



# BOSS.COM

Principal: George Voumvakis

Superintendent of Schools: Daniel Wu

Board Trustee: Allan Tam

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## Principal Message

Welcome to this year's final edition of the Bur Oak Secondary School newsletter.

Another school year has come to an end and what a great year it has been. It is my pleasure to share just some of its highlights.

Our Junior Concert Band, Symphonic Band and Senior Wind Ensemble received Silver at OBA. The Senior Wind Ensemble also won the The Rising Star Award for exceptional expressive performance and the Brass Excellence Award this year. Our Intermediate and Senior Bands and both Concert Choirs were invited to compete at the Nationals in May.

The achievements continued at the Fermat Math Contest this year where BOSS tied for first place. In athletics, our Junior and Senior Boys Volleyball teams were York Region Champions this year; our Varsity Cricket team and our Junior Girls Volleyball team were both York Region Finalists. BOSS was proudly represented with over 25 teams competing in the YRAA league and over 400 students participated in intramurals this year thanks to the generous support and dedication of our teaching staff. Finally, we are proud of the Skills Canada participants who competed in a variety of trades and technology events. The school had many winners that moved on to the Provincial Competition.

Events this past fall also included: the Bossilicious "Welcome Back to School" barbeque, the School Dance and the Winter Assembly. Grade 10 students had a wonderful opportunity to learn about possible future careers through our annual Careers Day. This year we had 23 professionals from the community come and talk to our students about their respective career journeys.

Students at BOSS had the opportunity to participate in over 60 clubs and teams this year. The involvement of staff and students in spirit days, sporting events, fashion shows, drama productions, and music concerts was truly amazing. One highlight of this year was BOSS's first ever poetry club who placed second at the York Region Poetry Slam semi-finals. Our Special Needs class made history on March 3, 2015 by competing in the Ontario Sears Drama Festival. Their unique show, titled "Shoes," featured youth who are living with challenges such as autism, developmental delays, and Down's Syndrome. In visually innovative ways, the show explored the hopes and dreams of these young people. The production was invited to perform in Windsor which received standing ovations.

This winter BOSS held its second annual Mental Health Day called "Unstuffed". Students had the opportunity to attend both workshop and wellness sessions. Students chose workshops from a variety of topics including relationships, personal identity and family issues. Wellness sessions included: yoga, running, reading, music and art appreciation, mindfulness and broomball. Along with the keynote presentation, students had the opportunity to attend a healthy eating/healthy living exhibition and enjoy fresh fruit and homemade smoothies while interacting with community health and wellness organizations.

Staff and students at BOSS continue to give generously of their time to support our local community with events like the Terry Fox Run, the Halloween Spookfest for younger children in our community, the Canadian Cancer Society Pink Ribbon day, Dafodil Drive, and the Winter Food Drive

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# Principal Message

## Graduation 2015

On June 25th, we hosted our annual Graduation ceremony to celebrate our 2015 graduating class. The 345 graduates included 221 Ontario Scholars and a number of scholarship recipients. It was truly an enjoyable evening and a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduating students. A special thank you goes to the Guidance Department and the front office staff for all their hard work that made graduation such a success.

## Community partnerships.....

Thank you to Michele deVries for her work with our community partner, the York Region Police and their joint photography club featuring BOSS student work. This year's show, was once again held at the Community Safety Village a wonderful backdrop for the students' work. Congratulations to Isaah Fograh who won the mentorship award.

As the Principal, I am extremely proud of our school's accomplishments. One accomplishment that stands out is our ongoing journey to create a learning environment where students of all racial, ethnic and sexual identities can feel welcome, comfortable and successful.

We say goodbye to, Mr. Deebrah, Ms. Shaikh and Ms. Smith and we wish them well in their future endeavors. We also wish Ms. Baldassini well in her interim position.

I would like to wish a happy retirement to two very special people at Bur Oak. The first is Ms. Madden the Head of our Music Department. Ms. Madden has been at Bur Oak since the opening of the school and we will all be very sorry to see her leave. She has contributed much to the school life at Bur Oak in her eight years. She has actively supported students and staff by sharing her love of music and has taught countless students how to create and appreciate beautiful music. She has also taught students life lessons and how to be a better person. We will miss Ms. Madden leading our concerts and many performance at Open houses, Awards Ceremonies, Graduation, Grade 8 visits and many other events.

Our Second retirement is Ms. Kuroyama, the Head of our Mathematics Department. Ms. Kuroyama has helped create one of the finest mathematics departments in our school board. She had been supporting students for three decades in countless schools in our board. Mr. Kuroyama can often be found early in the morning, during her lunch period and late after school supporting students and staff. She has taught students to love math and has created the most positive and welcoming environment I have ever seen. She has touched the lives of hundreds of students and teachers and will be truly missed.

Ms. Madden and Ms. Kuroyama we will all miss you very much. We wish you all the best in your retirement.

We would also like to thank the following long term occasional teachers for their support of our students: Reanna Baboolal, Duc Dam, Elizabeth deBoer, Kam Ip, Matthew Law, Vinnie Sarao, Kamal Tamber, and Kristen Towns.

To students and staff, I extend my appreciation and thanks for your tremendous efforts which allowed us to be so successful this school year. I wish everyone a safe and happy summer. I look forward to seeing everyone in September rested, recharged and ready for the year ahead.

