

SOUTHERN OKANAGAN SECONDARY SCHOOL

HOME OF THE HORNETS

OCTOBER 2026

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to October! Fall in the South Okanagan is a stunning season – a time of brilliant colours, crisp air, and an abundance of harvest which benefits SOSS. Our school is especially grateful for the local contributions as well as our school garden that enrich our cafeteria and daily breakfast program with fresh fruits and vegetables and local ingredients for cooking.

On Tuesday, September 29th, our entire school gathered at the community park to honour National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Together, we listened to the story of the Orange Shirt Day, reflected on the tragic history of residential schools, heard stories from residential school survivors and acknowledged the lasting impacts still felt today. Commitment to reconciliation remains one of our paths forward. Thank you to the OIB community for working alongside us to help us learn the truth. Our local education agreement was signed on September 30. This will hold us accountable for doing better for our indigenous families.

Our Terry Fox Run, held on Thursday, September 24th, was another inspiring school community event. Led by our Leadership students under the direction of teacher Alison Podmorow, the entire school participated by walking, running, or joining as teams to raise awareness, funds, and school spirit. We have raised \$3000. Way to go Hornets! A huge thank you goes to No Frills, who generously donated all the food and beverages for this event. These partnerships truly highlight the incredible community spirit that supports our students and school.

Thank you to all the parents for coming out to the School Welcome Back BBQ. It was nice to see some familiar faces as well as to welcome all the new parents to our community. Thank you to the PAC for sponsoring the event. Our first grad parent night was also well attended. Thank you to all those who came out. The first fundraiser is the plant sale. Let's do so well that no one needs to pay anything for grad. You can order on line at <https://southernokanagansecondary.growingsmilesfundraising.com/home>

Thursday, October 15 is the first Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting of the year at 6:30PM in the school library. Everyone is welcome, even if you just want to learn more about the committee and its role in supporting our school.

Wednesday, October 21 are Family conferences (in-person). Please note that this is an early dismissal day for students.

Thursday, October 22nd is also an early dismissal day for students and Friday, October 23rd is a Professional Development Day.

Finally, please continue to visit our school website for important dates, event information, and helpful resources for students and families. Thank you for your continued support of SOSS.

Sue Beyer
Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

OCTOBER 12-THANKSGIVING, NO SCHOOL
OCTOBER 15-PHOTO RETAKES
OCTOBER 15 - PAC MEETING, 6:30
OCTOBER 19-PSI DAY
OCTOBER 21-FAMILY CONFERENCES
OCTOBER 21-EARLY DISMISSAL @ 11:55
OCTOBER 22-EARLY DISMISSAL @ 11:55
OCTOBER 23-PRO-D, NO SCHOOL
OCTOBER 28-INQUIRY, EARLY DISMISSAL 11:55
OCTOBER 30-HALLOWEEN PARADE

Junior Girls' Volleyball

The energy and enthusiasm around volleyball at SOSS is electric! The 25 girls who tried out for the junior team are a testament to this. We are lucky enough to have two teams for the 2026 season: Green and Gold.

Team Green is a competitive team which is hoping to challenge for the league title and to have success at the four tournaments they will attend this fall. So far, we are off to a great start. The girls won both of their first league games and placed fourth in the season opening Rattler Rumble. The girls are working hard in practice to better understand rotation, know their responsibilities, and communicate effectively. This is an exciting time and coaches Seymour and Steeves are anticipating a fun and successful season.



Science 9 - Interconnectedness and Sustainability

Climate change is arguably one of the largest challenges our youth will have to deal with in their lives. In Science 9, we begin learning about the complexity of the problem by investigating how the natural world is so deeply interconnected. Through the lenses of biochemical nutrient cycles (water, nitrogen, carbon etc) and an understanding of indigenous teachings and knowledge of sustainability, students explore this complex topic. We were lucky enough to have both Dyawen Louis and Jason Jones share their knowledge while exploring the beautiful land on which we live and learn.



Skateboard Club

We are back at it. Welcome to new members: Will Poirier, Milo Stevenson, Logan Geernaerdt, Liam Larson-May and Zack Vandale. Our beginner skaters worked hard to lock down some basics, finding the pop for ollies and gaining confidence for roll-ins on the big flat bank at Summerland. I'm looking forward to seeing them grow in the coming months as skaters.

Rylan Petrie had a few fast and controlled kickflips, Odin Fredlund made double-tap Rock-to-Fakies and a manual Rock-to-Fakie... balanced and controlled the whole way! Eden Martinez locked in a rock-solid Frontside 50-50 on the down ledge. We're off to a great start to the fall session. Check out the club insta for photos and video: @sossskateboardclub. Also, huge shoutout to Maddox LaRose for his efforts behind the lens - that's what friends are for!

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION





Career Ed. Newsletter - October 2026

Career Ed Report

The Careers Department has hit the ground running this school year following an exceptionally busy summer. Throughout the summer months, students were busy as they transition into new opportunities, including registering and starting as apprentices as new Youth Work in Trades students, college students completing their Youth Train in Trades programs, and Academic Dual Credit students completing course registration and navigating their post-secondary options.

September has been focused on completing enrolment for our 2026/27 programs, while also beginning the recruitment process for 2027/28. School District 53 remains on target to meet the requirements of our funding agreement with Skilled Trades BC, with seven new Youth Apprentices starting over the summer. We currently have 7 new Youth Apprentices student in Train in Trades and 10 students participating in Academic Dual Credit programs.

This year is also marking an important shift in the Careers Department, with a more balanced focus between Trades and Academic Dual Credit opportunities. Our goal is to ensure that students have access to a range of pathways that connect high school learning with their future education, training, and career goals. School District 53 will continue to expand these opportunities as we move forward with the development of the First Nations Teacher Education Dual Credit Program, creating another pathway for students to explore post-secondary education and careers in education.



Trades Sampler at OC
February - June

A 16-week hands-on program where students explore **multiple trades**, gain **practical skills**, and **build confidence**. Learn through real-world training, industry knowledge, and **employability skills** - all while earning 12 graduation Credits.

This program takes place at OC Penticton and will introduce youth to:

✓ Carpentry	Welding	✓
✓ Plumbing	Sheet Metal	✓
✓ Electrical	Refridgeration	✓

Ready to explore the Trades?

Scan the QR code, and a representative from the SD53 Careers Department will get in touch with you.

Have a question? Email Mr. Turnbull at: bturnbul@sd53.bc.ca

Upcoming Events

- October 1: College and university applications open for students planning their next steps after graduation.
- October 19: School District 53 will host our annual Post-Secondary Institution Day, bringing post-secondary representatives from across B.C. to OSS, SESS, and SOSS to meet with students and provide information about programs, admissions, and future opportunities.

Check out this link for more on our Healthcare Sampler

Sd53- Healthcare Sampler

Current Offerings:

2026-2027

**Auto Service Tech Foundations
Plumber Foundations
Carpenter Foundations
DC Course/Programs
Healthcare Sampler
Technology Sampler
Trades Sampler
Engineering Sampler
Healthcare Aid**

2027-2028

**Professional Cook 1
ECE Assistant Certificate**

ENROLL

NOW

SPAIN & PORTUGAL
★ 2027

ONLY 5 SPOTS LEFT!
ENROLMENT DEADLINE IS
NOVEMBER 1ST

EXPLORE
THE WORLD



SCAN THE QR CODE
OR CALL 1-800-263-2806 TO
GET ON THE LIST

See Ms. Koppe for more details

hkoppe@sd53.bc.ca