

JANUARY 2024

NEW YEAR

SOUTHERN OKANAGAN SECONDARY SCHOOL

HOME OF THE HORNETS

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome Back Everyone! Each new year brings optimism and new beginnings. December was certainly full of fun and excitement including our schoolwide lunch, classroom decorating contests, dress up days and daily holiday challenges. We also must give a big shout out to Gina Houle and her little elves who went above and beyond to decorate the halls, library, and atrium of SOSS and to the grads who got our huge Christmas tree for our front foyer. Additionally, Ms. Ibaraki and Ms. Seymour spent countless hours shopping and organizing the Christmas Store for our Priority Families. This year, we were able to support around sixty-five families. Thanks to everyone who donated to this worthwhile cause as it makes an enormous difference to our students.

We are very sad that Ms. Smith will be moving to SESS and that January 19th will be her last day here. We wish her well in her first Principalship and welcome Cam Adam as our new Vice Principal. Additionally, we want to wish Mr. Basso all the best as he takes on the Vice Principal role at OES starting on February 1st. A huge thank you to both Ms. Smith and Mr. Basso for their huge contributions to SOSS over the years. We will miss you.

Semester 1 is winding down with exams running Monday, January 29 to Wednesday, January 31st. With some classes doing in class assessments from January 22-26. Students are only required to attend exam days when they are writing. Semester 2 begins February 1st. Buses will run at regular times during exams. (exam schedule included in this newsletter) Best of luck to all students with their final assessments.

Course selection for the 2024-25 school year will begin this week. Information will be posted on our website. Counsellors will be working with students to assist in course selections. If you need assistance, please see Mrs. Goncalves.

A reminder to grads that your CLC requirements will be due very soon. Please see Mrs. Burns if you have questions. Information sheets regarding Scholarship Applications and the Francis Family Scholarship are posted on the website, teams and paper copies are available in the office. Dates for grad photos are Tuesday February 20-23. Please note that there is a \$20 sitting fee and students must register online. More information to follow.

Finally, we are extremely excited to host the return of our Celebration of Learning on Wednesday, January 17 from 6:00-7:30pm. Everyone is welcome, and this is a great opportunity to view student work before the semester ends. Thanks to Ms. Kingsfield for organizing this huge event.

Thanks to all of you for your ongoing support. Happy New Year and all the best in 2024!

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IMPORTANT DATES



JANUARY 11	SKI TRIP TO BALDY
JANUARY 17	CELEBRATION OF LEARNING, 6-7:30PM
JANUARY 18	GRADE 9 IMMUNIZATIONS
JANUARY 18	PAC MEETING, 6:30PM
JANUARY 19/20	GRADE 8 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
JANUARY 24	INQUIRY DAY, CLASSES OUT AT 11:55AM
JANUARY 29-31	EXAM DAYS
FEBRUARY 1	TERM 3 AND SEMESTER 2 BEGINS



Sexual Orientation and Gender Identify (SOGI) is not a separate curriculum. SOGI-inclusive education encompasses a broad range of topics including identity and inclusion. SOGI-inclusive education is not centered in sexuality. There are often misconceptions about what SOGI-inclusive education is and what it looks like. Here is a common myth and the corresponding facts about SOGI-inclusive education:

MYTH: SOGI-inclusive Education violates parents' rights.

FACT: SOGI-inclusive education is meant to compliment parents' efforts in teaching essential values of tolerance, respect, and acceptance of all people. It does not undermine parental rights but rather contributes to a greater understanding of diversity and inclusion for all students and families.

FinS (Fish in School) is a program through ONA (Okanagan Nation Alliance) where salmon spawn are brought into various schools to be raised to fry. Once they reach the Fry stage they are released at the salmon ceremony in May.



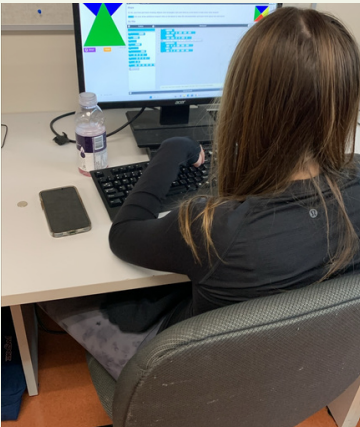
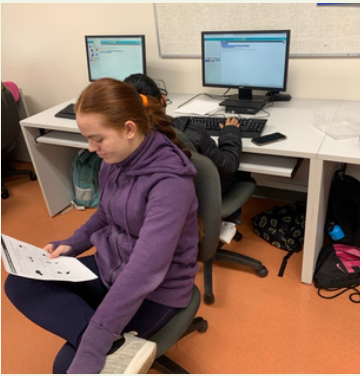
JUST A REMINDER TO ALL FAMILIES THAT WE ARE STILL IN THE PROCESS OF UPDATING STUDENT RECORDS AND APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE WITH BRINGING IN PROOF OF RESIDENCY DOCUMENTS. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

Course Selections

It is time to start thinking about course planning and selections for next year already. Students in grade 8 will be visited by the scheduling team next week to go over the process and options for next year. Students in grade 8 are able to prioritize their elective choices and their academic courses are automatically chosen for them with the exception of Math.

Students in grades 9-11 are asked to login to MyBlueprint to explore the courses that are being offered and the courses they need to complete for graduation. These are the instructions for logging in and completing the Grad Planner for course selections for next year. The scheduling team will be visiting students in classes over the next few weeks to advise students on options and selections.

There is further information on the school website to help with course selections and the dates are on the calendar to make sure you are in attendance for your day of guidance. If you have questions please see Mrs. G in the Library.

