

Newsletter Sept 11, 2017



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Message from Our Trustee

As we begin the 2017-2018 school year, I want to take this opportunity to welcome all of our new and returning students and families. This is an exciting time of year and I hope you are starting this new school year as trustees are - with optimism and a commitment to working together to continue advancing student achievement and well-being.

An important part of that commitment is working together with staff members, families and communities to ensure our schools provide an environment that is safe, welcoming and inclusive. This takes on increasing importance given recent local and global events. We take pride in the diversity of our communities and will continue striving to uphold the values of equity and inclusivity in our system.

Trustees have had a busy summer, welcoming our [new Human Rights Commissioner](#) and beginning the [process for selecting a new Director of Education](#) as we continue to move forward implementing the [Minister's Directions](#).

An important part of the director selection process includes collecting input from students, staff, families and community members - input that will be used to shape the job description, interview questions and more. I encourage everyone to share their thoughts through the [survey](#) available in September. We will continue to keep you updated as this work progresses.

Our schools are stronger when we work in collaboration with families and communities. Partnerships with parents and families are essential to achieving the goals we have for our students, and I hope that you will find opportunities to get engaged with the school and your child's learning this year.

I wish you all the best for the upcoming school year.

Field Trips

Sept 14

Cedar Glen
Schomberg
H. Musselman/C. Wun
All Day

Sept 15

Magna Hoe Down
Aurora
J. Floyd/A. Stoneman
9am-2pm

Seeking Input in Search for Director of Education

Our feedback and input is key and therefore I am sending the link again along with this email in order to solicit your voice.

Please take the time to complete the [survey](#) available [online](#). All responses will be held in confidence.

Important Reminders

1. When dropping off your son or daughter please be mindful of the drop off zones and follow traffic signs to ensure safety for all. Please do not stop and block the flow of traffic in front of the school or park in the handicap parking spots without a permit or block the bus and fire zones.
2. If your son or daughter will be absent from school please call 905-202-1234 ext. 1191 or email the attendance office bur.oak.ss.attendance@yrdsb.ca. If there is an extended absence of 3 days or more please complete the extended absence forms available at least one week in advance. Forms are available in the main office.
3. Our first school council meeting will be on Monday, September 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the library. School council elections will be held for executive positions. All parent/guardians are welcome and invited to attend.
4. All students attended the Safe Schools Assembly this week and received information in homeroom. They received the 2017-2018 Guide to the School year and reviewed the [School Handbook](#). School Start-up permission forms were handed out and are to be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to homeroom teachers by Wednesday, September 13.

Guidance

International Language Credits Registration

Students who want to register for a credit course and have not taken International languages the previous year should do so in the next week through Career Cruising. Online registration closes on September 12. After that, a paper application will be necessary.

Students who have taken International Languages the previous year would also have been pre-registered.

Access and career cruising instructions regarding International Credit course registration is available to students at <http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/ConEd/Documents/FOR-nonYRRegistration.pdf>. The course offerings and sites are available on the Career Cruising Student Portfolio login page. For more information, see the bulletin board outside guidance.

Grade 9 Orientation 2017

Grade 9 Orientation 2017 was a huge success. We would like to thank the Caretaking Staff, Administrative Assistants, IT and Administration Team for their support. The over 44 student volunteers who donated their time from their summer made for a very special day for the 22 student teams. With approximately 330 grade 9s, parents and approximately 100 teaching staff, there was a lot to organize and we would like to thank the many committees and their leaders including:

Welcoming Committee: A. MacInnes and E. McGann

Assembly Committee: A. Bulos, J. Lee, K. Davis, and J. Rueckert

Lunch / Freezie Committee: P. Stepanian and J. Ayanoglu

Student Handouts and Parent Info Session: R. Baker, C. Hainstock and G. Andersen

Sports Activities: A. Ebisuzaki and C. Wun

Teamwork Games: S. McCombes and J. Wong

Survey: K. Kedey and R. MacSween

T-shirt Distribution & Organization of the Day: T. Krabi

A.V.: L. Corrigan

We appreciate the supports of the Community Class, ESL and Special Education Departments in making the day such a success.

After the amazing barbecue, our Grade 9 students spent the afternoon tackling a variety activities and challenges with their house teams. Teams smashed birdies, flicked Frisbees, kicked up a storm on the soccer field, built tremendous towers, and sent the rubber chickens soaring. Our Grade 9 students had the opportunity to have fun with friends and learn a little bit about life at BOSS.

An honourable mention goes out to two teams in particular: (1) the team that demonstrated the most spirit was the **Bossler Nets** and (2) the team that scored the most points for its performance in the afternoon events was the **Bossler Thunder**. Congratulations to the Nets and the Thunder for a job well done! Congratulations to all Grade 9 students who participated in the activities and welcome to Bur Oak Secondary School.

Dates at a Glance!

Sept 18-20	Grade 9 Community Hours/Library Orientation
Sept 18	School Council (6:30pm) <i>All Are Welcome</i>
Sept 19	Grade 12 Post Secondary Presentation (Period 1)
Sept 20	Grade 11/12 MADD Assembly (Period 1)
Sept 20-21	Rosh Hashanah
Sept 25	PA Day
Sept 27	2016/2017 Awards Breakfast
Sept 29	Bossilicious (11:45am-1:30pm)



Student Success Corner

Mental Health Tips for Students Transitioning Back to School:

While a new school year can be exciting, it can also cause stress and anxiety. CMHA (Canadian Mental Health Association) York Simcoe suggests maintaining positive mental health during this seasonal shift with the following strategies for students:

- **Take care of your body.** Mental and physical health are fundamentally linked. Make sure to get enough sleep, drink water, and eat well.
- **Build resiliency.** Resiliency means coping well with problems, stress, and other difficult situations. Problems and stress are a normal part of life. Set aside time to think about the resiliency tools available to you, such as structured problem-solving skills or people who can help you during difficult situations.
- **Reach out for support.** Social support is an important part of mental health. People in our networks can offer emotional support, practical help, and alternate points of view. Contact CMHA York South Simcoe for mental health support in your community.

Additional mental health tips specifically for children can be found on the Children's Mental Health Ontario [website](#). For post-secondary students, the Centre for Innovation in Campus Mental Health (CICMH) has compiled an orientation package of campus mental health resources available across the province. Visit the CICMH [website](#) to view the full list.