The administration welcomes the following teachers to Bur Oak next year:

Kathy McAlpine	Vice Principal
Lyle Corrigan	Department Head of Music
Bhakti Merchant	Department Head of Math
Grace Baik	Science
Mike Byam	Technology - Transportation
Kelly Davis	Mathematics
Martha Griffiths	Visual Arts
Toni Grossman	Science - Interim Assistant Department Head
Ann McLeod-Waller	Business

## This year has been a very busy year for Special Education at BOSS.

This year, one of our Community Classes presented their play "Shoes". It is a play that allows you to experience life in the shoes of a person with a Disability. You may have seen our Community Class on Global News. Susan Hay did a segment called "Making a Difference"

Our DD class was the first Community Class to ever compete in the Sears Festival. The Sears Festival is one of the biggest and most recognized drama competitions and has been running for 50 years. Ms. Ferguson, Mr. Stoneman, Ms. Marchione and Ms. Semab spent numerous hours working with the students leading up to the Sears Festival and the students were fantastic! The students did a great job, but did not move on to the next level. However, after the news of their presentation got out they were asked to compete at a Competition in Windsor. The Competition was on the weekend of May 22. The students and staff worked very hard every day fundraising during lunch hours for them to travel to Windsor.

This class put forth a strong commitment to practicing and presenting the play. This year they presented the play at the following:

- Sears Festival
- Windsor Festival
- Centre for Dreams
- Pan Am Torch Run (at the Dr. Bette Stephenson Building)

The Special Education Department is very proud of the great accomplishments and thankful for the time and effort from Ms. Ferguson, Mr. Stoneman, Ms. Marchione and Ms. Semab.

Our Community classes have also been extremely busy at Work Experience this year. They were featured in the York Region School Board Work Experience 10<sup>th</sup> Edition.

By J. Bonner

### Bur Oak SS

E3



**Tavleen**

I work at Dollarama. I stock shelves, I face the shelves and I recycle boxes. My favorite part is checking the expiry dates on the products. I learned how to work as a team and how to be on time.



**Damien**

Damien has been a great worker at Dollarama. He is learning to stock the shelves with candy and chocolate bars. Damien is always happy to buy some Smarties at the end of his shift as a treat for a job well done.



**Lucy**

I work in the school cafeteria. I make sandwiches, put drinks in the refrigerator, make cookies and put hot sauce in little containers. My two favourite jobs are the drinks and sandwiches. I learn how to make food and put cardboard boxes into the recycling bin.



**Varun**

I work at Dollarama stock shelves; I face the shelves and I recycle boxes. My favorite part is stocking shelves and stacking candy. I learned how to work as a team and be on time. I also learned to ask questions regarding my duties.



**Neel**

I work at Pizza Pizza. My duties are making pizza boxes, cleaning the tables and wiping the counters. My favorite part is making pizza boxes. I learned to make pizza boxes.



**Ritchie**

Ritchie has enjoyed working at Angus Glen Community Centre this school year. He is learning to wash windows and tables. Ritchie also loves to take the YRT to work and is always looking forward to the bus ride.

## Drama



This year has been an exciting one for the drama department. The community drama class made history with their show “Shoes”. Their show was the first community class in history to be entered in the Sears Drama Festival and was invited to perform at the Southern Ontario Youth Festival in Windsor. We had an amazing time performing and travelling as an ensemble to Windsor. The class was even featured on Global News. The students truly shined!

It is always difficult to say goodbye to the senior drama students who have been a part of the drama family for four years, and this year is no exception. While it is difficult to say goodbye, the students are embarking on new and exciting adventures. Kelly Tong, the award recipient for the Lifetime Performance Award, has been accepted into the York University Theatre program. We look forward to seeing Kelly shine on stage and on the big screen in the future! Cody Clayton will also be pursuing a career in the arts. He has been accepted into the film program at York where he will pursue film directing. You may remember that Cody directed the film segment from our award winning show “If Heart Could Bloom” last year. I am so proud of all of my drama students, the senior show “The Carving Tree” showed what a true ensemble and gift they each possess.

The grade 10's delighted young audiences this semester with their creation and performance of “Smelly Socks” and “Where the Wild Things Are”. Not easy to keep a group of 100 five year olds attentive, but they did so with style and pizzazz!

Keep an eye out for next year's shows. We have already started working on them and have a wonderful summer.

By. C. Ferguson





# BONJOUR

This past semester, the Department of Modern Languages hosted two successful learning enhancement activities. Our grade nine students were invited to a special French café event, catered by Ms. Stepanian and the Bur Oak Hospitality Department. Our students sampled many French delicacies such as crepes, profiteroles and quiches! Yummy!

Our grade ten, eleven and twelve students attended a special screening of the comedy film, “Les Intouchables” at Rainbow Cinemas. After enjoying the film, our students attended a special French-themed lunch at Le Marche Restaurant and Le Marche St. Laurent. The wait staff was very impressed as our students practiced their speaking skills and ordered in French!

As this very successful school year comes to a close, we bid a fond farewell to Elizabeth De Boer, Reanna Baboolal and Leora Smith, whose contributions to our department were much appreciated by both our teachers and students.

Finally, we hope that you will encourage your child to continue his/her study of French Language and Culture next year. With your support we can continue to excel at developing exciting programs in Language Learning.

