



THE BULLDOG

A Newsletter for Our Bur Oak Secondary School Community

VOL. 1, ISSUE 5

SEPTEMBER 29, 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

October 2023

- 10: World Mental Health Day - activities in atrium p. 3/4
- 16: Picture re-take day
- 20: PA day
- 24: Parent/guardian teacher interviews
- 26: Awards Breakfast - cafeteria
- 31: School Spirit Day

November 2023

- 1: Take Our Kids to Work Day
- 17: PA Day
- 20 : Grade 8 Open House
- 21: Parent/Guardian College & University Visits
- 22/23: Equity Symposium
- 24: Best Buddies Krispy Kreme Fundraiser Day
- 28: SHSM CPR Training
- 30 : 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!

PA Day – October 20

There will be a PA Day on Friday, October 20, and there will be no classes held that day.

Here is a general overview of the planned activities that staff will engage in that day.

Length: Half Day - AM

Topic: Curriculum Implementation Learning

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): School Administration and Board based personnel
Description: **Equitable Assessment Practices** Professional Learning Series #1

Details: School teams will engage in professional learning facilitated by school administrators focusing on:

- identifying the tenets of equitable assessment; and
- exploring concrete shifts and changes to classroom assessment, evaluation and communication practices.

Topic: **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 equitable assessment practices into subject evaluations;
- subject specific integration of high-impact instructional practices to support student improvement in alignment with the curriculum;
- developing resources and learning plans to consolidate foundational knowledge and skills in de-streamed grade 9 courses including English, Mathematics and Science and across the curriculum;
- data analysis for school improvement; and
- curriculum implementation of new curriculum

Length: Half Day - PM

Topic: Literacy/Mathematics Instructional Strategies

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): School Administration and Board based personnel
Description: **Planning with Multilingual Language Learners at the Forefront**

Details: The purpose and goals of the STEP Framework are introduced, followed by time to explore both the structure and components within the Oral, Reading and Writing ESL Continua. This module focuses on:

- Foundational principles in teaching multilingual language learners
- Introduction to STEP framework

Topic: OCT **Professionalism** Module

Details: Staff will engage in learning regarding professionalism through the OCT Professionalism Module.

Topic: **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

Additional professional activities for EAs, office support staff, and Library Technicians will be available.

Counsellor and Guidance Information

Take Your Kids To Work - November 1st

Parents/guardians of students in grade nine are encouraged to start making plans to showcase your workplaces on November 1st. This is a wonderful day to expose our children to the wonderful realities of world of work. More information will be coming out over the next couple of weeks! Stay tuned!

Parent Info Evening Recap

Thanks to our families who came to the Guidance Presentations this past Tuesday. We had over 260 attendees for the presentations. As promised to the grade nine and ten families, here is the listing of our slides from the evening. [Grade 9 and 10 Presentation Slides](#)

Guidance will be hosting more events throughout the school year in the evening with focus on Course Planning, Post-Secondary Awareness and Wellness.

Looking Through the Window—Museum Collaboration

Students at Bur Oak Secondary School collaborated with the Markham Museum as part of their current exhibition "Standing the the Doorway: Lived Histories and Experiences of the Chinese Community". Working individually and in small design teams, students engaged in an inquiry-led design process to activate Markham Museum's front atrium and gallery space. The students considered how works of art can reflect, respond and drive social change by researching Chinese immigration to Canada over the last 100 years, including the 100th anniversary of the Chinese Exclusion Act. Students brainstormed themes and presented various design concepts culminating in two laser-cut tapestries over 40 feet long, a linocut scroll over 50 feet long, artist cards, and a documentary film exploring their creative process. The Exhibition opens to the public on September 28th, and runs through February 2024.

Sankofa Mentoring Program Cultural Identity Programs For Black Students

"A people without the knowledge of their history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots".

The York Region Alliance of African Canadian Communities (YRAACC) is starting the school year by launching its **Sankofa Mentoring Programs**. The organization aims to improve Black students' self-esteem and self-efficacy by educating them about their **cultural identity**.

Please see the attached flyer.

Without a doubt, the following reasons highlight the importance of these programs:

- Developing a strong sense of racial and cultural identity
- Strengthening the Community
- Enhancing critical thinking skills
- Encouraging self-reflection
- Boosting self-esteem
- Fostering teamwork

Below are the details for the sessions:

- **Participants:** Students in grades 4 to 12.

Curriculum: A free African-centered program based on the Seven Principles (Nguzo Saba) [Guiding Principles](#) | [Nguzo Saba](#) | [ANSAIO](#) | [Halifax](#).

- **Session Duration:** From September 23, 2023, to June 15, 2024, Wednesdays 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Thursdays 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and every other Saturday 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. virtual.
- **In-person location:** Bur Oak Secondary School, 933 Bur Oak Avenue, Markham, Ontario, every other Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Purpose:** Students will be allowed to engage in cultural education, drumming, creating a storybook for children, field trips, listening to guest speakers, learning about Black Heroes and Heroines, as well as studying African words and symbols. Additionally, we offer homework help and volunteer hours for high school students.

Parents: We also include parents in the in-person sessions to provide a community, support with navigating the school system, and wellness.

Registration is now open.

If you would like your child(ren) to be a part of this program, kindly register using the links below.

Sankofa Mentoring Program grades 7 to 12.

<https://form.jotform.com/sankofamentoring/SankofaMentoringForm>

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 great weekend!