

Newsletter Nov. 29, 2019



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## Upcoming Dates

**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**

**EXAMS**  
**January 23-30, 2020**

**PA Day**  
**January 31, 2020**

**2nd Semester Begins**  
**February 3, 2020**

**Final Report Card**  
**Distribution (Sem.1)**  
**February 7, 2020**



**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.**

## [2019 Inaugural Board Meeting](#)

The **2019 Inaugural Board Meeting** will be held on Monday, December 2, 2019 in the Education Centre Aurora Board Room at 60 Wellington Street West Aurora ON L4G 3H2, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The election of officers for the year 2020 will take place at that time. A copy of the Inaugural Board Agenda is attached.

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

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

## 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.

## Graduation Transcript Verification

All grade 12 students will be attending a session to verify their graduation requirements and discuss pathway planning. Students will be bringing a form home for parents and guardians to indicate that they have seen the verification form. Grade 11 students will be participating in a similar activity at the end of November or beginning of December.

## 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

# 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.

To learn more about the flu and flu vaccine, visit [york.ca/flu](http://york.ca/flu)

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

19-5678