Merci!

By R. Sharma-Mohan  
(Department Head of Modern Languages)



## Visual Art Department

The **Visual Arts Department** has had a very busy and highly successful second semester. We are pleased to announce that five groups of Media Arts students were selected to be screened at this year's York Region **PlayR Video Festival**. The animated piece *Red vs. Blue* by Chris Lee and Adrian Wong, as well as the experimental film *Sacrifice* by Abishaa Jeevakumar, Shervin Chung, and Connie Kwok were chosen as award winners! Congratulations to all our talented filmmakers.



**Time Warp**

by Raymond Lin and Mitchell Holmes



**The Pseudo'd Blossom**

by Chris Lee, Adrian Wong, Shahmeer Nadeem and Kyle Yin

We are especially proud of Jay Lintag for winning the gold medal in graphic design at the regional **Skills Canada** competition held at Seneca College in March. Jay then went on, under the guidance of Mrs. Dietrich, to represent Bur Oak at the provincial level. Congratulations to all students who competed this year in graphic design, TV & video and photography.

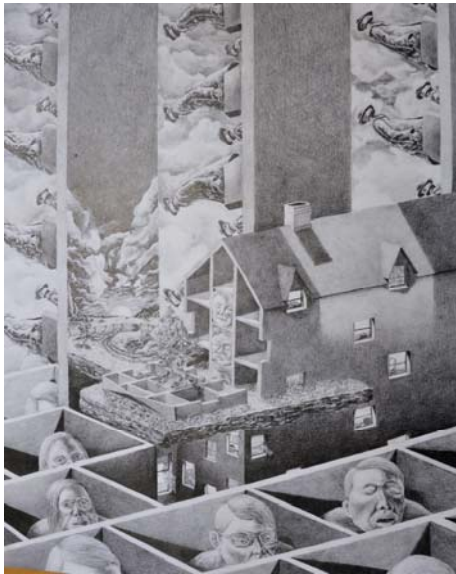
In April, a group of senior art students travelled downtown to the **Ontario College of Art and Design**. This year's 100th anniversary Grad Show offered a large collection of artworks from a multitude of professional career paths including graphic design, illustration, photography, industrial and environmental design as well as curatorial studies, painting, sculpture and printmaking.





## VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT CONT'D

At the end of April the Visual Arts Department, in collaboration with Junk n' Jazz, held our seventh annual **Coffee House** art show. Many students and parents enjoyed the incredible talent on display. We were especially grateful to see such a large group of grad students return to support the event.



**Social Political Drawing**  
by Jeffrey Kam



**Expressive Oil Pastel Portrait**  
by Julie Oon

Bur Oak's **Photography Club**, a collaborative initiative between the York Region District School Board, the York Region Catholic School Board and the York Region Police held our sixth annual year end show *Point of View* at the Community Safety Village in Stouffville. An incredible collection of photographs taken by students, teachers and officers were on display. We are especially proud of the amazing work done by Lesley Liu, Cienna Cousley, and Lily Rizza. A special congratulations to Isaiah Fogah for winning the 2015 Memorial Mentor Award for his commitment and leadership.



By M. deVries

## The Benefits of Summertime Reading

**M**any parents ask me how students can improve their achievement in English. I tell them that the best way for students to improve and develop their reading, writing and thinking skills is by reading fiction. Parents are often not aware that reading fiction improves reading, writing and thinking skills in all subject areas. And while any kind of reading is beneficial, reading fiction, especially novels, reaps the most benefits.

Because novels are usually divided into several chapters, engaging with a novel involuntarily forces a student to use certain reading strategies and thinking skills to make sense of the content. For example, students must often go back and re-read sections of a novel so that the novel continues to make sense moving forward. Going back in a text to re-read sections is a good reading strategy that students should practice. Along with this, they may make jot notes or flag certain 'important' pages as they go. Note-taking and flagging are excellent reading strategies that students should get used to doing. The best way to do this is by using sticky notes. Students can write bits of information, reminders, word definitions, and questions on these notes and then stick them in the novel on key pages. Students then develop thinking skills by going back and revisiting these notes as they try to piece together plot details, uncover implicit ideas, and answer their previous questions.

Some parents ask if students will improve their writing skills by completing grammar worksheets. While such worksheets may initially help students learn the rules of grammar, they have limited to no bearing on a student's ability to write in context. The sentences used to demonstrate errors on worksheets do not resemble the kinds of sentences that students write in their own assignments. The sentences in worksheets are isolated examples that lack context. Thus, correcting errors in sentences that were not written by the student does not ensure that students will not make the same kinds of errors when they are writing their own reports, essays, and stories. Again, reading fiction is the best way to improve writing because it is a contextualized activity that develops vocabulary and presents a model of how a variety of sentences should be written and how a variety of words should be used. In other words, the sentences in fiction demonstrate proper grammar, punctuation, and usage.

Though parents may assume that students should read only the classics, I would argue that students should read the fiction they enjoy in addition to what they have to read for school. Students can choose novels from various genres including science fiction, adventure, mystery, and social realism. We offer students such choices as part of our rigorous reading program that uses a book club model.

In book club, students read and analyze their chosen novel with members of a small group. These members convene formally with the teacher to discuss their reading experience three times. Of course, students must bring their notes to these meetings so that they are prepared to share their ideas and questions. If a student has done a lot of reading outside of school, he or she is more likely able to make varied and complex connections between the book club novel and the other novels he/she has read. Making connections between texts is an important skill that teachers assess during the book club experience.

