

Bur Oak E-Bulletin

Newsletter
June 5, 2020



Board Trustee, Allan Tam
416-898-9607
allan.tam@yrdsb.ca

Superintendent of Schools,
Paul Valle
905-940-7800
paul.valle@yrdsb.ca

Principal, Rose Li
rose.li@yrdsb.ca

Vice-Principal, Elizabeth Sloan
elizabeth.sloan@yrdsb.ca

Vice-Principal, Vanessa Wonnacott
vanessa.wonnacott@yrdsb.ca

School Phone: 905-202-1234

Dear Bur Oak students and families, I would like to take a moment to share some current reflections about recent world and closer to home events that show anti-Black racism continues to exist.

The murders of George Floyd and Ahmaud Arbery; the questionable death of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, and the blatant threat against Christian Cooper in New York simply because he is black were just a few examples of anti-Black racism that have been reported recently. Three out of four of these incidences were recorded and these videos have horrified the world. I can only imagine if we were in a time without cellphones. I can only imagine the number of anti-Black racist verbal and physical assaults, and murders that have not been recorded and/or have not been brought to justice.

This time of learning and working from home has brought too many incidences of anti-Black racism to my attention at BOSS. There have been anti-Black racist slurs and treatment against students, staff, and a community member during the past few months. Every incident brought to my attention has been and will be thoroughly investigated. Unfortunately, verbal assaults and anti-Black racism committed through social media occurs on a too frequent basis. Hiding behind technology is cowardly. Reporting these incidences is courageous.

I know that we have Black students, staff, and community members who still do not feel safe or welcomed at BOSS. This information is so concerning for me. I am committed to changing this; and I also need to change this for all racialized and marginalized students. I will need help to continue this work. We first need to reflect and understand how privilege affects how we think, behave, conduct ourselves, and treat Black, Indigenous, and people of colour.

We can continue to read, dialogue, and attend learning opportunities about equity. What needs to happen now must begin and end with actions that actually make a change for Black students, staff, and community; call out and address racist behaviour when it happens, ensure that we have high standards and expectations for all students and show that student voice matters and counts.

This work starts with an honest reflection of ourselves. Ijeoma Oluo a Seattle based author who wrote, "So You Want to Talk about Race" said,

"The beauty of anti-racism is that you don't have to pretend to be free of racism to be an anti-racist. Anti-racism is the commitment to fight racism wherever you find it, including in yourself. And it's the only way forward."

What is happening in the world, in Ontario, at YRDSB, at BOSS is not okay. We need to step up and do better for Black students, staff, and community. We need to do better for all racialized and marginalized people.

I know that the past few weeks have deeply affected Black students, staff and the community and many others. Continue to call out racist behaviour and incidences and report it. For those that have done so already, thank you for your courage to speak up. Also, please note that if you need support to reach out to myself, a teacher, or anyone else who you feel comfortable with to share your concerns. The York Region District School Board website (www.yrdsb.ca) can also provide you with support, resources, and individuals for support.

R. Li, Principal

[Letter from Director – May 27, 2020](#)

Dear families,

I hope you and your families are healthy and well. Our staff miss seeing our students in person each day. I know I speak on behalf of all staff when I say, we look forward to seeing everyone as soon as it's safe to do so.

Your voice is important to us and we are asking for you to share your thoughts through a quick, [online survey](#). We are hoping to learn your thoughts and ideas in real-time about the [Learning and Caring Plan](#), until the end of this school year and to inform decision making for our return in September.

You can participate anonymously and your responses will be confidential. As always, your participation is voluntary.

Your responses will help our Board assess and inform best practices related to our programs and services.

Thank you,

Louise Sirisko
Director of Education

亲爱的家长，

希望您和您的家人健康平安。我们所有的教职工每天都挂念我们的学生。我知道我的话代表所有员工的心声，希望在安全的情况下尽快与大家相见。

您的反馈意见对我们很重要，因此请您通过快速的[在线调查问卷](#)分享您的想法。我们希望能够了解您对直到本学年结束的[学习与关怀计划](#)之想法及意见并告知我们九月返回学校的决策。

您可以匿名参加，并且您的回复将是保密的。与往常一样，调查问卷的参与是自愿性的。

您的答复将帮助校局评估及让我们知道如何实践计划和服务的最佳做法。

谢谢，

Louise Sirisko女士
Director of Education约克区校局局长

Course Change Requests for 2020-21

Students wishing to make changes to their courses for next year are strongly encouraged to make those requests **as soon as possible**. It is much more challenging to fulfill requests in September for all parties.

Please have students fill out their change request at: bit.ly/BOSSchanges2021. A counsellor will send follow up details and confirmation emails.

While we may not be able to accommodate every request received, students will be placed on Wait Lists and receive priority to spaces that become available in the new year.

Summer School 2020-21

YRDSB Summer School courses will continue to be offered during the month of July. To help reduce the spread of COVID-19, Continuing Education Services is adjusting its Summer Learning program offerings to align with public health guidelines. Please be advised that our traditional in class face-to-face summer programs will move to a remote learning delivery model as per Ministry direction. We will continue to follow Ministry direction and if there are any changes to our program delivery model we will communicate those changes to the system.

For students who have already registered for traditional face-to-face summer school programs, their registration will be forwarded as part of the remote learning delivery model. This model will be home-based learning with more details to follow. There is no need to re-apply or switch to an alternate model for students continuing to wish to proceed with summer programs.

