



THE BULLDOG

A Newsletter for Our Bur Oak Secondary School Community

VOL. 1, ISSUE 3

SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

This newsletter will be sent out weekly/bi-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

September 2023

19: Grade 12 Assembly—Period 2 (Cafeteria)

21: College/University Fair

22: P.A. day (see agenda below)

25-29: Safety Week (Drills)

28: Terry Fox Run—Period 5

October 2023

2: School Council Meeting @ 6:30—8:00 p.m.
(School Library)

16: Picture re-take day

20: P.A. day (agenda to follow)

24: Parent/guardian teacher interviews



Grade 9 Day Fee

If you have not yet paid the \$21.00 for Grade 9 Day, please do so as soon as possible on [School Cash Online](#). Included in this fee were the t-shirt, lunch and Grade 9 Day activities. Thank you to all of our parents/guardians who have paid.

Student Enhancement Fee

Thank you to all of our families who have paid their student enhancement fee. This fee helps to support all of the amazing activities and opportunities that are provided to our students throughout the school year. Students who have paid their student enhancement fee are eligible for discounts on school events (ex. Semi-Formal, Prom). If you have not yet paid your student enhancement fee, please do so as soon as possible on [School Cash Online](#).



School Start-Up Forms

Families are asked to complete some important forms. These forms are now available online. [Please complete and submit these online School Start-Up Forms](#) through your child's YRDSB Google account. Translations are available.

- You can access your child's YRDSB Google account via a web browser. For best results, use a computer rather than a mobile phone.
- The username is your child's YRDSB Student Number. Your child will receive their login information from the school at the start of the year. If you or your child do not know the password to log in to their Google account, please contact your child's teacher or the school office.

Frequently asked questions and additional information on [how to complete the forms](#) are available on the Board website under [Family Resources](#) (click on the "Need Help" link for Family Start-Up Forms).

It is important that these forms are completed as soon as possible at the start of the school year. There are both mandatory and optional forms. The forms are to be completed for all students. Our school will access the information.

Please complete a separate form for each child attending our schools. Secondary school students will also be asked to review important school and Board policies and to indicate that they have reviewed this information on forms sent to their student GAPPS account.

If you prefer to complete the forms on paper or have questions about the information in the forms, please contact our school office.

Drop-Off & Pick-Up Reminders

As we begin another school year, please be reminded of the following when you drop-off or pick-up your child(ren) in our school parking lots:

- DO NOT park in the school parking lot to drop-off/pick-up your child; these parking spots are reserved for our staff and students (who have requested)
- Ensure that you are driving in a single direction; 3-point turns, U-turns are not permitted
- To ensure student safety, please have your child exit your vehicle from the passenger side only (otherwise, they will be walking into oncoming traffic)
- Ask your child(ren) to only cross at the designated crosswalk

We all have a responsibility in ensuring student safety at all times. Thank you for your cooperation!

Important Covid Protocols

Daily Screening

On a daily basis, students and their parents/guardians are responsible to review and adhere to the [COVID-19 School Screening Tool](#). Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever
- New or Worsening Cough
- Shortness of Breath
- Sore Throat or Difficulty Swallowing
- Altered Taste or Smell
- Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea, Abdominal Pain
- Runny Nose, Nasal Congestion

If your child is feeling unwell or if they have any of the symptoms of COVID-19, please do not have them come to school, inform the school and have them stay home. Once your child's symptoms have improved, they can return to school. It is recommended that they wear a mask for 10 days following a positive test.

You can access the COVID-19 School Screening Tool at the following link:

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

Face Coverings

If you are choosing to wear a mask:

- ▶ Students are expected to provide their own face covering
- ▶ Masks are not to be shared
- ▶ Masks can be non-medical or cloth.
- ▶ The use of a mask is not an acceptable measure to attend or remain at school for those who are symptomatic

Hand Washing/Sanitizing

Students are encouraged to wash hands using soap and water or use hand sanitizer immediately before:

- leaving home,
- leaving the classroom,
- eating, touching one's face
- leaving school.

Students are encouraged to wash hands or use hand sanitizer immediately after:

- arriving at school/entering the classroom,
- finishing lunch,
- touching shared objects,
- using the bathroom,
- coughing, sneezing, and blowing one's nose,
- arriving at home.

Counsellor and Guidance Information

We look forward to an exciting year at Bur Oak in the Guidance Department. Please feel free to access our information in the school website and through our [Guidance Page](#). There you will find information about our team and programs throughout the year.

Semester 2 Course Changes

Semester 1 Course Changes are now complete. Students are to follow their given timetables.

Guidance Counsellors will be available to discuss Semester 2 course changes during period 3 and 4 lunchtime drop in sessions the weeks of **November 27 and December 1, 2023**. We are unable to discuss these changes prior to these dates to accommodate other student needs.

Upcoming Guidance Events

Parent Information Evening: On Tuesday September 26 from 6:30 to 8:00 Guidance will be hosting parent presentations. Grade 9 & 10 will focus on navigating high school and grade 11 & 12 will focus on setting up for post-secondary studies.

Grade 12 Presentation: On Tuesday September 19 grade 12 students will be having an important presentation from guidance about this upcoming school year as well as post-secondary information.

International Languages and Night School Courses

For YRDSB:

Students interested in taking a course through Continuing Education must review the course offerings on the YRDSB website. Students interested in taking courses must complete the online sign-up through MyPathway Planner and submit their signed parent-sign-off to the Guidance Office.

Please note: Students who do not have the academic prerequisite course are likely not receiving advanced standing into the next course available. We will not approve any requests that do not meet the required prior learning.

For TCDSB/Tamil Academy:

Students must bring in all completed printed report cards from the past year to be entered into our records. This takes some time during this busy period. Students with report cards on record will need to schedule an appointment with their assigned counsellor with the appropriate paperwork. Students who are taking second and third year courses cannot be given their signed record package unless the report card has been submitted and entered. Please do not delay in providing us with the advanced copies.

Agenda for upcoming P.A. Day—September 22, 2023

Morning: Compliance Training—150 mins. (facilitated by School Administration)

- Health & Safety Key Messages (60 mins.)
- Emergency Preparedness & Crisis Management (9 mins.)
- Threat Assessment (5 mins.)
- Risk Reframed: Keeping Students Safe & Developing a Culture of Safety Mindedness (7 mins.)
- Reporting Children & Youth in Need of Protection (15 mins.)
- YRDSB Student Suicide Intervention Protocol (13 mins.)
- Cyber Security & Protection of Privacy (20 mins.)
- Supporting Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions (21 mins.)

Afternoon: Professional Learning (150 mins.)

Secondary Educators/Administrators/Educational Assistants

- Supporting the Success of Multilingual Language Learners (30 mins.)
- SIP/Department Meetings—Teachers, Professional Learning—Educational Assistants, Library Technicians & School Office Support Staff (120 mins.)

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

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!

