



THE BULLDOG

A Newsletter for Our Bur Oak Secondary School Community

VOL. 1, ISSUE 23

APRIL 12, 2024

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

April 2024

8 School Council Meeting

10 Eid-ul-Fitr (Significant Faith Day)

11 OSSLT Practice Test (Library, Periods 1 & 2)

12 Spirit Day

18-19 OSSLT

23 Pesach/Passover (Significant Faith Day)

OSSLT – Spring Session

The Spring session of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) will take place on Thursday, April 18 and Friday, April 19. Each eligible student will write over two days (Day 1 - session A, Day 2 - session B). Any student writing the OSSLT has received a **personalized** letter via their GAPPS email. Students being deferred until the Fall 2024 session will also receive a letter via email.

Parents/guardians and students may access additional information by visiting the [EQAO website](#).

Information from our Guidance Department

Summer School

Summer School Registration begins April 9, 2024.

All instructions have been posted to student Guidance Google Classrooms.

Students must follow procedures outlined by guidance. Students should not sign up in mypathway planner before following steps outlined. Drop-in sessions will be held on the following dates in guidance, to finalize and confirm summer school plans:

- Tuesday April 16-Thursday April 18, periods 3 and 4
- Wednesday April 10-Thursday April 11, period 2
- Wednesday April 17-Thursday April 18, period 2

****more dates will be added for drop-in sessions throughout the spring**

GRADE 12 MARK UPLOADS TO OCAS & OUAC

Guidance uploaded semester 1 marks to OUAC & OCAS in early February. We encourage students to log into their accounts to confirm that marks are correct, and that their currently enrolled semester 2 courses are listed. **It is a student's responsibility to ensure that the information in OUAC and OCAS is accurate** and to report any errors to their guidance counsellor as soon as possible.

Students who have applied to an Ontario University need to be aware of next steps in the application process. Linked [HERE](#) is a document that contains links to promotional material about what's next in the application process, and other important information, such as deadlines, online resources and how to respond to an offer of admission.

SPRING COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY OPEN HOUSES

The Guidance Department encourages students to visit colleges and/or universities to help them make informed decisions about their post-secondary pathway.

For upcoming University opportunities, click [here](#).

For upcoming College opportunities, click [here](#).

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

If students are in need of mental health support they should come to Guidance to see a counsellor. If they are in a severe crisis they can access support by contacting one of the agencies below or should be taken to a local emergency room.

A Guide of Services for Youth in York Region [Strive 2023](#)

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)

LGBTQIA+ YouthLine (text) 647-694-4275

Trans Lifeline (1-877-330-6366)

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week is coming up quickly! This event will take place **May 6-10, 2024**.

YRDSB has a number of virtual events that will be happening throughout the week for both students and caregivers. Take a look at the [Toolkit Calendars](#) for more details! YRDSB has also created a [Family Toolkit Calendar](#)

Full Disclosure

Full Disclosure is the term used to identify when courses will remain as "Withdrawn" on a student's transcript. This semester, Full Disclosure will take place by **Tuesday May 7, 2024**. This only impacts grade 11 and 12 courses.

Grade 11 students must continue to maintain four full credits this semester. Removing courses must meet specific criteria and are typically only approved by administration in unusual circumstances.

While May 7 is the deadline, it is critical that any drop requests take place the two weeks prior to ensure appointments can be taken and all sign-offs are completed properly.

Please note, grade 11 students and grade 12 students who are not graduating do not have any data shared to outside application centres.

Grade 12 students should consider the following steps when considering a drop request:

*Have student discuss with their teacher a plan to successfully meet their academic goals in the course

*Get the facts from Post-Secondary Institutions to feel comfortable about the weight and significance of their mid-semester marks for this year's admissions process.

*Speak with their Guidance Counsellor to feel comfortable and build a plan about their goals for this year and get perspective on what may work best for them.

Part-Time Requests

Grade 12 students wishing to drop from *three courses to two courses*, can begin making appointments with their guidance counsellor the week of April 22, 2024. A part-time request form will be completed with the counsellor and then shared with the Vice-Principal for review and approval. These requests must be completed before the May Full Disclosure date (see above).

Parent/caregiver series supporting learning about mental health

The YRDSB Central Mental Health Team is proud to be offering the ***Learning about Mental Health Presentation Series (LAMPS)***. *The objective of the series is to promote and enhance mental health literacy. The second session is “Technology Use and Mental Health, a Presentation for Parents and Caregivers” and will occur virtually on May 29th from 6 - 7 p.m. The presentation will focus on the characteristics of anxiety, and some general strategies that may be beneficial in supporting your children and their anxiety.*

These sessions are offered to any parent/guardian. Translation will be provided in a limited number of languages. If your preferred language is not offered, we recommend watching with a friend or family member who is able to translate. To register please visit [this link](#).

Please Register by May 28th, 2024

Free in-person workshops for high school students and their families from Markham Public Library

Next Wednesday April 17th - [Understanding the IEP in Ontario's Education System for Highschool, College and University Students](#) (Parents have shared lots of positive feedback regarding this workshop in the past. The accessibility counsellor from Seneca Polytechnic (formerly Seneca College) will share with students how an IEP is used in college/university.

Saturday May 4th - [Winning Canadian Scholarships](#)

Sunday May 5th - [A Balancing Act: Avoiding Burnout \(Grades 9-12\)](#)

Thursday May 9th - [Preparing for a Healthcare or Medical Career: Tips for High School Students](#)

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.



Have a wonderful weekend!