The English teachers at Bur Oak look forward to finding out what our students have read during the summer!

*By P. Belmonte*



## A Poetic Finish

After making it through the quarter-finals, our Slam Poetry Club made up of Breeyana Jivraj, Zeeyana Jivraj, Aiman Khan, and Areeba Yousuf, under the direction of Ms. McGann-Golding, went on to qualify in the semi-finals as one of the four high schools who would face off in the finals. On the evening of April 2<sup>nd</sup>, they were part of a memorable Finals Competition at Richmond Green Secondary School. They were very impressed by both the elementary and secondary finalists. While they placed fourth, the achievement of making it to the Finals is not to be forgotten. With a year of high school experience under their belts, they are looking forward to competing again next year.

Grade 11 student, Ayo Akinfenwa, presented 3 poems in Montreal at the Poetry in Voice National Competition this past April. Ms. Laura Upton was Ayo's coach and chaperone in Montreal. Ayo was awarded third place and received a cash prize of \$250. As a result of her winning, the BOSS library also received a cheque for \$250. As dictated by the rules of the award, the library purchased poetry books with the money. Ms. Kostandoff live-streamed the finals in the library and everyone who was there that morning witnessed both her stellar performance and the stiff competition she was up against.

Ayo, accompanied by her mother, was invited to recite at the Griffin Poetry Award Gala in Toronto at Koerner Hall. She met the poet Ian Williams whose poem entitled "Echolalia" she had recited at the finals in Montreal. Williams inscribed her copy of his recent book with an incredibly positive comment as he too was very impressed by her nuanced performance of his poem!

*By E. McGann-Golding and K. Kostandoff*

## Learning a Language and a Culture

This year has been an exciting one as we have done many activities in the ESL department! We have had many opportunities to celebrate different holidays throughout the year. We have also continued to develop our program by adding new texts and technology in order for our students to build on their literacy and English skills. Teaching our students how to advocate for themselves has been a priority this year.

There have been many opportunities for our students to celebrate Canadian and Asian cultures. In the fall, the students had a chance to celebrate a Canadian holiday by eating a Thanksgiving lunch together. In February, the ESL teachers gave lucky money pockets to their students to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

In February, we went to the Vaughan Mills Mall, where the students had a social outing to learn how to bowl and have a chance to use their English skills in an authentic setting.

During the month of May, the ESL department was involved in reading different texts that reflect Asian heritage. In the ESLAO and ESLBO classes, the students read children's stories and then shared their stories with the class. We also looked at famous Asian quotations and posted them in our front lobby to share with the school. The other ESL classes read novels with settings that took place in Asia or had Asian characters. In ESLCO, we read a new text this semester called Goodbye, Vietnam.

We have continued to develop our ESL program by adding new novels and increasing the use of technology in the classroom by using Google apps. Besides our new books, we also had our English Language Learners in the ESLDO and ESLEO classes read an adapted Macbeth text, as a way for students to feel successful in their transition to mainstream English.

Thank you to all of the people who have helped our students this year - Mr. O'Boyle, the ISA and Student2Student.

Congratulations to the 37 English Language Learners who have graduated from the program and are ready for mainstream English!

Have a safe and wonderful summer!

By K. Brown

# News from Guidance

## Guidance at Bur Oak

The Bur Oak Guidance department is an incredibly busy place and provides ongoing support for our 1700 students. Our six counselor's goals include:

- a) making information and resources readily available to students and their families
- b) keeping track of student's academic progress to enable them to graduate
- c) celebrating success through special events and incentives
- d) making connections to support student's personal and academic needs, and
- e) helping students to engage in individual pathway planning.

We encourage families and students to connect with us online, to read our regular updates in the weekly Parent News-letter, to contact us in person and to attend Parent Sessions.

## Community Involvement Placements in the summer

Students are encouraged to be involved in the community during the summer months. To count towards the 40 hour graduation requirement, volunteer opportunities should be with "not for profit" organizations and should not include activities that should be paid employment. If in doubt, check the eligibility on the board website. Current grade 9 students should try to finish and submit their 40 hours by mid-September to receive a "40-9ers Club" certificate at the Awards Celebration in October. Grade 10 and 11 students should investigate opportunities which will increase their potential employability skills and references for upcoming scholarship applications.

## Individual Pathway Planning

Students and parents are encouraged to complete the Individual Pathway Planning activities which are available through Career Cruising. All students are encouraged to review and revise their IPP twice a year. More grade specific information will be provided during the upcoming academic year. Grade 10 students will begin an in-depth investigation during their compulsory Careers course.

## Post-Secondary Information for Students and Parents

During the fall, there are a number of college and university fairs as well as tours available. We encourage parents and students to start investigating the many options available for after high school to ensure that all the possibilities are fully explored. In semester one, Bur Oak will be hosting visits from a number of college and universities. Skills Canada usually visits the school and the cooperative education department can discuss apprenticeship details. We will be sending out information for parents to be included in some of the information sessions.

