

# Birchmount Park Collegiate Institute

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**GRADE RANGE:** 9 to 12

## *Interesting Feature*

### **2012-2013 Features**

At Birchmount, leaders are not born, but they are developed. In each of the focus areas of student interest, there are leadership groups that help to inspire and plan the various activities that occur throughout the school year: Arts Council, Athletic Council, Student Council, and the Environmental Council. These groups are all brought together under the umbrella organization of the Leadership Super Council which coordinates the myriad activities within the school. One of the most important of those is the leadership training activities that occur during the year.

Veritas Omnia Vincit - Truth Conquers All

Birchmount Park Collegiate Institute is truly a community school, benefitting from the superb sports facilities that surround it and reaching back out into the community with a variety of clubs and activities. The school, which provides the full spectrum of academic levels and courses, is known across Toronto for its strong athletic program, as well as its vibrant Arts program, and environmental activities. Working in a caring and co-operative atmosphere, all students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning, to strive for excellence, and to exhibit pride in their accomplishments.

### **Athletics**

Known throughout Toronto as an athletic powerhouse, Birchmount is frequently the school to beat not only at the city, but at the provincial level as well. Last year, the school boasted the OFSSAA Boys' Volleyball Gold Medalists and Girls' Volleyball Silver Medalists; the city-wide champions in Field Hockey, Baseball and Golf; as well as the Metro Bowl Semi Finalists in Football. On top of a large number of inter-collegiate teams, the school features a full lunch-hour intramural program as well as such clubs as Archery, Badminton, and Weight Room. There's no excuse for being out of shape or uninvolved at Birchmount.



### Science

All of us benefit from science to help us understand many of the natural phenomena that occur all around us. Birchmount staff welcome you to our TDSB Model Science classes. To provide the best possible science education for our students, we use the latest technology, field studies, internet applications and guest speakers from the scientific community.

### The Arts

The Arts offerings are extensive: Music: instrumental, guitar and vocal; Drama: Grades 9-12; Dance; and Visual Arts: Core 9-12 as well as Media Arts and Photography. Each year sees music nights, drama nights, coffee houses and art shows. This year the Arts programs will combine to present the musical production of “Little Shop of Horrors” and visual art show “The View”.

### Environmental Action

Living in harmony with the planet is a passion at Birchmount. Examined in such Science course as “Environmental Science” and “Earth and Space”, environmental activism is practiced through the Environmental and Outdoor clubs. A Gold Level Eco School for several years now, students volunteer their time to preserve and recycle, as well as to beautify sections of Toronto.

### Technology

Birchmount’s Technology Department has recently been refurbished and upgraded to “Tour Ready” status. Students interested in hands-on training will be working on industry-standard equipment in the Automotive and Carpentry classrooms. These skills combined with those developed in Drafting and Machine shops prepare students to be future tradesmen, or simply hobbyists.

### Additional Features

- After School Tutor Program
- Intensive Special Education Support
- Community Outreach Program
- Empowering Student Partnerships
- Community Partnerships



## Student Life - Where You Belong

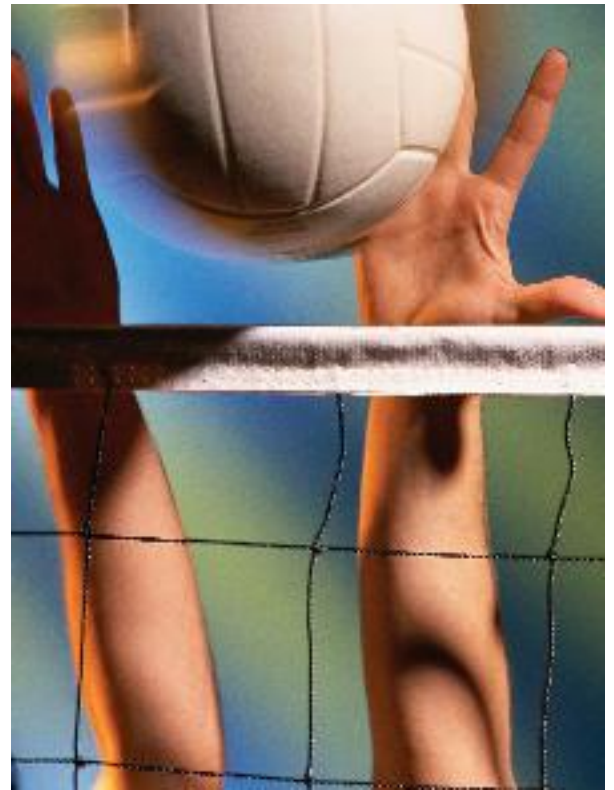
It is 7:00 in the morning. Birchmount students are groping blindly for backpacks that contain the Agenda Books with answers to why the students have to be up stumbling around in the dark. It's morning, so it could be choir, Badminton Club, planning the canoe trip, finishing off the powerpoint on natural disasters, BPAC, SAC, ESP, RISE and shine. And then it will be class time, and there's that test on linear equations and that German quiz and that re-enactment of trench warfare. And then lunch: what's at lunch? There's always something. Intramural flag football, table tennis, eco club meeting, coop application. And then more classes: finishing off the presentation, that bookcase, watercolour, chess piece, chemical reaction, spread sheet. And finally, school's over, but you can't go home yet because it's ultimate Frisbee, weight training, working in the teaching garden, extra math help in 210, recycling club. Why am I up now though? Blind hands find the Agenda and flip to the date. What is the date? And the answer is "Staff Meeting: Late Start." Handwritten under it: "Sleep in."



## What Sets Us Apart

Birchmount Park's Exceptional Athlete Program, originally created by Olympic discus thrower Ivan Pitaric, allows students, already in training to be compete provincially and Canada-wide, to integrate academics with a rigorous training regime. The 200 self-motivated students currently enrolled in this program are willing to do the extra physical and academic work needed to achieve their sport and educational goals. For further information about this program or about the selection process for students, go to [Birchmount@tdsb.on.ca](mailto: Birchmount@tdsb.on.ca).

Also making a difference right now, are our senior students who elect to earn part of their high school diploma, not in the classroom, but in the world of work. Birchmount has a very busy Cooperative Education program which arranges workplace and apprenticeship opportunities for motivated students who want to hone their skills on the job, not just in the classroom.





## Parent and Community Engagement

Students at Birchmount are committed to not only making full use of the community resources that surround it, but also giving back to that community and the world. Students regularly work in the feeder schools providing them with environmental and musical expertise. They clean up the lakeshore, plant trees in the Rouge Valley, and refurbish skates for those that don't have them. They raise money with Girl Impact, to send girls in Africa to high school who would never have a chance otherwise, or they work with "Me to We" to provide fresh water for a village in Kenya. Birchmount is a school that develops people who will change the world whether it is in sports, entertainment, education or environmental protection. Birchmount makes a difference.



## TDSB - Better Schools. Brighter Futures

Imagine a TDSB where all schools share a common core set of characteristics. They are community-driven and focused on teaching and learning. Students and parents have a wide variety of opportunities and there are enough students in every school to increase program choices.

Imagine there is a clear focus on achieving student success and every student is engaged, has a voice, access to a caring adult and the opportunity to develop their full potential.

Here at the TDSB our focus is on student achievement, parent and community engagement and financial stability.



## Contact Information

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