



# THE BULLDOG

A Newsletter for Our Bur Oak Secondary School Community

VOL. 1, ISSUE 3

SEPTEMBER 22, 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

### September 2023

25-29: Safety Week (Drills)

28: Terry Fox Run—Period 5

### October 2023

2: School Council Meeting @ 6:30—8:00 p.m.  
(School Library)

6: BOSSilicious

16: Picture re-take day

20: P.A. day (agenda to follow)

24: Parent/guardian teacher interviews

31: School Spirit Day



## Grade 9 Day Fee

If you have not yet paid the \$21.00 for Grade 9 Day, please do so as soon as possible on [School Cash Online](#). Included in this fee were the t-shirt, lunch and Grade 9 Day activities. Thank you to all of our parents/guardians who have paid.

## Student Enhancement Fee

Thank you to all of our families who have paid their student enhancement fee. This fee helps to support all of the amazing activities and opportunities that are provided to our students throughout the school year. Students who have paid their student enhancement fee are eligible for discounts on school events (ex. Semi-Formal, Prom). If you have not yet paid your student enhancement fee, please do so as soon as possible on [School Cash Online](#).



## School Start-Up Forms

Families are asked to complete some important forms. These forms are now available online. [Please complete and submit these online School Start-Up Forms](#) through your child's YRDSB Google account. Translations are available.

- You can access your child's YRDSB Google account via a web browser. For best results, use a computer rather than a mobile phone.
- The username is your child's YRDSB Student Number. Your child will receive their login information from the school at the start of the year. If you or your child do not know the password to log in to their Google account, please contact your child's teacher or the school office.

Frequently asked questions and additional information on [how to complete the forms](#) are available on the Board website under [Family Resources](#) (click on the "Need Help" link for Family Start-Up Forms).

**It is important that these forms are completed as soon as possible at the start of the school year.** There are both mandatory and optional forms. The forms are to be completed for all students. Our school will access the information.

**Please complete a separate form for each child attending our schools.** Secondary school students will also be asked to review important school and Board policies and to indicate that they have reviewed this information on forms sent to their student GAPPS account.

If you prefer to complete the forms on paper or have questions about the information in the forms, please contact our school office.

## Drop-Off & Pick-Up Reminders

As we begin another school year, please be reminded of the following when you drop-off or pick-up your child(ren) in our school parking lots:

- DO NOT park in the school parking lot to drop-off/pick-up your child; these parking spots are reserved for our staff and students (who have requested)
- Ensure that you are driving in a single direction; 3-point turns, U-turns are not permitted
- To ensure student safety, please have your child exit your vehicle from the passenger side only (otherwise, they will be walking into oncoming traffic)
- Ask your child(ren) to only cross at the designated crosswalk

We all have a responsibility in ensuring student safety at all times. Thank you for your cooperation!

## Important Covid Protocols

### Daily Screening

On a daily basis, students and their parents/guardians are responsible to review and adhere to the [COVID-19 School Screening Tool](#). Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever
- New or Worsening Cough
- Shortness of Breath
- Sore Throat or Difficulty Swallowing
- Altered Taste or Smell
- Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea, Abdominal Pain
- Runny Nose, Nasal Congestion

If your child is feeling unwell or if they have any of the symptoms of COVID-19, please do not have them come to school, inform the school and have them stay home. Once your child's symptoms have improved, they can return to school. It is recommended that they wear a mask for 10 days following a positive test.

You can access the COVID-19 School Screening Tool at the following link:

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

## Face Coverings

If you are choosing to wear a mask:

- ▶ Students are expected to provide their own face covering
- ▶ Masks are not to be shared
- ▶ Masks can be non-medical or cloth.
- ▶ The use of a mask is not an acceptable measure to attend or remain at school for those who are symptomatic

## Hand Washing/Sanitizing

Students are encouraged to wash hands using soap and water or use hand sanitizer immediately before:

- leaving home,
- leaving the classroom,
- eating, touching one's face
- leaving school.

Students are encouraged to wash hands or use hand sanitizer immediately after:

- arriving at school/entering the classroom,
- finishing lunch,
- touching shared objects,
- using the bathroom,
- coughing, sneezing, and blowing one's nose,
- arriving at home.

## **Post-Secondary Application Information**

**Grade 12 Parents/Guardians** of students who are graduating this school year and DO NOT want their information shared with OCAS (Ontario College Application Service) or OUAC (Ontario Universities' Application Centre), you will be asked to fill out an OPT-OUT form. This form will be sent via email next week. Those who opt-out will **not** have their information shared with the post-secondary application centres and therefore will not be eligible for post-secondary programs.

### **Applying to Schools Outside Of Ontario?**

Students looking to apply to programs overseas, in the United States and outside of Ontario where OUAC does not process their applications are asked to meet with Ms. Andersen well in advance of their application deadlines.

In the meeting, they need to be prepared to share web-links to the specific details about the application process, specifically timelines and the process to send transcripts at various points of the year.

Applications to schools in Great Britain are particularly complicated - and require some pre-planning.

### **Upcoming Guidance Events**

*Parent Information Evening:* On Tuesday September 26 from 6:30 to 8:00 Guidance will be hosting parent presentations. Grade 9 & 10 will focus on navigating high school and grade 11 & 12 will focus on setting up for post-secondary studies.

### **Parent/Guardian Info Night - September 26**

Directly following the Guidance Presentations on the evening of September 26, parents and guardians are invited to participate in a Question and Answer session designed to support newcomers to Bur Oak Secondary School. The session will be 1-hour in length in the Library. There is so much new high school terminology: "Teach Assist, Timetables, Assembly Schedules, Late Slips..." just to name a few. Please come with your questions and we will do our best to answer them! There is no registration required, all drop-ins are welcome! If you're not able to stay for this in-person session, stay tuned for a registration link for a Virtual Session this fall!

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

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!