## Course Change Requests in September

We provide a number of opportunities during the spring for students to indicate that they wish to change their course selections made in February. Unfortunately, in September it is very difficult to make changes since the timetable has already been established based on student selection in the spring. Therefore, it is important for students to understand that requests for course changes in September are generally only made for academic reasons such as level of difficulty or academic pathways. Not all requests for changes will be possible.

## Stay Up-to-date with Guidance!

Guidance is on Twitter! Parents and students are invited to follow us @bossguidance for current information about scholarships, postsecondary information, volunteer opportunities, upcoming deadlines and events and course information.

The guidance website is updated and ready to go! Find information about course offering and prerequisites, counselor contact information, financial aid and OSAP, post-secondary school visits, and relevant student resources. Find us at: <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/buroak.ss/guidance/Pages/default.aspx>.

## Grade 12s – Preparing for Life after High School

A lot happens in grade 12 and students don't want to miss any of it. Guidance offers a voluntary remind service where students can receive text messages and/or emails regarding important grade 12 deadlines, dates, scholarship opportunities and information items. Interested grade 12 students should text "@bossgu" to 289-277-0545 and/or send an empty email to [bossgu@mail.remind.com](mailto:bossgu@mail.remind.com). There is no cost to sign-up. If students do not have a cellular text messaging plan, we recommend they check with their cellular service provider regarding any text messaging service charges.

Enjoy a safe and healthy summer! We hope to be "in touch" with students and their families throughout their high school experience.

By L. Dodham

## We Stand Together: Global Action Council

**B**y now we hope you've heard this slogan before as we've worked hard this year to raise awareness around the broad topic of First Nations, Metis and Inuit (FNMI) in Canada. By "Standing Together" with FNMI peoples, we have learned about the history, the traditions and the challenges that make up the FNMI experience in Canada.

Thanks to your support of our raffle and bake sales we were able to donate \$1,000 to the Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative. We even heard directly from the founder of MAEI when **The Honorable Paul Martin called BOSS one afternoon to speak to Ms. Donaldson and Ms. Kostandoff**. True story! No one was more surprised than us! Check out MAEI at <http://www.maei-ieam.ca> ).

We participated in several FTC initiatives this year and raised money through bake sales which we donated in semester 2. The money contributed by BOSS will go towards educational programs supported by FTC.

We say goodbye to two wonderful student leaders: **Agenee Sithamparanathan and Arani Shanker** as well as our grade 12 council members and wish them the very best in the future. Consider joining Global Action council next year as we continue to explore our understanding and our support of FNMI people in Canada. To find out more and to stay up to date on all our activities check us out on facebook: Global Action Council.



By Ms. Donaldson and  
Ms. Kostandoff



## Library Learning Commons



**I**n keeping with the new trend in Libraries we are now officially known as **The BOSS Library Learning Commons**. We are embracing the new normal for libraries: "The Unquiet Library"! This is a space in which students can study, share ideas, collaborate on assignments, relax and create.

During semester 2 we hosted two speakers from Free The Children who encouraged our grade 10 careers students to "find their passion" in life. Several students were selected to participate in a full day workshop following the group presentation which gave them more guidance on how to initiate opportunities at BOSS. We also hosted acclaimed Canadian author Judy Fong-Bates (she wrote the fascinating memoir *The Year of Finding Memory* and the novel *Midnight At The Dragon Café*). She shared her insight into the life of a writer with Ms Chadha's grade 12 Writer's Craft students.

If you haven't found us online, do so at [bit.ly/BOSSlibrary](http://bit.ly/BOSSlibrary) - where you can access lots of great information including suggested reading lists for ENG4U if you'd like to get a jump on your reading over the summer.

Wishing you an enjoyable and safe summer,

The BOSS Library Team





## Want to improve your grades and become an even better person? Read more fiction

**Y**es, many recent studies have demonstrated a clear connection between reading and the development of empathy and, of course we have known for a long time that reading engages our brains making us all... smarter! Check out these links.

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/novel-finding-reading-literary-fiction-improves-empathy/> and <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-athletes-way/201401/reading-fiction-improves-brain-connectivity-and-function>

**The Forest of Reading Program**, created by the Ontario Library Association, has shown proven results in raising reading scores in Ontario's elementary schools. At the high school level, the reading "tree" we offer is **White Pine**.

This year's White Pine Readers read 10 nominated titles on their own and shared their impressions and ideas at several meetings throughout the year. We had two fantastic book battles as our staff readers slugged it out (metaphorically of course) to entertain the club. A huge thank you to all our staff participants! In May, a group of readers attended this year's **Celebration of Reading at Harbourfront**, meeting all the authors in person and watching as Eve Silver, author of *Rush* accepted this year's White Pine Award.

Congratulations to these students who read all 10 nominated titles: **Aun Hussain; Erika Mak; Janet Lin; Jasleen Jagdev; Joseph So; Manpreet Jagdev; Michelle Lin; Ms. Baldassini; Ms. Buttineau; Sabat Ismail; Sherry Tan; Simran Jagdev; Thaaniya Nanthakumar; Waiyi Lin; Winfield So; Xiangjing Shen.**

Join us next year to read all (or some) of the 10 fabulous Canadian books that will be revealed on the WP short list in October of 2015.



By K. Kostandoff, R. Marinelli and  
S. McCombes



## Success in Its Many Forms: By the Numbers



**2005:** the room students visit looking for help with their job search or seeking feedback and support on an assignment.

