



THE BULLDOG

A Newsletter for Our Bur Oak Secondary School Community

VOL. 1, ISSUE 17

JANUARY 19, 2024

This newsletter will be sent out weekly and will share important information to all of you, our valued members of our school community. We encourage you to also visit our [school website](#) regularly. Previously sent newsletters can be accessed from our website [here](#). And, feel free to use [Google Translate](#) to support with multi-language translation, as needed.

Daily Schedule

Period 1(includes Homeroom) 8:15-9:35

Period 2 9:40-10:55

Period 3 11:00-12:15

Period 4 12:20- 1:35

Period 5 1:40-2:55

Important Dates Ahead

January 2024

19, 22: Math EQAO (Grade 9)

23: Sem 2 New Visa Student Orientation

25 - 31: Exams

February 2024

1: Mark review day (morning only)

2: PA Day (No School)

5: Staff meeting

School Council Meeting (6 p.m. in Library)

6: Immunization Clinic (Library)

Social Networking Safety presentation (8:30 -

9:30 a.m. - Gym - Gr. 9 & 10 only)

14: Spirit Day

Free Family Activities at Varley Art Gallery

February 10 to 11 and 17 to 18

Lunarfest at the Varley

Saturdays and Sundays, February 10 to 11, and 17 to 18 | 10 AM to 5 PM
| Free

Celebrate the Lunar New Year at Varley Art Gallery! Drop-in on February 10 and 11 for free family activities, and continue the celebration on February 17 and 18 with LunarFest, a community festival in partnership with the ACSEA. Don't miss the Lunar Lanterns in the courtyard from January to March, created in partnership with Indigenous artists. Experience a 2024 Lunar New Year celebration only at Varley!

Semester 1 Final Exam Information

Exam Days – January 25 to January 31, 2024

This year, students will be completing a final assessment for each of their courses worth 30%. These final assessments can be made up of exams and/or culminating activities (i.e. projects, presentations, performances). Culminating activities may occur during class time or during Exam Days. During Exam Days, students are required to be at school only when scheduled to write an exam or to complete work for a culminating activity. More detailed information about exams will be shared shortly.

Semester 1 Exams will take place between **Thursday, January 25 to Wednesday, January 31, 2024**. Please review the dates for your student's exam schedule.

Exam Date	Exam
Thursday, January 25	Period 1 Exam/ Culminating Activity
Friday, January 26	Period 2 Exam/ Culminating Activity
Monday, January 29	Period 5 Exam/ Culminating Activity
Tuesday, January 30	Period 4 Exam/ Culminating Activity
Wednesday, January 31	Period 3 Exam/ Culminating Activity
Thursday, February 1	Mark Review Day Instructional Day (Modified Schedule)
Friday, February 2	PA Day
Monday, February 5	Semester 2 Begins

As stated in the *Guide to the School Year, 2023-2024*:

- All secondary students must participate in the final assessment(s). These assessments make up the final evaluation representing 30 percent of a student's report card grade.
- Students are expected to complete all final assessments at the place, date and time indicated by the teacher and the examination schedule provided by the school.
- Students cannot leave early for vacations, employment or other activities.

Semester 1 Final Exam Information Continued...

- In case of extenuating circumstances (e.g. bereavement, court appearance or when a student is unable to write an exam because of illness explicitly stated on a medical certificate), the principal will decide, in consultation with the subject teacher, the most appropriate method to determine your final standing in the course.
- In case of an unexcused absence, a zero may be assigned for the missed portion of the final assessment.

[Peer Support Group for Parents and Caregivers](#) (click on this link for flyer)

- o This group is a support for parents and caregivers raising children and youth with mental health challenges
- o 3rd Monday of each month
- o Aurora Town Hall 6:30- 8pm

This group takes a break in December and will return January 15, 2024.

Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics

On January 19 and 22, 2024 grade 9 students currently taking MTH1W1 will take part in the Education Quality and Accountability Office's (EQAO's) online grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics. Students will complete the assessment in two sessions (session A – January 19 and session B – January 22). Each session will be written during a student's scheduled math class. For more information about EQAO and to view a sample test, visit EQAO's website at www.eqao.com.

Professional Activity (P.A.) Day Plans—February 2, 2024

Length: Half Day - AM

Topic: Violence Prevention Training on Student Safety and Violent Incident Prevention

Entity Hosting: All Secondary Schools

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Online module developed by Board staff, facilitated by Administration.

Description: Staff will be engaging in learning related to:

- developing relationships and identity-affirming working and learning environments;
- identifying warning signs that a person's behaviour may be escalating;

- responding to escalations using specific strategies;
- exploring case studies;
- following reporting procedures; and
- accessing support and resources.

Topic: School teams will engage in School Improvement planning facilitated by school leaders.

Topics will vary by subject and may include:

- preparation for Semester 2
- high yield instructional strategies in the de-streamed math, science, or English classroom
- data analysis for school improvement.