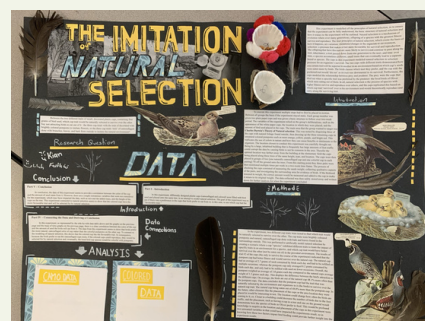
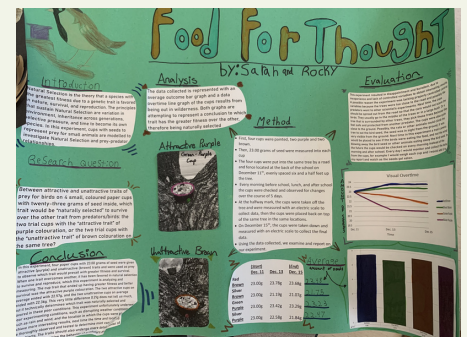


Information Technology 8

Transitioning into grade 8 is challenging for most students. One of the many new things our students face is the amount of new technology they encounter. SpacesEDU, MyEd, MyBlueprint, and Teams are just some of the many apps and programs they encounter. To help students navigate these changes, we provide a mandatory course called Information Technology 8. Not only are students taught how to log into and use these programs, but they also learn some of the challenges of being a digital citizen and receive an introduction to coding. One of the most rewarding parts of teaching this course is the conversations and interactions between students when they are problem solving. The support and collaboration which develops over the term is amazing!

Science 10

In Science 10 this semester students have been inquiring into the process of natural selection and the theory of evolution. In order to look at these topics in a more hands on manner, students were challenged to execute an experiment which modelled these concepts. Using paper cups, students looked at the preferential feeding habits of birds given choices of "prey" with different traits. Experiments included changing the colours, locations and even odours of the cups. This opportunity allowed students to engage with science in a messy, yet meaningful way. Interested in the outcomes? Come to the Celebration of Learning on January 17th to see their scientific posters.



THESE ARE THE PEOPLE IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



JANUARY 2024 EXAM SCHEDULE

SOSS Final Exams - January 29, 30 & 31, 2024

Monday, January 29

8:45 - 10:45			12:15 - 2:15		
Exam	Class/Teacher	Test Room	Exam	Class/Teacher	Test Room
English 10	A - Scott	207	Science 10	B - Seymour	206
English 10	B - Laver	208	Science 10	C - Seymour	207
Math 9	D - Johnson	105	Science 10	D - Wurflinger	210
Math 9	A - Johnson	108	Science 9	C - Wurflinger	202
Math 8	C - Kaiser	202	French 8	D - Arnason	203
Math 8	D - Kaiser	210	Physics 12	D - Khodarahmi	108
Spanish 11	A - Frank	204	English 12	D - Laver	208
Chemistry 11	A - Lang	206	Physics 11	D - McIntyre	205
Anatomy & Physiology 12	A - Russo	209			
English 12	A - Shione	205			

Tuesday, January 30

8:45 - 10:45			12:15 - 2:15		
Exam	Class/Teacher	Test Room	Exam	Class/Teacher	Test Room
Pre-Calculus 10	A - Schulting	210	Socials 10	A - Basso	203
Pre-Calculus 10	C - Schulting	202	Socials 10	D - Basso	209
Spanish 9	C - Frank	204	Socials 10	B - Stopa	202
Spanish 9	B - Frank	204	French 10	C - Scott	207
Science 8	A - Seymour	209	Law 12	C - Riordan	210
Psychology 12	B - Scott	207	Math 12	C - Khodarahmi	108
EFP 11	B - Shione	205	Chem 12	C - McIntyre	Lab
Pre-Calculus 11	C - Seminoff	105	Earth Science 11	C - Russo	204
Pre-Calculus 11	D - Seminoff	105	Life Science 11	B - Wurflinger	206

Wednesday, January 31 - 1 Day, Conflict Exams & Re-Writes (as permitted)

8:45 - 10:45			12:15 - 2:15		
Conflict Exams			Conflict Exams		
Exam	Class/Teacher	Room	Exam	Class/Teacher	Room
Please See Mrs. Koffler in the Office with any Conflicts	Various	202	Please See Mrs. Koffler in the Office with any Conflicts	Various	202

Information for Students - January 2024 Final Exams

Report any exam conflicts to Mrs. Koffler in the office immediately. All conflict exams will be written on Wednesday morning in room 202 unless you arrange something different directly with your teacher

All students must arrive to exams 10 minutes before the starting time

Students must stay in the exam room for a minimum of one hour after the start of their exam

Please leave bags and backpacks in your lockers as no bags will be allowed in the exam rooms

No phones or other electronic devices in the exam rooms except for calculators which will be checked by the supervising teacher

Busses will run at the regular times during exam week

Bring all writing utensils needed for exam (pencils, pens, erasers)

Students can bring a water bottle into the exam. Please do not bring food into an exam as it can be a distraction for peers

When exams are in session, please remain quiet in the upstairs hallways and the main floor hallway near the drama room

Student may use the library for quiet study

Students only need to be present for their exams and are expected to be off of school grounds when they are not writing or studying in the library

**Southern Okanagan
Secondary School
Semester 1
“Celebration of
Student Achievement”**

Date: Wednesday January 17th

Time: 6:00-7:30pm

Location: SOSS library, front entrance, and cafeteria

Please join us in celebrating our students' achievements from their semester 1 studies. The evening will include a variety of student displays, performances, food and fun!

