

JANUARY 2025

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 breakfast, 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 fifty families. Thanks to everyone who donated to this worthwhile cause as it makes an enormous difference to our students.

Unfortunately, at the end of the semester, we are saying goodbye to a few of our staff members. We are very sad that Mr. Burns will be moving to YouLearn and assuming the Vice Principal role there as well as continuing with his Indigenous District Portfolio. He has been an important part of our administrative team for the last four years and we will miss him dearly. We wish him well in his new endeavors. Additionally, we want to wish Mrs. Lang, Mrs. Laver and Ms. Peterson all the best in their retirements. They have all been here for a very long time and we will also miss them very much. Finally, Mr. Spelay will also be leaving us. He has taken a second semester contract at Osoyoos Secondary, so he won't be far away. A huge thank you to all of them for their contributions to SOSS over the years. With all the changes, we would also like to welcome Mr. Searcy who will be filling Ms. Laver's (not so big) shoes in the second semester and Ms. Janda who will be teaching Social Studies.

Semester 1 is winding down with exams running Friday, January 24 to Tuesday, January 28th. Students are only required to attend exam days when they are writing. Semester 2 begins January 29th. Buses will run at regular times during exams. Exam schedule is included in this newsletter. Best of luck to all students with their final assessments.

Course selection for the 2025-26 school year will begin this week. The Course Offerings are available under Academics Course Selections on the website. Counsellors will be working with students to assist in course selections in the coming weeks. If you need assistance, please contact 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 18-20. 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 15 from 5:00-7:00pm. Everyone is welcome, and this is a great opportunity to view student work before the semester ends. Thanks to Mrs. Kingsfield for organizing this huge event.

Thanks to all of you for your ongoing support. Happy New Year and all the best in 2025!

Tracy Harrington



IMPORTANT DATES	
JANUARY 15	- CELEBRATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
JANUARY 16	- PAC MEETING, 6:30PM
JANUARY 24, 27, 28	- EXAM DAYS
JANUARY 29	- EARLY DISMISSAL, CLASSES OUT @ 11:55AM



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PSYCHOLOGY

This term, the Psychology 12 class is expanding their learning of human development with the adoption of the REAL CARE robot baby simulation program. This project allows students to explore some of the qualities of being a parent/caregiver as well as addressing some of the medical, psychological, and financial responsibilities while they care for infants over 3-5 school days. They reflect on their added responsibilities and emotional responses while coping with the needs of the babies while attending school. Some participant comments:

"The experience definitely reinforced my understanding of the stress and frustration parents or caregivers can feel!" -Jordyn

"I am very pleased with how the baby project is going so far, It's a little stressful and overwhelming but completely manageable and fun." - Maya

"Overall, I enjoyed it. At times the baby was stressful, but I got used to it. And having a co-parent made me more relaxed. I grew a bond with baby Maximes." - Xavier

"It was a little nerve wracking, although once I got the hang of it, it was fine and more like a chore."
- Phoenix



COURSE SELECTIONS

Course selections for next year are underway. Information can be found on our school website to explain how to complete the process. All students must include their ideal schedule along with alternate choices just in case we can't schedule in one of your top choices.

- See the website for the [Course Offerings Booklet](#) which has descriptions and some multi-media links to further explain the courses. If you are going into grades 10-12 the descriptions will be in [MyBlueprint](#) when you click on the course.
- Grade 9 students (this year's grade 8's) will use the [Course Request Form](#) to make their selections, have the form signed and returned to Mrs. Goncalves in the Library.
- Students in grades 10-12 next year will use MyBlueprint to select their courses for next year, submit their choices and then enter a parent/guardian email for approval.

All student requests are to be completed by February 24. If you have any questions about the process, or require some help, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Goncalves at rgoncalv@sd53.bc.ca. An information session will be provided for these students to help guide them in their choices and answer specific questions.