**3000:** the number of student visits this years seeking a comfortable setting to meet new people and get academic and/or emotional support.

**44:** the number of students who tutored their peers at lunch and/or after school this year.

**4:** the number of staff supporting this room, including Ms. Bellevance, a Child and Youth Worker, Ms. Goodridge, a Student Success Teacher, and Ms. DiGennaro and Ms. Kedey, Teachers in Personalized Alternative Education (PAE).

**15:** wonderful workplaces where students learn while working,

including Smart Set, Goodlife, Vegan Vanity Style Studio, Roy Foss Chevrolet, Swiss Chalet, Kerry's Place Autism Services, Tim Horton's, Salvation Army Thrift Store, Harvey's, Wal-Mart, McDonald's, Evley Plumbing, Shopper's Drug Mart, Wismer Public School, and Bur Oak Secondary School's Drama Department.

**11:** acceptances for students in PAE in post-secondary programs related to careers in business, culinary, nutrition management, game design, mathematics, health, nursing, aviation, youth services, and security.



**12:** graduates this year with full or part-time support from the PAE Department!

For more information about Student Success, please speak to Ms. Goodridge by email at [Carella.Goodridge@yrdsb.ca](mailto:Carella.Goodridge@yrdsb.ca). For more information about PAE, please contact Ms Kedey by email at [Katherine.kedey@yrdsb.ca](mailto:Katherine.kedey@yrdsb.ca) .

By K. Kedey

### Business & SHSM

**T**he Business Department is embarking on a new adventure starting next year. We hope to bring a whole new approach to the way Business is delivered to students. Our new ICE initiative will focus on Innovation, Creativity, and Entrepreneurship in all our classes to better match both directives at the Provincial levels and our student clientele. We hope that we can connect better with the those students who may not be those who are destined for heavy quantitative careers or post-secondary. Our teachers and prospective students are very excited.

By. C. Hainstock

## Technological Education Department

Now another school year has come to an end and as we head into the end of June I want to take a moment to thank all teachers in the Technology Department for your continued support of our students this year. I am very proud of our students for their hard work this year. I look back and think of the journey students in Technological Education have taken since September and have seen their tremendous growth and development.

Technology continues to progress at a rapid pace. Since 2007, the world has come to know about Skype, Google, Twitter, Cloud Computing and a social media landscape that is transforming the way we interact.

The fundamental purpose of the technological education program is to provide students with knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will enhance their ability to achieve success in secondary school, the workplace, post secondary education or training, and daily life.

The goals of the technological education curriculum are to enable students to:

- gain an understanding of the fundamental concepts underlying technological education;
- achieve the level of technological competence they will need in order to succeed in their post secondary education or training programs or in the workplace;
- develop a creative and flexible approach to problem solving that will help them address challenges in various areas throughout their lives;
- develop the skills, including critical thinking skills, and the knowledge of strategies required to do research, conduct inquiries, and communicate findings accurately, ethically, and effectively;
- develop lifelong learning habits that will help them adapt to technological advances in the changing workplace and world;
- make connections that will help them take advantage of potential post secondary education and work opportunities.

Again, I wish to express to my sincere gratitude for everyone's hard work this year.

By G. Niles



## Science

This spring Bur Oak students took part in two Canada-wide and one province-wide science competitions: the University of Waterloo Avogadro Senior Chemistry Exam, the University of Waterloo Sir Isaac Newton Senior Physics exam and the University of Toronto OAPT Grade 11 Physics Contest. We are pleased to announce that for the Avogadro Chemistry Exam we had two students receiving Outstanding Achievement Awards. Faith Gao ranked in the top 1% and Joyce Ma ranked in the top 2% in the entire country. Also receiving Award Certificates were Eric Lee, Amanda Kwan and Kari Guo.

For the Sir Isaac Newton physics exam, Benton Au was an award winner ranking in the top 100 students from across the country.

For the OAPT Grade 11 Physics contest, Ricky Yue received an Award Certificate for finishing in the top 9 % in province. The York Region Science and Technology Fair was held this spring and Amanda Mac won an impressive Silver Medal for her project entitled "Enhancing Vision's Second Mind".

Also, in May we were able to send Cecile He, Michael Wang, Christy Wong, Vaithiegaa Mathanarajan, Ashveni Agnakaran and Justine Wong to the T.D. Discovery Day in Health Sciences at McMaster University. There they were able to explore careers related to medicine and health sciences. During their visit they attended a keynote lecture and participated in hands-on workshops and interactive lab demonstrations.

Just before Mother's Day, the Bur Oak Science Club held their annual Carnation Sale to support the MS Society of Canada. Thanks to their hard work and the generosity of Bur Oak students, we were able to raise \$500 for the cause. Well done Bur Oak Science students!

By. K. Odium

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# Physical & Health Education

The Physical and Health Education department had a great second semester. The Healthy Active Living students developed their skills in a variety of team and individual sports such as basketball, volleyball, soccer, football and badminton. Fitness students learned and refined their lifting technique and created and implemented their own personal fitness program.

All Phys. Ed. students worked hard to improve their physical fitness levels from the beginning of the semester to the end. Students at the end of the semester evaluated and reflected on their cardio respiratory, flexibility, muscular endurance, muscular power and agility components. Great improvements were made by all!