Length: Half Day - PM

Topic: Curriculum Implementation

Entity Hosting: All Secondary Schools

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): School Administration and Board based personnel

Description: Equitable assessment practices and MLL learning

SIP/Department Meetings

Details: School teams will engage in School Improvement planning facilitated by school leaders.

Topics will vary by subject and may include:

- embedding strategies to support teaching multilingual language learners into the curriculum
- embedding subject specific high yield strategies into instruction and assessment
- data analysis for school improvement.

School Teams will continue to engage in School Improvement Planning that supports the implementation of equitable assessment practices, curriculum changes and instructional strategies to support students in the de-streamed classroom.

Information from our Guidance Department

Important Dates

Feb 1: Deadline to apply to Ontario Colleges on OCAS for equal consideration - [APPLY HERE](#)

Night School Registration - Semester Two

Registration for semester 2 night school is now open on MyPathway-Planner. The winter session runs from February 15, 2024 to June 6, 2024 and will be delivered synchronously, online on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30-9:45 pm. Students interested in taking night school should have a conversation with their guidance counsellor to ensure this is a good choice and that it will be approved.

Semester Two Timetables

Semester two begins on Monday February 5, 2024. Student timetables will be emailed to students a few days before the start of the semester. There will be no course change requests, as our courses are extremely full. Students needing to book an appointment with their guidance counsellor will have to wait until the week of February 12th, as we will be busy registering new students the first week of the semester. Of course, if the matter is urgent, students can come by guidance for assistance. Thank you for your patience and understanding at this busy time of the year.

Course Selection

Students will be able to submit their 2024-24 course selection in my-Blueprint beginning on February 15. Course selection closes on February 24 @ 4pm.

Course selection presentations for students will be given by guidance on the following dates:

Wednesday February 7 - Grade 9s, period 5

Thursday February 8 - Grade 10s, period 5

Friday February 9- Grade 12s, period 2 (potential graduate assembly)

Friday February 9 - Grade 11s, period 5

Course Fair

On Thursday February 15 during period 1, students in grades 9-11 will have the opportunity to visit our course fair being held in our cafeteria and atrium. This fair will feature all departments in the school with staff members available to answer questions about courses in their respective disciplines. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to explore elective courses at Bur Oak and to begin/extend their post-secondary planning!

Save the Date:

On Tuesday February 13th from 5:30-6:30pm there will be parent presentations to help guide your child through the course selection process for next school year. All parents are welcome to attend. Please arrive at the school on time so you don't miss out on important information. We will direct you to the correct locations upon your arrival.

Supporting Our Mental Health & Well-Being

Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter (see attached)

[Senior Exercise Program - Newmarket Welcome Centre](#)

- o Priority given to those 65 years and older

[Peer Support Group for Parents and Caregivers](#)

- o This group is a support for parents and caregivers raising children and youth with mental health challenges
- o 3rd Monday of each month
- o Aurora Town Hall 6:30- 8pm
- o This group takes a break in December and will return January 15, 2024
- o York Hills Winter Group and Webinar Series.

Groups <https://www.yorkhills.ca/services/group-services/>

Webinars <https://www.yorkhills.ca/services/workshopsandwebinars/>

[Food Banks and Community Food Programs- York Region](#)

- o Provide free or low-cost food to individuals and families in need on an on-going, seasonal, and emergency basis.

For those coping with grief, the holidays may be particularly painful and overwhelming. Find coping strategies and free downloadable resources to help at cmhabereavement.ca.



Please review our [Student Handbook](#) to answer any questions you may have.

3 R's at Bur Oak Secondary School

At Bur Oak S.S., we have our **3 R's - Respect, Responsibility, Relationships** (see below) to maintain the positive, welcoming, respectful and inclusive learning environment at our school!



3Rs – Respect, Responsibility, Relationships

As Bulldogs, we:

- Are respectful, take responsibility and leave things better than we found it, and build positive and healthy relationships.
- Stand quietly during the playing of the National Anthem. If we arrive late to school, we stand quietly during the National Anthem and walk quietly to period 1 class during the morning announcements.
- Eat lunch in the cafeteria or in the first floor atrium during our lunch period 2, 3, or 4. We pick up after ourselves.
- Do not eat nor sit in the first floor hallways and we do not eat nor sit in the second floor hallways. We are not in the stairwells and we do not wander the hallways. We are respectful for classes in session.
- Do not congregate nor hang out in washrooms. We maintain a welcoming and safe school environment for students to use the washroom. We understand that nobody should feel intimidated in any parts of the school building.
- Use the first floor atrium tables for quiet study. We sit on chairs. We do not sit on top of the table and we do not lie down on tables or the floor.
- Wear earbuds for music in the hallways and atrium. We respect the environment of others by not using loud speakers.
- Dress appropriately for school.
- Ask our teacher for permission to leave the classroom to use the washroom or get a drink of water. We sign out to leave the classroom and sign in when we return to the classroom.



Have a wonderful weekend!