For students wishing still to register for summer school, please review the offerings for both Remote Learning Summer School and eLearning Summer School. Once you have decided on your program choice, you must complete the Bur Oak Request form before registering for any summer credit program. (Please note, this also includes Private School and International Languages programs offered in other school boards)

bit.ly/BOSSsummerRequest

For more information about YRDSB Offerings please see the two sites listed below.

[Remote Learning Summer School](#)

[Summer School eLearning](#)

Please note: All summer school courses require parent/guardian permission that needs to be received by our department. Please ensure that you complete all steps. For those families who have still not confirmed after their scheduled meeting should make arrangements quickly as spaces are running out for both Summer courses and the possible replacement course for next year.

Parent/Guardian(s), students, and all YRDSB staff at our Secondary schools will no longer be able to see any attendance data within Edsby. Parents/Guardians should connect with their school office for accurate student attendance information. Student and Parent/Guardian contact information, as well as information related to timetables will still be available through Edsby.

Supporting Online Learning

While schools will remain closed for the rest of the school year, we will continue to support your child's learning and well-being. We know that learning at home looks different for each family. We have developed a number of resources and tips to help students and families, including:

- [How to log in and use online learning platforms](#), including Google, Edsby and D2L. Short videos are also available.
- [Tips for families to support online learning](#).
- [Student Tech Help](#) form for support with student technology provided by the Board and accessing online learning platforms.
- [Mental health](#) and [community resources](#) for students and families.
- [Resources for students with special education needs](#).

To learn more about our [Learning and Caring Plan](#), access these resources and more, please visit www.yrdsb.ca/covid19. Google translate is available on our website.

Attention Parents and Guardians

Please be advised that teachers may be trying to get in touch with you regarding your student and may be calling from a blocked telephone number.

Graduating Student Reminders and Updates

Families are encouraged to keep an eye on their emails from Post-Secondary Institutions to confirm details and ensure they submit their confirmation for selected programs before the stated deadlines. Students who are concerned about options should make arrangements to connect with their Guidance Counsellor.

Scholarship and Awards Updates

Just a reminder to families, we do update our [Scholarship and Awards](#) page with information we receive from many community resources.

Students who will be receiving awards from the Markham African Caribbean Canadian Association (MACCA), please note that the event has been rescheduled to November, 2020.

International Languages - Secondary Students

Registration for International Languages Courses for September are now being accepted. If you are interested in these courses, please register through MyBlueprint. Mr. Milberg will follow-up with you with an appointment to review your request. More information can be found in the link below:

[International Languages - Secondary Students](#)

NEW! Grade 8 Reach Ahead 2020 Summer Credit Language Program & Grade 9 to 12 Students (Spanish & Mandarin)

- Grade 8 students can now take a Grade 9 credit course this summer in Spanish or Mandarin.
- Grades 9 to 12 students can now take Level B or C summer credit courses in Spanish or Mandarin.
- Prerequisites are not required for any Level B international languages course.
- This is an 18-day program (July 6-29, Monday to Friday, 8:45 a.m. to 3:33 p.m. daily) for one credit introductory (Level B) international languages course.

Click on the attached [YRDSB link](#) for more information and details regarding registration.

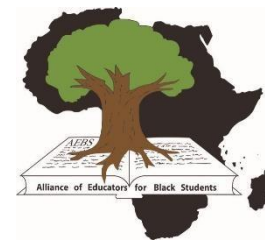
Notice:

During the school closure related to the current Pandemic, referrals to CRES partners listed below can continue to be made by YRDSB Psychology and Social Work, as well as directly by parents/families/student (as applicable). Some of our partners are offering a limited range of services. Please contact these agencies directly to learn more about their current offering of service.

Click on the attached link for helpful YRDSB information regarding [COVID 19 Community Resources for Behaviour, Mental Health and Financial Supports](#).

Please refer to the attached links for more YRDSB information regarding [Novel Coronavirus FAQ](#) and [Novel Coronavirus Updates](#).

York Region District School Board is committed to student well-being and mental health. YRDSB has developed a [Student Suicide Intervention Protocol](#) to help keep students safe in the event of suicidal thoughts or actions. The Student Suicide Intervention Protocol will be implemented starting fall 2019. Please take a moment to review the Student Suicide Intervention Protocol notice YRDSB Student that is a part of the YRDSB website.



AEBS 2020 Scholarships for Black Students

Graduating from York Region District School Board High Schools

The Alliance of Educators for Black Students (AEBS) is dedicated to the success of Black students of African Canadian heritage in schools in the YRDSB. Unfortunately, AEBS had to cancel the 2020 Achievement Awards Ceremony due to COVID-19. However, AEBS believes it is important for students to have access to funds to help pay for their postsecondary education.

AEBS invites Black students who are graduating to [apply](#) for a scholarship online.

The deadline to apply is Monday, June 15, 2020.

More [information](#) about AEBS Scholarships is available online or contact:

Charlotte Reid; charlotte.reid@yrdsb.ca
Elaine Ricketts; elaine.ricketts@yrdsb.ca
Jaymyi Lesmond; jaymyi.lesmond@yrdsb.ca

MARKHAM AFRICAN CARIBBEAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION

2020 Scholarship Application Package



The **Markham African Caribbean Canadian Association (MACCA)** has awarded scholarships to students going to College or University for the past 32 years.

The MACCA event will take place in November, 2020. Please follow the attached link in order to access the full [**MACCA Scholarship Application Package 2020**](#). And note that the deadline to apply is Friday, June 26th, 2020.