



THE BULLDOG

A Newsletter for Our Bur Oak Secondary School Community

VOL. 1, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! This newsletter will be sent out weekly/bi-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. And, feel free to use [Google Translate](#) to support with multi-language translation, as needed. We are looking forward to working with and supporting all of our students, staff and parents/guardians!

Sincerely,

Louis Lim (Principal), Erika Pridie & Stacey Sadacharan (Vice-Principals)

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

Greetings From Our School Trustee, Ed Law

Dear families,

It is my pleasure to welcome all new and returning families to school for the 2023-2024 school year. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and wish you a positive start to the new school year. I know it can be a time of transition for many, and am grateful for the dedication and professionalism of our school staff for all that they do to support students as they start the new school year, and create a warm, welcoming and inclusive environment in our schools.

The education of your children is a partnership, and we recognize that you are our most important partner when it comes to your child's education. As a family member, there are many ways you can engage in your child's learning, from speaking with your child about school and connecting with school staff to volunteering or becoming involved with the school council. You know your child best and we place great value on the relationship we have with families. I look forward to connecting with you throughout the school year.

As your school trustee, it is my role to advocate for quality public education in York Region, and to ensure that our students remain at the centre of all of our decision making. The Board of Trustees has many [responsibilities](#), including making [policy](#) and [budget](#) decisions, and communicating with the public. Please feel free to [contact me](#) if you have any questions or concerns, and I will continue to keep you updated throughout the year on what is happening in the board. You can also visit our [newsroom](#), listen to our [podcast](#) and connect with us on social media to stay up-to-date on what's happening in the board.

This year, we are pleased to welcome our [new Director of Education Bill Cober](#), who took on the role on August 1 this year. He brings nearly 30 years of experience in public education in York Region, a commitment to student achievement and well-being, and a strategic and collaborative approach.

Later in the year, we will be undertaking a comprehensive strategic plan review. One of our roles as a board is to set the [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#) that establishes our priorities and guides our direction as a school board. We will be reviewing that plan this year, and engaging with communities is a priority for us. Your input will be important and I look forward to sharing more information with you on this in the future.

I wish you all a great start to the school year and a happy, safe and successful year ahead.

Ed Law

Trustee, Markham Wards 3 and 4



Indigenous Languages and International Languages (ILIL) Program

The York Region District School Board offers language learning to elementary students in Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8 and language credit courses to secondary students in Grades 9 to 12.

Elementary Language Classes

Elementary classes are extra-curricular language learning opportunities available in-person or remotely. Classes are 2.5 hours and take place once per week between Tuesday to Friday evenings (6:00 PM to 8:30 PM) or Saturday mornings (9:30 AM to 12:00 PM).

Register by **Monday, September 11, 2023** to attend the full language program in its entirety.

For more information about the elementary program, visit the ILIL [Elementary webpage](#) or scan the QR code:



Secondary Credit Program

Secondary credit courses take place online once per week for 3.7 hours. Courses run from September to June for the full program year, and take place on Wednesday evenings (5:45 PM to 9:25 PM) or Saturday mornings (8:45 AM to 12:25 PM).

Registration is now open until the third class.

For more updates and information about the secondary credit program, visit the ILIL [Secondary webpage](#) or scan the QR code:



Please Note:

- Courses offered are subject to enrolment and teacher availability.
- Stacked classes may be created based on registration numbers.
- Not all languages are offered at the elementary and secondary levels.
- Additional fees are required for international fee-paying visa students.

Languages Offered:

Arabic
Cantonese
Dari
Farsi
Filipino
German
Greek
Gujarati
Hebrew
Hindi
Italian
Japanese
Korean
Macedonian
Mandarin (Simplified)
Mandarin (Traditional)
Punjabi
Ojibwe
Russian
Sinhala
Spanish
Tamil
Turkish
Ukrainian
Urdu
Vietnamese
Yoruba

For Our Grade 9 Parents/Guardians



Grade 9 Day - Tuesday, September 5, 2023

We look forward to meeting all our new Bulldogs!

Here is the tentative Grade 9 Day schedule. Some activities will be outdoors.

Schedule for Grade 9 Day

Time	Location	Grade 9 Day Activity
8:15 AM - 9:05 AM	P1 Class	Icebreaker #1 Hot Topic #1 Introduction to Course
9:10 AM - 10:00 AM	P2 Class	Icebreaker #2 Hot Topic #2 Introduction to Course Distribute t-shirts
10:05 AM - 11:00 AM	Cafeteria	Assembly Welcome Message Safe School's assembly SAC welcome
11:05 AM - 11:35 AM	Rotation A	Lunch, Sponge, Obstacle Course, School Tour
11:35 AM - 12:05 PM	Rotation B	
12:05 PM - 12:35 PM	Rotation C	
12:35 PM - 1:05 PM	Rotation D	
1:10 PM - 2:00 PM	P4 Class	Icebreaker #3 Hot Topic #3 Introduction to Course
2:05 PM - 2:55 PM	P5 Class	Icebreaker #4 Hot Topic #4 Introduction to Course

Please dress according to weather conditions and be ready to be active - comfortable clothes and running shoes.

