

Newsletter Feb. 14, 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, Virginia Bregg
virginia.bregg@yrdsb.ca

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

School Phone: 905-202-1234

Upcoming Dates

February 17, 2020
Family Day

February 20, 2020
Healthcare
Immunization @ BOSS
8am-3pm
Kothu Fest-Tamil
Student Association
3:30pm-5:30pm

February 26, 2020
Michael Smith Science
Challenge Competition

March 8, 2020
Daylight Savings Time
Begins

March 12, 2020
Staff/Student Basketball
Game Buy-In, P.5

March 16-20, 2020
Mid-Winter/March Break

Course Selections for 2020-21

Students can now review courses that they wish to take in the upcoming school year. We will have presentations for students during the first two weeks of classes. From **February 12th – 24th, 2020, students will have an open window to confirm their course selections.** A form will be available to be printed, signed by parents/guardians and returned to the school.

Graduation Update

Students who are ***not returning*** to Bur Oak for the upcoming school year must still complete their course selection form process to sign-off on their intentions for next year. These forms require parent signature and need to be returned to their homeroom teacher by February 24.

GRADUATES - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED



Students who are planning to graduate and to attend the graduation ceremony on June 24th must ensure that the \$40 fee for the event is paid through [School Cash Online](#). This fee covers the event costs, as well as the grad cap and gown package.

Please tend to this fee this week or inform Ms. Mask in the Main Office if your student is not planning to attend.



Attention BOSS Parents, Students and Staff:

It has come to our attention that a large coyote has been spotted in the extended vicinity of Bur Oak Secondary School, in the open spaces south of the parking lot. It has been identified as being most active in the evening and morning hours.

Please alert students to be mindful of their surroundings when walking in the vicinity of the school at these times and careful to avoid the coyote should they see it. Remind them to exercise good judgement at all times as provoking such a creature could prove very dangerous.

Please obey all traffic signs and signals around the Bur Oak Secondary School perimeter! We want all of our students to be safe and arrive alive.



Voting for Student Trustees Opening Soon!

From Friday, February 21, 2020 to Wednesday, February 26, 2020 students in Grades 5 through to Grade 11 will have an opportunity to cast their vote to select their [Student Trustees](#) for the 2020-2021 school year. Students will be able to vote for two of the four student trustee candidates. Information about the candidates, process and timelines is available on the Student Trustee website.

Information about the Student Trustee Election Process and voting instructions will be emailed to all students directly through their GAPPS account on Thursday, February 13, 2020 and Friday February 21, 2020.

Stephen Forsey Invitational Swim Meet

Sunday, Feb. 23, 2020
Two Sessions
(AM or PM or Both)

Hosted at the
Markham Pan Am
Centre



Volunteer as a Timer !

- High school volunteer hours signed off
- Lunch will be provided

Proudly
Hosted by
Thornhill Masters:
THOR

AM Session: 7:45 to 11:45 a.m.
Breakfast is provided.

PM Session: 11:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Lunch is provided.

Wear a white t-shirt and black shorts or pants.
Wear deck shoes that can get wet.



Contact us at
meetmanager@thornhillmultisport.com
to sign up for a morning or afternoon
session (or both).

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) is **Tuesday, March 31, 2020**. All students who wish to graduate from an Ontario secondary school must fulfill their literacy requirement by being successful on the OSSLT or by taking the Ontario Literacy Course (OLC).

In preparation for the OSSLT, the **After School Literacy** course will be offered again in second semester. This is the final opportunity to take this preparation course before the OSSLT in March. The course is running from **February 11- March 12, every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00-4:30pm**. Please print, complete and sign the [registration form](#) **attached** and return it to Ms. Wan in the Learning Commons as soon as possible as registration closes on Wednesday, January 22. A paper copy of the registration form is also available for pick-up in the Learning Commons.

Please email angela.wan@yrdsb.ca with any questions or concerns regarding the OSSLT.

Arrivals and Departures

Parents/guardians who **drive their children to school** are reminded to follow the directional signs and use the designated areas for drop off and pick up. Please do not park in the bus / emergency zones and remember that there are no U-turns allowed in the front driveway.

Students who drive to school are reminded that use of the school parking lot is a privilege not a right. Students are expected to drive in accordance with provincial laws. All students are reminded that extreme caution must be used when driving in the school parking lot. Any student who drives carelessly or puts any student, staff member or community member at risk will lose their privilege to use the school parking lot. Parents/Guardians will be contacted and York Regional Police may also be notified.

