

Newsletter Jan. 17, 2020



Board Trustee, Allan Tam
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Superintendent of Schools,
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Vice-Principal, Virginia Bregg
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Vice-Principal, Vanessa Wonnacott
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School Phone: 905-202-1234

Upcoming Dates

January 20, 2020
School Council
6:30pm-8pm

January 23-30, 2020
EXAMS

January 31, 2020
PA Day

February 3, 2020
2nd Semester Begins

February 7, 2020
Final Report Card
Distribution

February 7-8, 2020
DECA Provincials
Competition
@ Toronto Sheraton
Centre

February 12, 2020
Photo Retake Day

February 17, 2020
Family Day

March 16-20, 2020
Mid-Winter Break

Semester 2 Exams – January 23rd to January 30th

Semester 2 Final Exams will take place between Thursday, January 23, 2020 and Wednesday, January 29, 2020. Exam Feedback Day will take place after exams on Thursday, January 30, 2020.

The Exam Schedule and Procedures

Parents and students can access the documents by visiting our website under "Students".

[Semester 1 2019-2020 Exams - Final Exam Schedule](#)

[BOSS Student Exam Information January 2020](#)

As stated in YRDSB's *Guide to the School Year: 2019-2020*, "All secondary students must participate in the final summative assessment(s). These assessments make up the final evaluation representing 30 per cent of students' report card grade. Students are expected to complete all final summative assessments at the place, date and time indicated by the teacher and by the examination schedule provided by the school. Students cannot leave early for vacations, employment or other activities. In the case of an unexcused absence, a zero may be assigned for the missed portion of the final evaluation assessment and used in determining the final percentage mark on the report card."

Please note that exams cancelled due to inclement weather will be written on January 30th.

Please be advised that Exams are scheduled to take place January 23rd to January 30th, 2020. Do NOT book trips or vacations during this time.

Reminder that cancellation of a trip or event by parent or student may result in a loss of the payments made.



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.



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.



華人家長互助及交流小組(PEN)

活動: 「農曆新年聚餐及兒童/學生活動」

活動包括聚餐, 遊戲, 美術活動及賀年手工製作。請來和我們一起慶祝農曆新年並帶同一些賀年食品來和大家分享!

日期及時間: 2020年1月31日(星期五)下午1時至3時

地點: 華語處移民青年中心, 5284 Highway 7 East, Unit 2, Markham, Ontario, L3P 1B9

由於名額有限, 有意參加者請儘早報名。網上報名: <http://bit.ly/PEN-WS>

電話報名: 王姑娘 416-662-5416, 電郵報名: 朱老師 AliceWan-ling.Chu@yrdsb.ca

未來活動:

「如何閱讀學校成績單及支持孩子的學習講座」

日期及時間: 2020年2月13日(星期四)晚上6時至8時

地點: 華語處移民青年中心, 5284 Highway 7 East, Unit 2, Markham, Ontario, L3P 1B9

此講座將由約克區教育局老師主講

Parent Engagement and Network (PEN) for Chinese Families

Event! Lunar New Year Social (Potluck & Arts + Crafts for children/students)

Activities include potluck, games, arts and crafts. Please come join us to celebrate the lunar new year and bring a dish to share!

Date & Time: Friday, Jan 31, 2020, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Location: CICS Immigrant Youth Centre, 5284 Highway 7 East, Unit 2, Markham, L3P 1B9

Space is limited. Please register online: <http://bit.ly/PEN-WS>

Phone registration: Jean Wang 416-662-5416, email registration: Alice W.L. Chu AliceWan-Ling.Chu@yrdsb.ca

Looking Ahead:

How to Read Your Child's Report Card & Supporting Your Child with Next Steps

Date & Time: Thursday, Feb 13, 2020, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Location: CICS Immigrant Youth Centre, 5284 Highway 7 East, Unit 2, Markham, L3P 1B9

This workshop will be presented by YRDSB educators



GRADE 9 EQAO MATH POSTPONED

Dear families of Grade 9 students,

On Thursday, January 9, 2020, York Region District School Board announced that it would be postponing the Grade 9 Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) assessment for first semester applied and academic math. This is a result of the job sanctions currently underway by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF).

We appreciate that you may have questions regarding the rescheduling of the test. We anticipate receiving more information from the Ministry of Education and will update you as soon as we do.

Our school has also considered the options for the 5 per cent EQAO portion of the students' final mark for the Grade 9 mathematics course. After careful consideration, we have decided to:

- Add 5% to the weighting of the exam

This decision was made in the best interest of students and with the intent of being fair, transparent and equitable in all assessment and evaluation of student work.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's education, please feel free to contact your teacher or the school directly.

Sincerely,

R. Li

Principal

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.

Course changes for Semester Two

We are encouraging all students to check their account on **My Blueprint** to see what courses they have been scheduled into for Semester two. We will be unable to make many changes in the first week of February since most of our classes are full and many have waitlists. We would suggest that if there is a concern, students should book a Guidance appointment to discuss the issue during the rest of the semester. We will be operating a "walk in clinic" model over the exam period as well. Course changes can only be made based on availability of space in that class.

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.

OUAC Numbers

Grade 12 students eligible to apply to universities in Ontario, have received their **OUAC account number** to their student GAPPS account. These students will need to log into their GAPPS email account to retrieve their OUAC number. If you feel that should have received an email but have not, please drop by Guidance and make an appointment.

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).

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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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@yrd.ca requesting a copy of the application
- Applications must be completed digitally and emailed back to csv@yrd.ca

For more information or further questions contact:

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