Bring a bottle of **water**, **sun protection (sunscreen, hat, sunglasses)**, and a **writing tool (pen or pencil)**.

A pizza lunch (Cheese or Pepperoni) will be provided along with a drink and snack.

Timetables will be emailed to parents and students in the afternoon of **Friday September 1st**. Please come to school with a print out or screenshot of your timetable so you know what your timetable is on the first day of school.

Please note that we are a 1:1 school, thus, students are asked to bring their technology (chrome book, laptop) to school each day (starting on Wed. Sept. 6th). Students DO NOT need to bring a device on Grade 9 Day (Tues. Sept. 5th). If a student does not have a device, there will be an opportunity for them to request one during the first week of school. Details to follow.

Reminder:

Please visit School Cash Online to pay \$21.00 for Grade 9 Day. This fee will help to cover the cost of all activities, lunch and a t-shirt. Thank you!

Link to School Cash Online: <https://yrdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

Grade 9 Parent/Guardian Information Sessions

All parents/guardians of our Grade 9 students are welcome to join us for an in-person Grade 9 Parent/Guardian Information Session in our school library on Tuesday September 5th from 8:15 to 9:05 a.m. There will be an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the presentation.



If you are unable to attend the in-person session on Tuesday morning, please join us for a virtual Grade 9 Parent/Guardian Information Session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday September 7th. See the meeting link below.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 288 657 476 700

Passcode: Ty3nTP

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)



Parking Reminders



Welcome back!

August 2023

The City of Markham Parking Enforcement Unit is reaching out to all Markham schools to make you aware of the many school zone parking complaints that we receive each year. We aim to reduce unsafe vehicular activity in school zones by communicating to you the common school zone parking violations.

The City of Markham has over 90 schools and Public safety is important to us. We continue to do everything we can to address all of the complaints received. Despite posted signage, education, and enforcement, residents are continuing to park their vehicles in violation of the City of Markham Parking By-law. Schools within the City of Markham are patrolled regularly and we continue to work closely with York Regional Police and Fire and Emergency Services throughout the year to attend schools requiring additional assistance. Verbal and/or physical threats against a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer will not be tolerated. Officers are expected to report all of these incidents to York Regional Police.

The City of Markham has implemented the Administrative Monetary Penalty System (AMPS). AMPS is a more efficient way for municipalities to enforce parking bylaws. It allows for parking tickets to be served in a variety of different methods; for example, they may now be served through mail if a vehicle is found in violation. In particular, traffic congestion during school drop off/pick up times present unique challenges for enforcement. Mailing parking tickets allows officers to address most of the illegally parked vehicles and not just one or two vehicles.

General inquiries and parking complaints, including on street parking should be directed to the Contact Centre at 905 477 7000 ext. 2050. For all general information regarding parking, please feel free to visit the City of Markham website at <https://www.markham.ca/wps/portal/home/about/city-hall/bylaws/bylaw>.

Please aid us in keeping school zones safe!

"The real penalty for not obeying parking regulations is that you may risk the safety of children!"

Sincerely,

Jeff Rahim

Common School Zone Parking Violations

The City's Parking Enforcement Unit has implemented some new penalties for vehicles parked or stopped in violation within a school zone to help address those safety issues. Vehicles that are parked within a school zone will be subject to increased fines.

Drivers should be reminded to park in **permitted** areas only, which may include:

1. The school parking lot in accordance with signs posted; or,
2. Streets that **do not** have prohibited parking or prohibited stopping signs posted.

In addition to the most common parking violations listed below, drivers should ensure that they do not violate other parking regulations such as, parking too close or obstructing a fire hydrant, intersection, bus stop, private driveway, pathway, crosswalk, super mailbox, sidewalk etc.

Fire Route



These signs are posted to alert drivers that the area is a Fire Route. Fire Routes are classified as roads, laneways, or driveways that provide access to a building and may also include areas within a parking lot. A driver is in violation of this parking regulation if they are stopped or parked in a Fire Route even if their engine is running, hazard lights are flashing, or there is someone in the vehicle.

Where this sign is displayed, drivers are permitted to **immediately** drop off/pick up passengers – there cannot be a delay. For example, when a parent is dropping off their child to school, the child should get out of the vehicle and the parent should immediately drive away. Similarly, when a parent is engaged in picking up their child, the child should already be waiting at the curb for their parent. After the child gets into the vehicle, the parent must then immediately drive away. **There should be no waiting; if the child is not at the curb, the parent should move and return when the child is present.**

Where this sign is displayed, drivers are **not** permitted to:

1. Sit and wait in the car for their child (even for a few minutes); or
2. Leave their vehicle for any reason (even to quickly drop off their child's lunch).