Be sure to stay active throughout the summer. There are countless things you can do, especially with nice weather. Go for a walk, ride a bike, play recreational sports, try geo-caching or hit the beach. One opportunity available for teens is a free daytime membership at Goodlife Fitness clubs. Teens can enjoy the facilities and workout for free during the work day.

## Athletics

Some highlights from this spring are our Senior Girls Soccer team finishing in their division respectively. The coed Ultimate Frisbee team had a very successful season finishing with a record of 8 wins and 0 losses and placing 3rd overall in the region.

The junior boys volleyball team defeated Newmarket and the senior boys defeated Markham District to win the YRAA championships. Great season boys!

The track and field team finished the season 6th overall in the region and had 3 athletes, Auns Chaudhry, Shemar Hines and Rachael Wang move on to the Ontario finals.

Congratulations to all our athletes this season and this year. We are looking forward to another successful year in the fall.

### Special Sports Notes

#### Rookie Athletes of the Year:

Female – Zeeyana Jivaj (Grade 9)

Male – Kevin Chen (Grade 9)

#### Junior Athletes of the Year:

Female – Naqia Najafi (Grade 10)

Male – Pranav Jayaswal (Grade 10)

#### Senior Athletes of the Year:

Female – Sana Najafi

Male – Auns Chaudhry

By. A. Ebisuzaki



## A Note from the Music Department

Another exciting year for our BOSS musicians! The amazing Music Executive, capably led by **Edith Shum** and **Naomi Marasigan** organized a social night in the fall, our music nights, Junk n Jazz Night and our Music Banquet, all of which were well attended and highly successful! Congratulations to the entire Music Executive and especially Naomi and Edith. Our new directors for next year will be **Sybil Chan** and **Maiura Muralitharan**. New Liaison Officers were elected as well and ensemble reps will be elected in the fall.

The Seniors enjoyed working with guest clinician, US composer and Band director Samuel Hazo, and the grade nines enjoyed their annual trip to Bark Lake Leadership Camp. Our trips to the Festivals were also very successful: three Bands attended the **Ontario Band Association Festival**, both the Junior Choir and the Sr Chamber Singers performed at the **Ontario Vocal Festival** and our three jazz bands competed at **GTA Jazzfest**. All of our groups did really well and there were many favorable comments from the judges and others in attendance as well as Silver and Gold Awards, invitations for all groups to compete at the national level next year as well as individual awards for student leadership, our Sr. Brass Section and Rising Star Awards for both the Symphonic Band and the Sr Wind Ensemble.

Probably the highlight of the year for many, however, was our trip to **New York City** in April. Our Senior students performed at the University there, participated in 'Broadway Classroom', saw a Broadway show (Les Mis), ate at Ellen's Stardust Diner (where the waiters are Broadway singers who also perform) and toured this wonderful city (that truly never sleeps!). Many thanks to **Mr. and Mrs. Stuhr, Ms Riley, Ms Carmichael Stitt and Ms Viscomi** who helped Ms Lee and Mrs. Madden with supervision.

At our recent graduation we bid a fond farewell to all our grads and I want to express a special note of congratulations and thanks to our graduate Music Students. We are very pleased that, once again, we have talented BOSS students pursuing post graduate Music Studies! This year **Naomi Tehara** was accepted (on scholarship) at **Wilfred Laurier University** to pursue her studies in Vocal Music and we know she will make us very proud. Our special congratulations also go out to our Graduate Music Award Winners: **Becky Bando** and **Edith Shum**, Instrumental Music; **Ryvannah Li** and **Nila Nambiran**, Vocal Music; **Sharon Law** and **Emily Jang**, Wind Ensemble Repertoire and **Naomi Tehara** and **Haruki Tamura**, Chamber Choir Repertoire. Our **Overall Music Subject Award Winner** at Graduation was **Jeffrey Sun**, lead trumpet in the Wind Ensemble and bass in Chamber Singers and the **Music Leadership Award** was presented to **Ashwini Saravanapavan**, for outstanding leadership within the Wind Ensemble. Our other awards were presented at our Annual Music Banquet ("A Night in Athens") on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Their names are proudly displayed on a large plaque in the main atrium showcase of Bur Oak. Congratulations all!

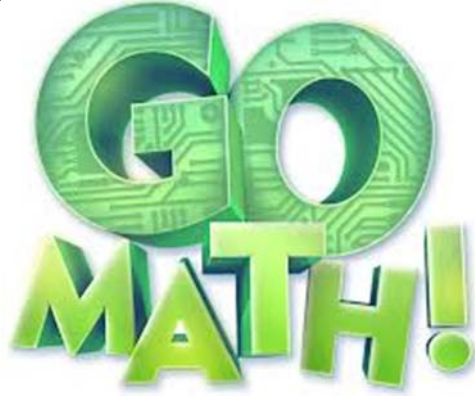
Thank you, BOSS musicians for a wonderful 8 years of music making! In my opinion, the ensembles next year are going to be particularly strong, when I look at the amazing young musicians coming up in the ranks and the wonderful mentorship of Ms Jennifer Lee and Mr. Jim Rueckert and our new Department Head! I will miss you all very much as I begin my retirement, and I am eagerly looking forward to hearing your concert next December!

And remember: Making music makes lives better!

By S. Madden



## Math is alive and doing very well



**S**tudents have continued to take advantage of the enrichment opportunities provided through the Junior and Senior Math Clubs as well as by the University of Waterloo.

