be the final medal wearer during the Brantford leg of the **25th Anniversary Rick Hansen Relay**. She will run/walk alongside Walter Gretzky during the last leg of the relay which passes through Brantford on November 30th.

Mrs. Jonker received this honour by winning the Rick Hansen "Difference Maker" contest sponsored by the Brant News and the City of Brantford. Congratulations to this very deserving teacher!



BCI NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Regular attendance for many of our students at BCI has become the exception, rather than the rule. While this may be a result of a combination of factors, it is clear skipping class—or being truant—has become a growing concern.

The staff of Brantford Collegiate believes attendance is an essential component of academic success. Students must be in attendance to participate fully in each class. Poor attendance demonstrates a lack of commitment to the program offered by the school. It is the student's responsibility to attend all their classes. A parent or guardian can have great impact on a student's decision to attend.

In an effort to improve attendance, we are conducting a study of the BCI attendance policy and procedure. Over the course of this study, we are engaging students, parents and teachers in a dialogue about the impact of regular attendance, and requesting recommendations to further improve student attendance and achievement.

We welcome your input by participating in our on-line survey. The survey will only take approximately 10 minutes of your time, and can be found at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BCIParentSurvey>

Please direct any questions or concerns to Mr. Christopher Tracy (519) 759-3210, ext. 271 463
Christopher.tracy@granderie.ca

Thank you for your time and input.

SENIOR ARTS TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY



We are very excited that our BCI Senior Arts Trip to New York City is full. We leave on May 30 and return on June 3rd. To raise money for the trip, the students are currently selling Fair Trade coffee, tea and hot chocolate, all of which make awesome gift ideas for the holiday season. All orders are due Nov. 23rd.

ANNIE

B.C.I. students are hard at work preparing for our spring production of the family musical **Annie!** This year we are happy to welcome an enthusiastic group of performers from our feeder schools to play orphans in our show. Join us this April to see the story of a young orphan girl's adventure to find her family. Tickets will be available from the B.C.I. main office as of March 2012.



RENT



RENT is the story of a group of young adults struggling to create a sense of community and identity while being challenged by some serious social, physical and identity issues in early 1990's NYC. Our cast includes the entire Stage and Screen Specialist High Skills Major Program and is the first production mounted through this program. Other B.C.I students are involved as well in the cast and the crews. The music is appealing to youth, young adults and rock opera music enthusiasts of all ages. We hope you will take some time to come out and support our first Fall Production. *Mature themes are presented and the show is not suitable for young audiences.*

Tickets are available at the Main Office at BCI. The cost is \$15 for adults and \$10 for Students/Seniors. Dates are Thursday November 24th at 8 p.m, Friday November 25th at 8 p.m and Saturday November 26th at 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.



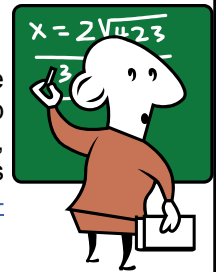
BCI BREAKFAST CLUB

We are happy to announce that we are continuing our breakfast program with a generous donation from "Brant Food for Thought". Breakfast is offered every morning from 8:00 - 8:40 a.m. just outside of the Mustang Market. We offer a healthy selection of breakfast items every morning to 100 students each day. If you would like to make a monetary donation, cheques can be made payable to "Brant Food for Thought" and sent to the school, attention Ms. Torti. A tax receipt will be given for any donations of \$10.00 or more.

At this time we are looking for a parent volunteer who can purchase the items weekly and deliver them to the school. We frequent a variety of stores depending on where the deals are that week. If you can assist us please email Mrs. Christina Root at christina.root@granderie.ca.

FROM THE MATH DEPARTMENT

Homework Help is available to all students in the Grand Erie District School Board! This free online math centre for students in grades 7 – 10 provides safe, anonymous, and free interactive math help with certified Ontario math teachers from Sun-Thurs 5:30-9:30, as well as 24/7 math lessons, tools, games, and recorded tutorials. Students register and log on at www.homework.help.ilc.org; Parents can also register and log in as guest users. For further information, contact home-work.help@granderie.ca or see your classroom teacher.



There are several good math help sites available to students. www.mathwiz.ca offers lessons, practice problems, and sample tests for grade 10 academic math students. www.khanacademy.org provides short videos and practice exercises on a variety of math concepts for students in grades 9 – 12. Strong math students looking to extend their experience in mathematics should visit the University of Waterloo website, www.cemc.uwaterloo, where they will find math contests and a new challenging problem of the week every Thursday.

TENNIS



B.C.I.'s Junior and Senior Tennis teams had amazing performances on the courts again this year at B.C.S.S.A. on October 6th and 7th. The senior team scored 34 points placing a close second to the overall school winners at Pauline Johnson who scored 35 points. Our Junior team won 3 of the 5 titles, thus also winning first place for the school achieving 36 points. This success combined with our senior teams second place finish, gives B.C.I. the overall tennis title for another year. Well Done!!

At the senior level Megan Melling won all five of her sets to win the Senior Girl's Singles title, going on to compete at CWOSSAA where she placed 6th. Patrik Samanski played some tough games winning 3 of his 4 sets played in the singles boy's competition. He finished in a 3-way tie, and when points won and points lost were tallied, Patrik placed a strong second, 1 point behind St. John's. Riley Campbell and Davis Campbell also had a strong performance losing only one set in a tiebreaker and placing second in the doubles boys division. Our doubles girls' team of Natalie York and Connor Mackie also had an awesome day winning 3 of their 4 sets to place second. Savannah Davidson and Mackenzie White played some great tennis placing third in the mixed doubles category. Thanks as well to our amazing alternates Lynden Rey, Brittani Schroeder, and Zack Morrison for being positive and supporting our team by helping out at the conveners table and taking pictures and videos throughout the day.

At the Junior level Adam Bakker demonstrated great skill, clearly winning all 4 of his sets to win the Junior Boy's Singles title. D.J. Morrison, and Austin Jones also had a strong performance winning all 4 of their sets to win the Junior Boy's Doubles title. Vincenzo Prior was awesome covering the back baseline and Emily Mancini played well at the net allowing this team to also win all 4 of their sets thus winning the Mixed Doubles title. Raina Ritchie, and Sylvia Caron won 2 of their 4 sets played to place 3rd in Girl's Doubles. Liz Balint played some great sets with fantastic rallies against her competitor's and placed third in Girl's singles. Thanks as well to our alternates Hannah Diegel and Fiona Flynn for being positive and supporting our team and taking pictures and videos throughout the day.

Congratulations to both of our tennis teams on a successful season!

ATTENDANCE CALLS: BCI has set up an email address for attendance absences. Please use the phone system first, and if that fails, use the email address: BCIATTENDANCE@granderie.ca

