

NOVEMBER 2023

SOUTHERN OKANAGAN SECONDARY SCHOOL

HOME OF THE HORNETS

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Where does the time go? It has been a busy few months here at SOSS. Sports teams and clubs are up and running. Our Cross-Country team is heading to Provincials on Friday, November 3rd and our Senior Girls Field Hockey team heads to the coast on Sunday for their Provincial Championships being held Monday – Wednesday, November 6–8. Additionally, our Senior Boys Soccer season and the volleyball seasons will be coming to a close in the next few weeks with high hopes for a strong finish.

Thank you to Ms. Scott for taking students on the Quebec Cultural exchange at the beginning of October. They saw a Cirque de Soleil show, the Plains of Abraham and various other cultural venues. It was a great opportunity for our students.

Mrs. Podmorow and Link Crew have been organizing many activities to help build community and connect with each other. On Halloween, many staff and students “walked the runway” with their unique costumes. Check out the pictures later in the newsletter. Mrs. Pod and her theatre students are in the early stages of planning for this year’s production of Beauty and the Beast, which will be held early in the spring.

Parent Teacher Interviews were held recently. If you didn’t get a chance to connect with your child’s teacher, please email them directly. The end of the term is November 10th and report cards will be available online the following week. We will send out a notification email to let you know when they are posted. Mrs. Goncalves sent out a message earlier in the week regarding Spaces. This is the program the whole District is using for grade 8 & 9 student reporting. If you need some help gaining access, please reach out.

The Remembrance Day Assembly will be organized by the Social Studies department and held on November 10th. Thank you to Ms. Stopa and Mr. Basso for taking the lead at this very important assembly.

The counselling team has organized two Safer Sex presentations that will be held for the grade 11 & 12 students on November 14th and 28th. One Sky Community from the Foundry is presenting this important information. We are also collaborating with Jenny Martin (Health Promoting Schools Coordinator) to develop scope and sequence for sexual health which is part of the PHE curriculum.

The Breakfast Club is filling the tummies of some very hungry students. Students are greeted in the morning at the front door with music, smiles, and delicious food. Thank you to Jamie Johnson, the cafeteria class, and the Admin team who pull this together every morning. It is a fantastic way to help students start their day. Also, a huge thank you to Sam Marsel and her team for continuing to support our Priority Families with the Starfish Program and to Linda Larson for dropping off milk and muffins on a regular basis. Also, a huge shout out to Brittany vonBurg for coordinating the apple pick up from David Machial’s orchard and Katy Splane’s farm. Thanks also to Mr. Wurflinger, who is coordinating with various students to show them how to peel and dehydrate some of our fruit so we can enjoy healthy snacks all year long. We are extremely grateful that so many are playing an integral part in this important initiative of addressing food insecurity.

Mrs. Burns, Mr. Kitt, Ms. Ibaraki, Mrs. Russo and I met with the grad parents two weeks ago. We will continue to send out information via Teams and on our website. Our Meat & Flower Grad Fundraising has already begun. See one of our grads or check out the website to stock up!

The Europe Trip students are also doing two fundraisers. The first is the Cheese Fundraiser and the second is a Spaghetti Dinner (Friday, November 24th). See the website for more details.

As a final reminder, when you do your recycling, if you use the Express Return Program, you can put in the school phone number (250-498-4931) and put a sticker on the clear bag. All funds go directly back to our students. It’s a quick and easy way to support our kids.

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IMPORTANT DATES

NOVEMBER 8 - SPACES PARENT MEETING
NOVEMBER 10 - REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY
NOVEMBER 10 - END OF QUARTER 1
NOVEMBER 13 - REMEMBRANCE DAY STAT, NO SCHOOL
NOVEMBER 14 - START OF QUARTER 2
NOVEMBER 20 - GRADE 10 CAREER FAIR - KELOWNA
NOVEMBER 21 - GRAD MEAT AND FLOWER ORDERS DUE
NOVEMBER 22 - GRADE 9 GARDOM LAKE PARENT MEETING, 5:30PM LIBRARY
NOVEMBER 23 - PAC MEETING, LIBRARY 6:30PM
NOVEMBER 24 - EUROPE TRIP SPAGHETTI DINNER, COMMUNITY CENTRE 6-8
NOVEMBER 29 - INQUIRY DAY, CLASSES OUT AT 11:55AM
DECEMBER 1/2 - SR. BOYS OKANA-QEN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT @ SOSS



SPAGHETTI DINNER

The group of students travelling to Europe this Spring Break will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner at the Community Center on Friday November 24th from 6-8pm. Come out and enjoy a delicious dinner prepared by Chef Jeff Van Geest and then head out to enjoy the Oliver Town Light Up. The evening will also include entertainment provided by the SOSS Young Stars. \$20 for your ticket goes directly towards the student travel costs. Order your tickets online [here](#) and pick up at the door. Additionally you can buy tickets in the school library. Thank you for your support.