We are especially proud to share the results of the 2015 Fermat Mathematics Contest: BOSS tied for **first place** out of 1386 schools across Canada and internationally thanks to the outstanding achievement of the following students: Faith Guo, Tim Zhang, Mike Cheng and Francis Qin. Faith and Tim each received a prize of \$200 from the University of Waterloo.

In addition, we are delighted to be running a pre-Advanced Placement grade eleven class as well as a class of Advanced Placement Calculus in the 2015-16 school year.

By: M. Kuroyama

## Social Sciences and Humanities Department

**T**he Social Sciences and Humanities Department has been busy this year. Grade 9 students experimented with foods, fashion, interior design and parenting. They parented baby eggs and created dream bedrooms.

The grade 10 Food and Nutrition classes took part in a cupcake battle showcasing unique designs featuring various themes. Fashion students gained experience in sewing, knitting and sketching.

One of our own won bronze in the York Regions Skills Fashion competition adding another medal to our platform. Social Science students explored a number of social issues that effect both individuals and families locally and globally.

By F. Parker



## Co-Operative Education: The Real Facts

**C**o-Operative Education continues to provide rich learning opportunities within our local community. Since the program's inception in 2007, nearly 1000 Bur Oak students have participated in the program and we expect 1 in 3 students in Grade 11 will participate in Co-Op in 2015-16!



Co-Op is a different way of learning and, for some, it raises some questions for both students and their families.

**Myth:** Co-Op credits don't go towards diploma requirements!

**Fact:** Co-op credits are coded to match related courses each student has taken. These can be any level – including University level courses. Plus, Co-Op credits can be substituted for up to two compulsory Group 1, 2 or 3 credits!

**Myth:** Co-op is not a “University-level” course and will not help me get into any Post-Secondary programs!

**Fact:** More and more programs at all levels of Post-Secondary schooling want to see your related experiences in preparation for their programs. Co-Op provides great context for supplemental applications and gives students the chance to confirm ideas about possible degrees, diplomas and other certifications. Are you planning to intern in Post-Secondary in the future? We prepare you for those experiences today!

**Myth:** I'm too busy to take co-op and I'd have to give up my all of my extra-curricular activities!

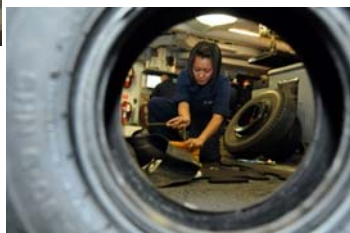
**Fact:** Depending on the industry you're looking to work in, we may have opportunities to be placed during the morning or afternoon. Plus, there can be flexibility to ensure students will fulfill athletic, artistic or leadership commitments in most situations.

**Myth:** I hear that I'll be stuck if there isn't a job in the field that we want to do. Shouldn't we just take more classes instead?

**Fact:** Absolutely not! Experience matters. We are happy to discuss this with students and parents. Finding a good placement is a very complex process that requires balancing several factors to ensure a good situation for all parties: Students, school and the community partner too.



By E. Milberg



## Making History



### OneMatch

The OneMatch Stem Cell and Marrow Network is a program dedicated to recruiting healthy, committed volunteer donors for patients in need of stem cells or bone marrow. There is an urgent need to increase the diversity in the existing donor pool and the BOSS OneMatch team worked tirelessly to increase awareness about OneMatch and to run a swabbing event at the school. On May 6, 2015, the BOSS OneMatch Registration Event added **200** new potential matches to the donor database. Way to go BOSS!



For more information about OneMatch, please visit their website [www.onematch.ca](http://www.onematch.ca)

### GIRLS GROUP

We are celebrating the conclusion of the first year of the BOSS Girls Group! This year, students and staff came together to hear from various speakers sharing their expertise on issues that matter to girls. In particular, in this semester, we had the pleasure of welcoming speakers from York Region Police, the Yellow Brick House, and Markham Social Service Network to speak to BOSS girls. We are looking forward to getting more girls and staff involved next year!



### @ BOSS

This semester, we implemented the Student Voice initiative to increase communication between students and Administration at BOSS. Each homeroom selected a representative to attend a series of Town Hall meetings to discuss issues that are impacting BOSS students. This was a great opportunity for students to constructively discuss how to make BOSS an even *better school!* *As a result of these meetings, BOSS students will soon see exciting changes around the school such as the arrival of bleachers for our field and some requested changes to enhance the visual appearance of the school interior. We are excited about seeing this initiative continue next year!*

### Europe Trip

March Break 2016 will see the latest adventure for Bur Oak students in History and Visual Arts. Along with Markham District High School, we will be taking 42 students on a 10-day trip to Paris, Provence and Barcelona. Highlights will include stops at the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre, the seaside town of Carcassonne and La Sagrada Familia and Parc Guell. This will be a great opportunity for students to discover the world through culturally immersive educational travel.



### New SHSM Sector - Non-Profit

Bur Oak History Department is pleased to introduce our newly approved SHSM sector in Non Profit. This new sector will be added on to the already successful SHSM program and give students an opportunity to explore rewarding and dynamic careers in Canada's largest employment sector. Whether in the fields of art, culture, education, environment, information technology, health care, social development, or sport, countless career paths are available in this sector.

By A. MacInnes