



THE BULLDOG

A Newsletter for Our Bur Oak Secondary School Community

VOL. 1, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 10, 2023

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. 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

November 2023

13-15: OSSLT (Literacy Test) Practice Test (period 1 grade 10 classes)

15: CIMC/CSMC math contest (period 1/2)

16: Semi-formal (Crystal Fountain—6:30—10:00 p.m.)

17: PA Day

20-27: OSSLT (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test)

20 : Grade 8 Open House (6:15—8:15 p.m.—meet in cafeteria)

21: Parent/Guardian College & University Visits

24: Best Buddies Krispy Kreme Fundraiser Day

28: SHSM CPR Training

30 : School Spirit Day

Medical Forms

Any serious or life-threatening, allergies, medical issues (diabetes, epilepsy/seizure disorder, severe asthma, etc.) or any other health-related matters should be shared with the school so we have Health Care Plans to help keep students safe.

Please review the links below and select the form that pertains to your child. Completed forms and medication (if required) can be submitted to the main office. As always, please contact the school (905-202-1234) with any questions or concerns.

[Health Care Plan Form](#)

[Diabetes Health Care Plan](#)

[Asthma Health Care Plan](#)

[Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan](#)

[Epilepsy/Seizure Disorder Health Care Plan](#)

[Administration of Medication Form](#)

[Staff Administration of Medication Form](#)

OSSLT Update

The Ontario Secondary Literary School Test (OSSLT) will take place from Monday, November 20 - Monday, November 27, 2023. Each eligible student will write over two days (Day 1 - session A, Day 2 - session B). All students writing the OSSLT have received a **personalized** letter via their GAPPS email account. Students who have been deferred until the Spring session would have also received a letter via email. Additional information regarding specific dates and locations will be shared with students shortly.

To prepare, students may access resources shared on the Literacy Google Classroom. Parents and guardians may access additional information by visiting the [EQAO website](#).

Messages from the Guidance Department

College/University Fair - Evening Event For Families!

On Tuesday, November 21 from 6pm-8pm there will be a College/University Fair offered at Bur Oak Secondary School. The fair is being offered to parents/guardians, students and our community. This fair will provide access to over 35 different schools where you can speak to representatives regarding entrance requirements, scholarships, offered programs and much, much more.

Ontario Universities Information Sessions (OUAC)

Virtual Information Sessions → November 22, 5-7pm.

For more information see: <https://www.ontariouniversitiesfair.ca/virtual/>

Full Disclosure

Full Disclosure is the term used to identify when courses will remain as “Withdrawn” on a student’s transcript. This year, Full Disclosure will take place by November 29, 2023. This only impacts grade 11 and 12 courses.

Grade 11 students must continue to maintain four full credits this semester. Removing courses must meet specific criteria and are typically only approved by administration in unusual circumstances.

Grade 12 students will have their mid-semester marks submitted to OUAC and OCAS on November 17th. All marks for courses that are active will be uploaded at that time.

Between November 16 and November 29, any approved dropped courses will be removed from their timetable, transcript **AND** OUAC and OCAS by the Guidance Department. While November 29 is the entry deadline, it is critical that any drop requests take place the week prior to ensure appointments can be taken and all sign-offs are completed properly.

Please note, grade 11 students and grade 12 students who are not graduating do not have any data shared to outside application centres.

Course Change Requests For Semester Two

Students wishing to request changes to courses for semester two will have the opportunity to speak with guidance counsellors during the week of November 27 and December 4. Course change requests are very unlikely at this time as our classes are full.

Grade 11 and 12 Graduation Status Check-ins

During the week of November 20th, guidance counsellors will be visiting grade 11 & 12 classes to review student’s graduation status. At this time we will check about credits earned, OSSLT completion, Community Involvement hours and ensuring students have completed or planned for all necessary graduation requirements.

November 17th PA Day

Below is an overview of the PA Day activities on November 17, 2023. There will be **no classes** held on that day.

Length: Half Day - AM

Topic: Student Well-Being

Entity Hosting: All Regular Secondary Schools

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

Description:

School Teams will engage in learning and dialogue on:

- “Miss, Dismiss, Avoid: Psychological Barriers to Disrupting Racism, Racial Trauma and How to Counteract It”.

School teams will engage in School Improvement planning facilitated by school leaders. Topics will vary by subject and may include

- Implementation of the Grade 10 computer science curriculum
- 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 Regular Secondary Schools

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

Description:

Equitable Assessment practices

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.

Parent/Guardian Information Session:

Are you a parent or guardian who is wondering about:

- high school terminology (ex: Teach Assist, OSSLT, EQAO) or
- high school calendars (ex. Timetables vs semesters vs terms) or
- how high schools work (ex: Student Success, York Region Athletics Association, contest)?

If so, feel free to register for an upcoming Parent/Guardian information session by completing this [Google Form](#).

In Person Session at Bur Oak Secondary School is on Wednesday November 15 from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Participation is limited to ensure opportunities for questions and answers are available. You will receive an email confirming your registration and the location once your registration is received.

This is a sample of [questions and answers](#) from previous sessions.

What information is in Teach Assist?	Student Marks for tests and assignments are on Teach Assist. The student's list of courses for the semester are also listed on Teach Assist.
Can parents access the Google Classroom?	Yes! Parents can email the teachers and ask to be invited to the Google Classroom.
How can students get extra help, other than asking the teacher?	There are many ways to get extra help. For immediate concerns, student can go to Guidance. They can also register for Peer Tutoring, they can meet with the Student Success Teacher or if they have an IEP they can speak with their Special Education Resource Teacher.
What does it mean that Bur Oak is a 1:1 school?	This means that the expectation is that every student will bring their own device to school to complete their class work. Bur Oak has loaner laptops that students can borrow for the year (like a textbook) and return it at the end of the year.
What is EQAO for Math?	The Ministry of Ontario requires that Grade 9 students complete a standardized math text. This test occurs at the end of the semester and makes up 5% of their overall mark. This test is in addition to the final examination for their Math Course.
Do they have to pass the EQAO Math test to graduate?	No, the EQAO Math test is not a graduation requirement.
Does my child have to take Grade 12 math to graduate?	No, students only need 3 Math credits to graduate.
How can my son register for Arabic if it's not offered at this	He can register through My Blueprint. Language courses are offered through the Indigenous Languages and International Languages program.
How can my daughter try out for soccer?	She should listen for the announcements in the early spring. The coach will announce an information session for soccer try-outs. She can also check the bulletin board beside the Phys Ed office for information.

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!

