

Newsletter Sept. 27, 2019



## Upcoming Dates

**Sept. 30 & Oct. 1**  
**Rosh Hashanah**

**Oct. 3**  
**Mini Fair**  
**(students ONLY)**

**October 9**  
**Yom Kippur**

**October 14**  
**Thanksgiving Day**



**October 15**  
**Interim Report Card**  
**Distribution**

**October 16**  
**Awards Breakfast**

**October 22**  
**Photo Re-take Day**



**October 24**  
**Parent Teacher**  
**Interviews**

Board Trustee, Allan Tam  
416-898-9607  
[allan.tam@yrdsb.ca](mailto:allan.tam@yrdsb.ca)

Superintendent of Schools,  
Paul Valle  
905-940-7800  
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Principal, Rose Li  
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Vice-Principal, Andy Angus  
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Vice-Principal, Vanessa Wonnacott  
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School Phone: 905-202-1234

## Potential CUPE Job

Please read and review the attached letter (on page 2) from Louise Sirisko, YRDSB Director of Education. The letter provides an update for you on potential job action by members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), which represents Education and Office Support Staff members. This potential job action would begin on **Monday September 30<sup>th</sup>**. This is a reminder that all students are to eat in the Cafeteria only. Food is not permitted in the hallways or classrooms.

## Traffic Reminder

As we close out Safety Week, 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 your child safe.

## 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.



THE EDUCATION CENTRE - AURORA

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September 26, 2019

Dear families,

I am writing to update you on potential job action by members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), which represents education and office support staff members. Yesterday, CUPE provided the required five-day notice to advise that their members will begin specific job actions on Monday, September 30.

In our Board, CUPE members include Caretakers, Educational Assistants (EAs), Designated Early Childhood Educators (DECEs), Child Youth Workers (CYWs), Clerical staff, Information Technology (IT) and other support staff.

CUPE has instructed their members to implement "Phase 1" of a work-to-rule campaign. Beginning on Monday, September 30, parents may notice specific withdrawal of services by CUPE employees, including:

- not handling money;
- not sweeping hallways or entrances;
- not cutting grass or cleaning up leaves; and
- not volunteering for unpaid activities.

In addition, elementary school office staff members will not be operating the front door buzzer. Student safety is our primary focus. We will continue to operate the safe welcome program and appreciate your patience if you experience delays entering the building.

A list of additional activities being withdrawn by CUPE members is available on the Board's website.

Student safety is our priority and we will undertake all possible measures to minimize the impact of labour sanctions on students and their families. It is important to note that the job actions are a result of the bargaining process at the provincial level, and Board employees are required to follow the direction of their provincial federations/unions. At the local Board level, we continue to bargain with all our employee groups, including CUPE.

We will continue to keep families updated. You can find updates and information about labour issues on the Board website: [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca). You may also follow our Twitter account for more immediate updates: [@yrdsb](https://twitter.com/yrdsb).

We recognize this situation is disappointing. Please be assured we will continue to make your child's safety our first priority.

Sincerely,

Louise Sirisko  
Director of Education

## **Grade 12 College and University Presentations**

Grade 12 students will have an opportunity to meet with several Post-Secondary representatives over the course of **October and November**. This starts off on Thursday, October 3rd where many schools from the Greater Toronto Area will present sessions in the morning beginning **at 8 am**.

These sessions are voluntary and require student sign-up no later than September 30th. By lunch period, nearly 20 schools and programs from across Ontario will be having talks with interested students during their lunch period. We welcome all students from all grades to chat with the organizations. Please note- this event is *not open to parents and other community members*.

Over the next few weeks, we will host another dozen schools to have small presentations about their school and admissions. Please ensure interested Grade 12 students sign-up for select presentations for a school they are interested in meeting. Please note, group size will be limited and attendance will be taken.



### **Orange Shirt Day**

We encourage YRDSB staff and students to wear an orange shirt on September 30, 2019 to recognize the resiliency and bravery of Residential School Survivors.

### **Islamic Heritage Month**

October is Islamic Heritage Month. Information, resources and event available in the memo.

### **Equity Symposium**

The Equity Symposium details are now available, register early so you are not disappointed.

### **LGBT History Month**

October is LGBT History Month. Information and links to resources are available in the memo.

### **Poetry Slam Registration Information**

Registration is now open for the YRDSB Poetry Slam. Deadline to register is October 18. See memo for details.

## **Parents for Children's Mental Health**

PCMH is the only provincial, family-led, non-profit organization that provides a voice for families who face the challenges of child and youth mental health issues.

## **International Languages (IL) Program- Credit Courses**

Students can earn credits while learning a language. International Languages offers over 15 languages for students in Grades 9 to 12. Level 3 language credit courses can even be counted towards college and university acceptance.

Link to credit course offerings on our website: [IIL Credit Program](#)

## **Registration for YRDSB Students**

The course offerings and sites are available on [My Pathway Planner](#) login page. Students can register through My Pathway Planner up until September 11<sup>th</sup>. For assistance, view the [My Pathway Planner Tip Sheet](#). Print a copy of the sign-off sheet and obtain parent/guardian signature before submitting the registration form on the first day of classes at the selected language site.

If you do not have the opportunity to register through 'My Pathway Planner' before September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019, please download a registration form from this website: (<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/ConEd/Documents/FOR-nonYRRegistration.pdf>).

Please complete the registration form and submit it to the selected language site on the day of registration. Dates are available in the Credit Program Flyer: [IIL Credit Program](#)

## **Interested in getting volunteer hours?**

Students can earn up to 40 hours of community service in our program towards graduation requirements. Please send us an e-mail to request information about student volunteer opportunities: [international.languages@yrdsb.ca](mailto:international.languages@yrdsb.ca)

Thank you again for your interest in our programs. Please do not hesitate to e-mail us if you have any questions: [international.languages@yrdsb.ca](mailto:international.languages@yrdsb.ca).

## Rosh Hashanah

Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year and begins a solemn ten-day period of contemplation and self-examination that ends with the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur.

### Rosh Hashanah is a Diamond Day

Internally scheduled events such as field trips, school concerts, conferences, meetings, workshops, other professional events, co-curricular activities, and exams/tests *shall not be scheduled on these dates*. For further information, refer to [Scheduling of Events on Faith Days](#).

Rosh Hashanah is the first of the High Holy Days, and the anniversary of the creation of Adam and Eve. Rosh Hashanah is a two-day celebration beginning on the first day of Tishrei - the first month of the Jewish lunar year. According to the Hebrew calendar, days begin at sundown. Hence, Rosh Hashanah begins the evening before Rosh Hashanah day.

These High Holy Days are the most religious days of the year for many Jews, and is a time for reflection and atonement. Many families attend synagogue, praying for peace among nations, among peoples, and within themselves in the coming year. Many people have a special meal where blessings are recited over different symbolic dishes including apples, honey, dates, and pomegranates.

For further information, please email Inclusive School and Community Services: [iscs@yrdsb.ca](mailto:iscs@yrdsb.ca)

To all those celebrating [Rosh Hashanah](#), I would like to wish you and your families a very happy celebration

*Louise Sirisko*

Director of Education  
York Region District School Board



***Wear an orange shirt on Monday, September 30th!***



Orange Shirt Day is a national movement in Canada for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to come together in the spirit of hope and reconciliation. It is a day to honour former residential school students and to remind us all that every child matters.

Find out more:  
[orangeshirtday.org](http://orangeshirtday.org)

### **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).