



THE BULLDOG

A Newsletter for Our Bur Oak Secondary School Community

VOL. 1, ISSUE 15

DECEMBER 22, 2023

This newsletter will be sent out weekly and will share important information to all of you, our valued members of our school community. We encourage you to also visit our [school website](#) regularly. Previously sent newsletters can be accessed from our website [here](#). And, feel free to use [Google Translate](#) to support with multi-language translation, as needed.

Daily Schedule

Period 1 (includes Homeroom) 8:15-9:35

Period 2 9:40-10:55

Period 3 11:00-12:15

Period 4 12:20- 1:35

Period 5 1:40-2:55

Important Dates Ahead

December 2023

25 - Jan. 5 - Winter Break

January 2024

11 -12: Credit Rescue Days

19, 22: Grade 9 Math EQAO

25 - 31: Exams

February 2024

1: Exam review day (morning)

2: P.A. Day—No School

Morning Announcements

Did you know that our morning announcements are posted on our school website? Students and parents/guardians can see our morning announcements on our Google slides by going to the Bur Oak Secondary School website —> Students (tab) —> Announcements. For our MLLs, please consider copying and pasting these announcements into [Google Translate](#) to support with multi-language translation, as needed.

Winter Break Reminder

Our Winter Break is from December 23, 2023 to January 7, 2024. Students will not have access to the school building during this time. Please remind your child to take all of their belongings home for the Winter Break. They should not leave anything in their locker (please throw away any food items) before the Winter Break.

Semester 1 Final Exam Information

Exam Days – January 25 to January 31, 2024

This year, students will be completing a final assessment for each of their courses worth 30%. These final assessments can be made up of exams and/or culminating activities (i.e. projects, presentations, performances). Culminating activities may occur during class time or during Exam Days. During Exam Days, students are required to be at school only when scheduled to write an exam or to complete work for a culminating activity. More detailed information about exams will be shared shortly.

Semester 1 Exams will take place between **Thursday, January 25 to Wednesday, January 31, 2024**. Please review the dates for your student's exam schedule.

Exam Date	Exam
Thursday, January 25	Period 1 Exam/ Culminating Activity
Friday, January 26	Period 2 Exam/ Culminating Activity
Monday, January 29	Period 5 Exam/ Culminating Activity
Tuesday, January 30	Period 4 Exam/ Culminating Activity
Wednesday, January 31	Period 3 Exam/ Culminating Activity
Thursday, February 1	Mark Review Day Instructional Day (Modified Schedule)
Friday, February 2	PA Day
Monday, February 5	Semester 2 Begins

As stated in the *Guide to the School Year, 2023-2024*:

- All secondary students must participate in the final assessment(s). These assessments make up the final evaluation representing 30 percent of a student's report card grade.
- Students are expected to complete all final assessments at the place, date and time indicated by the teacher and the examination schedule provided by the school.
- Students cannot leave early for vacations, employment or other activities.

Semester 1 Final Exam Information Continued...

- In case of extenuating circumstances (e.g. bereavement, court appearance or when a student is unable to write an exam because of illness explicitly stated on a medical certificate), the principal will decide, in consultation with the subject teacher, the most appropriate method to determine your final standing in the course.
- In case of an unexcused absence, a zero may be assigned for the missed portion of the final assessment.

[Peer Support Group for Parents and Caregivers](#) (click on this link for flyer)

- o This group is a support for parents and caregivers raising children and youth with mental health challenges
- o 3rd Monday of each month
- o Aurora Town Hall 6:30- 8pm

This group takes a break in December and will return January 15, 2024.

Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics

On January 19 and 22, 2024 grade 9 students currently taking MTH1W1 will take part in the Education Quality and Accountability Office's (EQAO's) online grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics. Students will complete the assessment in two sessions (session A – January 19 and session B – January 22). Each session will be written during a student's scheduled math class. For more information about EQAO and to view a sample test, visit EQAO's website at www.eqao.com.

Information from our Guidance Department

Important Dates

Jan 15. Deadline to apply to Ontario Universities on OUAC for equal consideration - [APPLY HERE](#)

Feb 1: Deadline to apply to Ontario Colleges on OCAS for equal consideration - [APPLY HERE](#)

OUAC/OCAS student information

Graduating students are encouraged to login to their OCAS/OUAC accounts and verify their information, including course marks. It is the responsibility of the student to verify this information.