Students may park in **designated areas** only in the south parking lot at the back of the school. Parking is not allowed in the Emergency Vehicles/Bus Route. To be eligible to use the lot, **students must**

- have a valid student card
- register their car at the office and obtain a parking permit. NOTE: Registration does not guarantee a parking spot.

Students who fail to comply with the parking regulations may:

- be towed at a substantial cost to the owner
- face a "drop" fee (once car is hooked to be towed)
- be ticketed (by the Town of Markham).

Bus or School Cancellations



With winter weather already here, we want to share some important reminders for families.

When an **inclement weather** or **extreme cold** day is declared, school transportation (including buses and taxis) are cancelled in the morning and afternoon. Schools will remain open. If you drive your child to school, or your child takes alternate transportation, you must make arrangements for your child to get home at the end of the day. Please call the school if your child will not be attending school on those days. Students will not be penalized for missing school on these days.

There may be rare instances when **emergency winter events** occur and we need to close all schools and Board locations. Please take the time to make plans in the event of an emergency school closure.

Information about transportation cancellations and Board closures will be shared through local media, [Board](#) and school website and on [twitter @YRDSB](#).

Our process for extreme cold, inclement weather and emergency weather days are outlined in the Board's [Severe Weather policy](#), which has been recently updated and is available for public comment. Seeking feedback from staff and community members, including parents/guardians, is an important part of the review process. All [policies available for comment](#) are sent to school council chairs and are posted on the Board website, along with information about how to provide feedback.



Student Drop Off/Pick-Up

We'd like to remind the parents of students who get dropped off and/or picked up that they are to do so in the **BACK** school parking lot, not in the front. Failure to do so may result in fines and/or tickets as the front is designated a FIRE ROUTE.

Traffic Reminder

Please remind your child to cross the road only at designated crosswalks. Student safety is our main concern and we thank you in advance for helping keep your child safe.

REMINDERS

Student Dress Code

Please ensure that students adhere to the Bur Oak student dress code as outlined on page 5 of the [BOSS Student Handbook 2019-2020](#).

Playground Safety

This is a reminder for all students that concerns have been raised by community members about BOSS student behaviour, especially in Wismer Park. We would like to remind all students that appropriate behaviour and language is expected especially off property so that everyone can enjoy public spaces and feel safe and welcomed. We know that BOSS students will represent themselves and our school in a positive and respectful manner.

We ask that parents remind their children to use the playground equipment at Wismer Park appropriately and to behave in a manner that creates a safe play area for all community members.

Student Activity Fee

All students are encouraged to contribute to Bur Oak Secondary School's Activity Fee, which helps support a variety of initiatives around the school (i.e. school breakfast program, student celebrations, athletic transportation, clubs, dances, guest speakers), using [School Cash Online](#). These activities help to build a sense of community and belonging. The cost to participate in many events and athletic teams will be decreased based on the payment of this student activity fee.

Request for Faith Accommodations

Attached is a link to the Request for Faith Accommodations [form](#). Further information or clarification can be found in the York Region District School Board Website.

Safe Arrival/Attendance Reporting

Parents will continue to receive a Safe Arrival e-mail for Period 1 absences. Another e-mail will be sent at the end of the day.

Spare Periods

A reminder that students are encouraged to use a Spare Period to complete course work or study course material. Students choosing to be at school during their spare are to use the quiet study space provided in our school Library. Students with a Period 5 spare are not allowed to remain in the Main Hallway.

Message from Our Trustee

One of our top priorities as a school board is creating an environment that enables our students to focus on learning and be successful. That means creating environments where students are safe and feel safe, where all of our students know that they are welcome and supported, and where they see their identities reflected, valued and celebrated.

Championing Equity and Inclusivity

Championing Equity and Inclusivity is one of the priorities outlined in the [Board of Trustees' Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). We are fortunate to live in one of the most diverse regions of Canada, and welcome students, staff and families with a broad range of identities and experiences. There has been much work underway at the Board in the past few months to ensure we are providing all of our students with a safe, equitable and inclusive learning environment, including:

Providing [Board-wide training](#) for over 12,000 school staff on anti-Black racism.

