

Newsletter Nov. 15, 2019



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, Andy Angus
Andy.Angus@yrdsb.ca

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

School Phone: 905-202-1234

Upcoming Dates

November 18
Mid-term Report Card
Distribution
Grade 8 Open House

November 22
Figure-It-Out Friday!
3pm-4pm

November 25
Full Disclosure

November 27
BOSS Spirit Day

December 3
Winterlude Concert
7pm-9pm



December 18
BOSS Spirit Day

December 20
Holiday Assembly
(Modified schedule)

**December 21-
January 5, 2020**
Winter Break



January 6, 2020
First day back from
Winter Break

Figure-it-out-Fridays!

The Guidance Department will be hosting regularly scheduled workshops on a variety of topics to help support student learning and planning. These events will take place **Friday afterschool in the Career Centre** and typically last 45 to 60 minutes. While events are for students only, feel free to encourage your children to attend and relay any questions you may have that are topical.

Next FIOF Session: Friday, November 22nd, 2019

Topic: Questions about Post-Secondary Applications and Admissions. Students from all grades are welcome to attend this open forum for inquisitive minds and buzzing ears.

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.

Grade 8 Open House November 18th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Bur Oak S.S. welcomes families of **Grade 8 students** to learn more about our building and courses for the upcoming 2020-21 school year. Families will have the opportunity to see various departments and opportunities at B.O.S.S. while gaining insight into the transition for grade nine. Doors open @6:00 pm.

November 2019

Dear Families,

As we go into the winter months, it is important that families are aware that there may be rare occasions when emergency weather events occur and we need to close all schools and Board locations.

Emergency winter weather

Emergency closures will be considered when facilities may not be safe for students and staff members to attend school for the full day. This may include events that significantly limit school operations or access to the school site, or causes widespread, prolonged power failures or downed power lines. In keeping with our current practice, we will continue to keep our schools open as much as possible. However, it is important that families have alternate childcare arrangements planned for the rare occasions when schools may be closed. Before and after care programs will also not operate if schools are closed.

Please take the time to make plans in the event of an emergency school closure.

School transportation cancellations

School transportation (buses and taxis) may be cancelled due to extreme cold or inclement weather. If transportation is cancelled in the morning, it will also be cancelled for the afternoon. On these days, schools will remain open unless otherwise stated. Families can use their best judgment to decide whether to send their children to school on inclement weather days. Students will not be penalized for missing school. For safety reasons, you are required to let the school know if your child will not be attending school that day.

Communication to families

Decisions about school transportation and school closures will be made as early as possible and no later than 6:00 a.m.

We are introducing a new communications system that will send **text messages to parents/guardians for emergency purposes only**. This includes the rare event of a school closure. Parents/guardians will have the ability to opt-out of receiving text messages should they choose.

The Board will be testing this communications system on Tuesday, November 19. If the school has your cell phone number (documented as your cell and not your home phone number), you will receive a test text message. This message will also include the option to opt out of this system. If you do not receive a text and wish to participate in the program, please ensure that your school has your cell phone number.

We will do our best to notify families in advance when we may be considering closing school and Board offices. Our priority continues to be the safety of our students, staff members and families. If you have any questions, please speak with your school principal.

Transportation cancellations or school closures will also continue to be communicated through:

- Student Transportation Services website: www.schoolbuscity.com
- Student Transportation Hotline: 1-877-330-3001
- Board website and school websites
- @YRDSB Twitter account • Radio and TV media outlets

For more information on severe weather days, please visit our website www.yrdsb.ca.

Sincerely,



Louise Sirisko
Director of Education

LOWER YOUR FLU RISK



FLU SEASON IS HERE. GET THE FLU SHOT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

The first and best step to prevent influenza, the flu, is to get the flu shot every year. The flu is contagious and anyone can get it. Getting the flu shot can protect you, your family and those around you.

The flu shot is especially important for people who are at **high risk** of flu-related complications, and for people in contact with those at high risk, including:

- All children six months to five years of age
- People 65 years of age and older
- All pregnant women
- People with chronic health conditions (including diabetes, heart or lung disease, conditions affecting the immune system, neurodevelopmental conditions)

It is important to get the flu shot as early as possible as it can take nearly **two weeks** for the vaccine to provide the greatest protection.

In addition to getting the flu shot, here are some other health tips that can help prevent the spread of the flu:



Wash your hands well and often with either soap and water or alcohol based hand rub (don't forget to wash your wrists, under your fingernails and in between your fingers).



Cough or sneeze into your sleeve or cover your mouth and nose with a tissue and throw the tissue out immediately. Wash your hands afterwards.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.



Avoid large crowds and stay home when you are sick.



Clean and disinfect surfaces and shared items.

PUBLIC HEALTH
1-800-361-5653
TTY 1-866-252-9933

19-0678

To learn more about the flu and flu vaccine, visit york.ca/flu



NOT A SCHOOL EVENT



We would like to make parents aware that this is not a school event and is not attached to our school or York Region District School Board in any way.

[Grad trips gone wild: S-Trip's high school trips \(CBC Marketplace\)](#)

[Absolutely deplorable': binge drinking, injuries on organized student trips](#)



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.

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.

REMINDERS

Student Dress Code

Please ensure that students adhere to the Bur Oak student dress code as outlined on page 5 of the attached [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.

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.

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.

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.

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).