Please note that OUAC's help line will be closed from December 22nd to January 2nd. Please make all inquiries before or after this date. The website and online applications however will be available during this time.

Night School Registration - Semester Two

Registration for semester 2 night school is now open on MyPathwayPlanner. The winter session runs from February 15, 2024 to June 6, 2024 and will be delivered synchronously, online on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30-9:45 pm. Students interested in taking night school should have a conversation with their guidance counsellor to ensure this is a good choice and that it will be approved.

Student Wellness

As we approach the winter break and semester one midterms, please keep in mind your child's wellness.

Some things to look for include:

- Loss of interest in things they normally enjoy
- Notable changes in sleeping and eating habits
- Withdrawal from friends, family or activities
- Changes in academic performance

Wellness Tips:

- Model healthy strategies
- Exercise and eat healthy
- Practice gratitude and mindfulness
- Talk to your children about their day. Ask specific questions to gather information

Resources:

Visit the YRDSB mental health page [here](#), visit the ABCs of mental health [here](#) and consider resources provided [here](#)

Kids Help Phone (text 686868, call 800-668-6868
www.kidshelpphone.ca)

360 Kids (905-475-6694 www.360kids.ca)

York Hills (905-503-9560) www.yorkhills.ca)

- Mental Health Crisis (310-COPE, 855-310-2673)
- Suicide Prevention Canada (text 45645, 833-456-4566)
- First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line (1-855-242-3310)
- Black Youth Helpline (416-285-9944)
- LGBT YouthLine (text) 647-694-4275

Trans Lifeline (1-877-330-6366)

As always, please reach out to your child's counsellor if you have any questions or concerns. We are here to help!

The guidance department wishes all families and students a very happy holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Supporting Our Mental Health & Well-Being

Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter (see attached)

[Senior Exercise Program - Newmarket Welcome Centre](#)

- o Priority given to those 65 years and older

[Peer Support Group for Parents and Caregivers](#)

- o This group is a support for parents and caregivers raising children and youth with mental health challenges
- o 3rd Monday of each month
- o Aurora Town Hall 6:30- 8pm
- o This group takes a break in December and will return January 15, 2024
- o York Hills Winter Group and Webinar Series.

Groups <https://www.yorkhills.ca/services/group-services/>

Webinars <https://www.yorkhills.ca/services/workshopsandwebinars/>

[Food Banks and Community Food Programs- York Region](#)

- o Provide free or low-cost food to individuals and families in need on an on-going, seasonal, and emergency basis.

For those coping with grief, the holidays may be particularly painful and overwhelming. Find coping strategies and free downloadable resources to help at cmhabereavement.ca.



Please review our [Student Handbook](#) to answer any questions you may have.

3 R's at Bur Oak Secondary School

At Bur Oak S.S., we have our **3 R's - Respect, Responsibility, Relationships** (see below) to maintain the positive, welcoming, respectful and inclusive learning environment at our school!



3Rs – Respect, Responsibility, Relationships

As Bulldogs, we:

- Are respectful, take responsibility and leave things better than we found it, and build positive and healthy relationships.
- Stand quietly during the playing of the National Anthem. If we arrive late to school, we stand quietly during the National Anthem and walk quietly to period 1 class during the morning announcements.
- Eat lunch in the cafeteria or in the first floor atrium during our lunch period 2, 3, or 4. We pick up after ourselves.
- Do not eat nor sit in the first floor hallways and we do not eat nor sit in the second floor hallways. We are not in the stairwells and we do not wander the hallways. We are respectful for classes in session.
- Do not congregate nor hang out in washrooms. We maintain a welcoming and safe school environment for students to use the washroom. We understand that nobody should feel intimidated in any parts of the school building.
- Use the first floor atrium tables for quiet study. We sit on chairs. We do not sit on top of the table and we do not lie down on tables or the floor.
- Wear earbuds for music in the hallways and atrium. We respect the environment of others by not using loud speakers.
- Dress appropriately for school.
- Ask our teacher for permission to leave the classroom to use the washroom or get a drink of water. We sign out to leave the classroom and sign in when we return to the classroom.



We wish you and your family a wonderful Winter Break and all the best in the New Year!