Certain schools may have designated kiss-and-rides. These designated areas may or may not also be part of a fire route. It is important to note that the fire route restrictions take precedence over such kiss-and-rides and that the parking of vehicles in such areas are permitted only for the **immediate** pick-up and drop-off of passengers.

If passengers are not immediately picked up then the vehicle must not park in the fire route – for any length of time and even if the fire route is designated as a kiss-and-ride.

Prohibited Stopping



These signs are posted in order to alert drivers that stopping is prohibited. They are often posted on the surrounding streets of a school and may indicate the times of day that a driver is not permitted to stop their vehicle - drivers must continue to drive with the flow of traffic.

Where this sign is displayed, drivers are **not** permitted to:

1. Stop their vehicle to let passengers in or out of their vehicle; or
2. Stop and wait for their child to get into the vehicle.

Prohibited stopping areas are far more restrictive on what vehicular activity a person may be engaged in. A vehicle should not be stopped in a no stopping zone at any time, even for the purposes of loading/unloading goods and/or passengers.

Prohibited Parking



These signs are posted in order to alert drivers that parking is prohibited within the vicinity of the sign. A driver is in violation of this parking regulation if they have stopped the vehicle within the posted area. The vehicle is considered parked even if the engine is running, the hazard lights are flashing, or there is someone in the car. Additionally, these signs may indicate the times of day that a driver is not permitted to park their vehicle within the signed area.

Where this sign is displayed, drivers are permitted to immediately drop off/pick up individuals – there must not be a delay. For example, when a parent is dropping off their child to school, the child should get out of the vehicle and then the parent should immediately drive away. Similarly, when a parent is engaged in picking up their child, the child should already be waiting at the curb for their parent. After the child gets into the vehicle, the parent must then immediately drive away. **There should be no waiting: if the child is not at the curb, the parent**

Accessible Parking



These signs are posted to alert drivers that the parking spot they are located in is reserved for individuals with valid Accessible Parking Permits only. Vehicles are not permitted to park, stop, block, turn around in or otherwise occupy the spot unless a person with a valid Accessible Parking Permit is inside the vehicle. In addition, even with possession of such permits, the permit must be properly displayed. It is important to note that the permit is issued to an individual, not the vehicle; accordingly, drivers that are transporting individuals with accessible parking permits are subject to a parking ticket should the permit holder no longer be in the vehicle while the vehicle is occupying an accessible parking spot.

Common Parking Definitions

Below you will find some of our common definitions from the City of Markham's Parking Control By-law # 2005-188.

"Fire Route" means any roadway, driveway, lane, ramp or other means of vehicular access to or from a designated building which is designated as a fire access route by the City's Fire Department and shall include any part of a parking lot set aside by visible markings or markers for the purpose of vehicular movement.

"Park" or **"Parking"** means the halting of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, except when halting temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading goods or passengers.

"Stop" or **"Stopping"** means the halting or leaving of a motor vehicle, even momentarily, whether occupied or not, except when necessary to avoid conflict or in compliance with the directions of a police officer or of a traffic control sign or signal.

"Highway" includes a common or public highway, street, avenue, boulevard, parkway, driveway, square, place, bridge, viaduct, laneway, court, or trestle, designated and intended for, or used by the general public for the passage of vehicles; and includes the area between the lateral property lines thereof; after "for the passage of vehicles.

How can parents help?

- Observe and obey all traffic/parking signs
- Do not leave your car unattended
- Do not make U-turns in a school zone
- Give yourself extra time so that you are not rushed
- Respect other drivers. Be patient.
- Do not use private driveways in the area as alternate pick up/drop off points. Please respect other homeowners/private business properties.
- If you must drive, park legally - even if this means walking some distance.
- Recognize that safety takes precedent over convenience.
- **Encourage alternative transportation (biking, walking, and taking the bus).**

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How close to the curb should drivers park?

Drivers should not park more than **15cm (6 inches)** from a curb.

2. How close to an intersection may drivers park?

A vehicle should not be parked within 9m (30 ft.) of an intersection on any road. This includes the portion of an intersection where two roads intersect to form a 'T'-shaped zone. In addition to the above, a vehicle should not be parked within 15m (49 ft.) of any signalized intersection.

3. How far should drivers park away from a fire hydrant?

Drivers should maintain a distance of 3m (10 ft.) from the fire hydrant. This includes areas where a fire hydrant may be located a substantial distance from the curb and/or street. Vehicles must park at least 3m (10 ft.) clear of the curb that lines up with a fire hydrant provided there are no other parking restrictions.

4. What do I do when I receive a parking ticket?

Individuals that receive a parking ticket either in person, on the vehicle, or by mail, are advised to follow the directions provided on the back of the parking ticket. It is the responsibility of the driver to respond in a timely manner.

Have a wonderful weekend!