PAC INFORMATION

As we begin the winter sports season, we are asking for assistance from parent volunteers who are willing to help with our concession stand! We are hoping to have a group of parent volunteers to help run the Snack Shack during winter home tournaments on behalf of the SOSS PAC. This fundraising goes back to supporting our student programs and athletics as well as our annual scholarships! Tournament dates are Jan 17/18, Jan 31/Feb 1 and Feb 7/8. Please email sosspac53@gmail.com and let us know if you are available to volunteer. Our next PAC meeting is January 16th at 6:30pm in the Library

GREEN FUNDRAISER



South Okanagan Secondary
School



Backyard Microgreens is a small 'direct to community' Microgreens Farm in Oliver that delivers right to most doorsteps, (home or work) in the South Okanagan, within 24 hours of harvesting. They aim at helping our community by offering fresh, local produce!

Backyard Microgreens is donating a part of the proceeds of their "Micro Variety 4 Pack" sold, to the South Okanagan Secondary School PAC

**FUNDRAISER TO BE HELD
JANUARY 15-30TH
ORDER ONLINE AT:
www.backyardmicrogreens.com
SPECIFY FUNDRAISING FOR: SOSS
DELIVERY TO YOUR DOORSTEP FEB 12TH**

Questions: grow@backyardmicrogreens.com

Southern Okanagan Secondary School

Semester 1

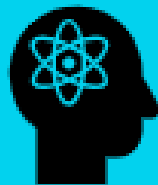
“Celebration of Student Achievement”

Date: Wednesday January 15th

Time: 5:00-7:00pm

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!**



EXAM SCHEDULE

SOSS Final Exams - Friday, January 24 to Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Friday, January 24

8:45 - 10:45

Exam	Class/Teacher	Test Room
Life Sciences 11	B - Wurflinger	116
English 12	A - Laver	208
English 12	D - Laver	207
English 8	C - Martins	204
English 8	A - Baerg	202
English First Peoples 11	B - McKinnon	206
Socials 9	A - Stopa	209
Socials 10	B - Podmorow	210
Socials 10	D - Podmorow	205

12:15 - 2:15

Exam	Class/Teacher	Test Room
Precalculus 10	A - Schulting	104
Precalculus 10	B - Schulting	108
Socials 8	B - Cordeiro	210
Socials 8	C - Cordeiro	209
Socials 8	A - Hill	208
Physics 11	D - McIntyre	118
Socials 11	D - Stopa	203
Math 9	A - Seminoff	105
Math 9	C - Baptiste	202
Precalculus 12	B - Kaiser	206
Precalculus 12	C - Kaiser	207

Monday, January 27

8:45 - 10:45

Exam	Class/Teacher	Test Room
Psychology 12	C - Scott	207
Physics 12	C - Khodarahmi	122
Precalculus 11	A - Kaiser	108
Precalculus 11	C - Schulting	104
Math 8	D - Seminoff	105
Science 10	A - Wurflinger	116
Science 10	C - Wurflinger	119
Science 10	C - M. Russo	117

12:15 - 2:15

Exam	Class/Teacher	Test Room
Chemistry 11	C - McIntyre	118
Foundations of Math 11	C - Seminoff	105

Tuesday, January 28 - 1 Day, Conflict Exams & Re-Writes (as permitted)

8:45 - 10:45

Conflict Exams		
Exam	Class/Teacher	Room
Please See Mrs. Koffler in the Office with any Conflicts	Various	202

12:15 - 2:15

Conflict Exams		
Exam	Class/Teacher	Room
Please See Mrs. Koffler in the Office with any Conflicts	Various	202

Information for Students - January 2025 Final Exams

Report any exam conflicts to Mrs. Koffler in the office immediately. All conflict exams will be written on Tuesday 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

Students 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



hosted by...



INTERESTED IN
**POLICING
CAREERS?**



PARTICIPATE IN THE
**JEAN MINGUY MEMORIAL
RCMP YOUTH**

ACADEMY

MAY 25TH-30TH

Applications are **DUE January 31st**
for this week long immersive experience.

Applications are now available
from your Career Coordinator, your
school's office, or from our website.



AGES 16-18
Are Invited to apply

Cost is
\$350

*Includes all food, lodging
and supplies for the week.*