- Bringing together over 250 students and staff at our annual [SpeakOut conference](#) for the 2SLGBTQ+ community.
- Acknowledging [Treaties Recognition Week](#), and learning about the importance of treaties and treaty relationships in Canada from First Nations community members.
- Hosting a labour market information night for parents to learn about current and future career opportunities and employment trends.
- Bringing together hundreds of members of the education community for three days of learning focused on Indigenous Education and Equity at our world-renowned [Quest conference](#).

This is in addition to the ongoing work taking place in our schools. It is also important that our families know and feel that they are a valued, respected and important part of our school community. We recently held regional school council forums that brought together school council members from across the region to learn and share together on important topics such as engaging families, vaping and more. It was wonderful to see so many family members there.

The Board of Trustees was also pleased to receive and commit to taking action on the recommendations in response to the Anti-Black Racism, Antisemitism, Classism and Islamophobia community consultations.

Winter Months

With the winter weather already upon us, I also want to remind families that school transportation may be cancelled on [extreme cold or inclement weather days](#), and there may be rare occasions when emergency weather conditions result in school closures. To ensure families are aware, last month, we tested a new system to send text messages to families in emergency situations only. Information about transportation cancellations and school closures will also be available on Board and school websites, Board social media channels and local media.

Many of our students and families will be celebrating days of significance and holidays in the coming weeks and months, and I wish you all the very best for the season. I hope everyone has a safe and happy winter break and we look forward to welcoming students back in January.

Allan Tam
Trustee, Markham, Wards 4 and 5

**Looking for a place to do homework
during lunch?**

**Go to the
Quiet Study Room**



**Monday and Wednesday
Room 2017**

P3	11:15 AM to 12:15 PM
P4	12:20 PM to 1:20 PM

Space is limited (20 spots available per period)



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DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
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Tamil Parents Network

Free Yoga

and

Parenting workshops

In partnership with

**Family Services for York Region
Indigenous and International Languages Program
Inclusive School and Community Services**

When: Every Thursday, January to May, 2020

Time: 5:45 pm — 8:00 pm

Where: Cedarwood Public School
399 Elson Street, Markham

Contacts

Initha Subramaniam, York Region District School Board
initha.subramaniam@yrdsb.ca, 905 884 2046 ext 228

Sudha Coomarasamy, Family Services for York Region
scoomarasamy@fsyr.ca, 905-883-6572

If you would like to join, please complete this section and hand it in to your school

Name of Parent/ Guardian: _____

Contact Information: _____

Do you have any Allergies: _____

Emergency Contact person and Number: _____



Tamil Parents / Guardians Network Workshops / Discussions

Inclusive School and Community Services
In partnership with
Centre for Innovation and Leadership

When:

Sunday, February 2
Sunday, February 23
Sunday, March 8
Sunday, March 29
Sunday, April 5
Sunday, April 19
Sunday, May 3

Time: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Where: Milliken Mills High School
7522 Kennedy Rd, Markham

You may register on the day of the sessions

Initha Subramaniam, Teacher Liaison
York Region District School Board
905 884 2046 ext 228
initha.subramaniam@yrdsb.ca



2020 March Break Youth Engagement Program

Who is Suitable for this Program?

- This program is geared to mature students in Grade 9 – Grade 12 who may be interested in Policing or working within a Police service (not mandatory).
- This program is very structured and has a physical fitness component which all participants will be involved in.
- This program is designed to assist students in gaining self-confidence, self-discipline, self-awareness and resiliency.

Students Must Be:

- Resident of York Region
- Between the ages of 15-18 years old
- Currently in Grade 9 – Grade 12
- Currently attending a York Region Secondary School
- Complete an Essay and submit with the application
- All students must have their own transportation to this program – public transit is not an option

Our Goal:

- To have a week of learning and to experience a small portion of what the recruitment process may be like when applying to York Regional Police
- To enable you to get to know yourself better, your strengths as well as areas you can enhance
- To have you meet other students with similar goals and form lasting friendships
- To have you interact and work with Officers who will continue to mentor you during this week

How to Apply:

- Interested applicants please email csv@vrd.ca requesting a copy of the application
- Applications must be completed digitally and emailed back to csv@vrd.ca

For more information or further questions contact:

Debbie Robinson #5459, Supervisor, Community Safety Village, York Regional Police by email at csv@vrd.ca