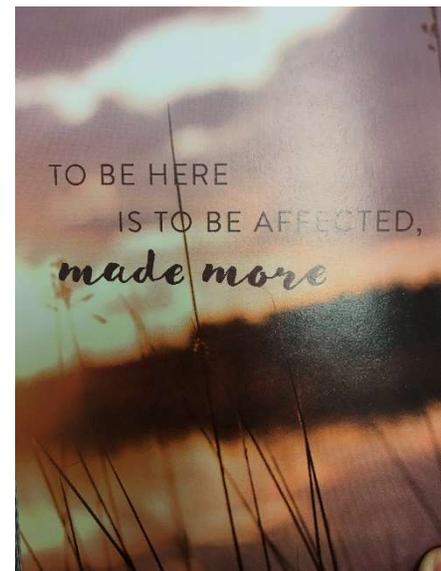


Hello from Bayridge's Communications Department!

The end of semester one is upon us – five months of learning is behind us and our students are busy completing their final summative assessment tasks in English, French and ESL programming. Here are a few celebrations or things to note:

- We wanted to spend a few minutes celebrating the students who have participated in DEAR (Drop Everything and Read), our independent reading program. It is always so awesome to see the giant gains in reading skill and reading confidence that we see in our students at the end of the semester. In reading a book of choice for 15 minutes every day in class, these students have improved reading stamina, enhanced their comprehension skills, and many students have discovered, or rediscovered, their love of books. If you need a good book moving into semester two, be sure to swing by to the Learning Commons to chat with Ms. Kirby about your next read!

- Our NBE 3U and NBE 3C classes had the privilege of hearing from a local branch of True North Aid in late November. The organization is a registered Canadian charity that provides practical humanitarian support to northern indigenous communities in Canada. The students had the chance to learn from Katie Koopman and two of her colleagues who have been working with, and volunteering for, this organization for many years and have supported initiatives linked with education, health and reconciliation.



- *Embers*, Richard Wagamese

- There are many writing contests that students can, and should, get involved with moving in to semester two. If you would like more information on any of the writing or speaking contests listed below, please see Ms. Riley in room 111 (who runs our Writer's Club at lunch every Wednesday) or Ms. Farnell in room 110.
 - Poetry in Voice - <https://www.poetryinvoic.com/recite/rules-dates>

- Stephen Leacock Student Humorous Short Story 2020 - <https://leacock.ca/studentaward.php>
- The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition 2020 - <https://thercs.org/youth-and-education/the-queens-commonwealth-essay-competition/>
- Finally, we are very sad to see two of our very own Communications Department members move on to new schools for second semester.
 - Ms. Lee, one of our wonderful French teachers, will be moving to Frontenac Secondary School for semester two. We are hopeful that Ms. Lee will return to us in September, but are thankful to have had her as a part of our department this year. Both students and staff will miss her friendly approach, her quick wit, her love of all things canine, and her vegan-cooking suggestions to make all of us a little more health-conscious. Thank you for all that you do, Ms. Lee!
 - Another goodbye that we are very saddened by moving into semester two is the wonderful Ms. Sparrow. Having worked in our building for 15 years, Ms. Sparrow has accepted a position at LCVI. In her time with us at Bayridge, Ms. Sparrow has worn many hats: teaching ESL, Fashion, Food & Nutrition, Family Studies, Phys. Ed. and contributing her coaching expertise. She is a bright light in the building, her students love her, and LCVI is very lucky to be gaining such an awesome teacher. We wish her all the best in her next adventure and know that she is always a Blazer, through and through!

With the start of another semester on the horizon, we are looking forward to the semester ahead.

Read on, Blazers! Read on!

The BSS Communications Department