Grade 8 and 9 students will have their reporting completed in Spaces. This platform allows for students and families to see continuous progress and samples of work with feedback from the students and teachers. To see your students' progress login to Spaces using the invitation from the classroom teacher. This [link](#) will provide instructions on how to access Spaces, how to interact with the content and for the end of the course how to access the Reporting Space.

An opportunity for help with Spaces will be available in the SOSS Library on Wednesday November 8th from 5:30-6:30pm. If you would like to ask questions please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Goncalves at rgoncalv@sd53.bc.ca.

WORKING ACADEMICS

Back in September, the Working Academics class was fortunate to go to Ms. Splane's orchard and pick about 300lbs of fruit for SOSS to enjoy. Not only have we been lucky to eat these apples, but they were also turned into apple sauce by Mr. Dyer and the Culinary class, along with dried apple slices by Mr. Wurflinger and the dehydrator crew! Next time you see Ms. Splane in and around the halls at SOSS, please be sure to thank her, and when you see an apple product on the food cart recognize the path it took to get to us in and around the school!



GRADE 9 GARDOM LAKE TRIP PARENT MEETING

If you have a child in grade 9, please attend a parent information meeting on November 22nd at 5:30 in the SOSS library.

For the past 2 years, we have taken our grade 9 students on an amazing adventure to Gardom Lake at the end of May. It has been a great bonding experience for the groups that went and it's a fantastic way to celebrate the end of grade 9 and the start of grade 10 and the pathway to graduation!

At the meeting we will discuss the itinerary and activities, dates, cost, possible fundraising, and much more. Please bring your grade 9 student with you to the meeting.

Look for an email invitation from Mr. Willms and please RSVP to that email so we know how many people to expect.



SOSS ATHLETICS

GRADE 8 GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

The volleyball season is nearly over, and it has been full of growth and bonding for the Grade 8 Girls team. All players have shown grit and determination in learning positions, skills such as hitting and overhand serving, and in competing in tough games. So far, the team has 5 wins and 3 losses in the league and will play

their final games at KVR this week. Next week are the playoffs for the valley and the team couldn't be more excited and ready. Go HORNETS



SENIOR BOYS VOLLEYBALL

The Senior Boys Volleyball season experienced considerable growth and development. We struggled against teams in our league, and it was at our most recent tournament in Nelson that we earned a couple wins. The growth by our grade 11 teammates puts us in good shape for next year and best of luck to our graduating teammates. Good job boys I am proud of you!!

SENIOR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

The season is starting to wind down for the Sr. Girls team. Coming off a great weekend of play in Castlegar, the team lost their last league game to finish 3rd. This weekend the team is off to Osoyoos Secondary for their final tournament. The team travels to Summerland on Monday for a playoff game.



JUNIOR BOYS VOLLEYBALL

The Junior Boys Volleyball Team has had a busy season. They have been playing on Thursday evenings in their South Zone League, hosted a home tournament and travelled to tournaments in Kelowna, Merritt, and Kamloops. This group of boys has worked to develop their individual skills. They have strived to understand, embrace, and implement various offensive and defensive tactics. They have grown as a team.

Although their results have been mixed, the Hornets are playing some of their best volleyball of the season. The Jr Boys Volleyball Team goes into South Zone Playoffs next Thursday with a chance to win one of 2 berths to the Valley Championships being held in Kelowna Nov 17/18. Good Luck Hornets!

JUNIOR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

The Junior Girls Volleyball teams (Ava Kosaka, Paige Loughheed, Jackie Sidorczuk, Alanna Guttormsson, Abby Wolfe, Maya Kreisel, Anissa Khodarahmi, Ayla Irwin) season has been nothing short of spectacular, with the team's commitment and considerable improvements setting the stage for an eventful year. The girls have truly shown their spirited resilience this season. Through hard work, dedication, and a passion for the sport, they have taken on every challenge with enthusiasm, perseverance and commitment. Their achievements are:

2nd Place at the Mt. Sentinel Tournament: The team started the season with a bang, securing an impressive 2nd place at the Mt. Sentinel Tournament. This early success set the tone for what was to come.

1st Place at the Hornet Invitational: Our girls demonstrated their strength and determination by emerging as champions at the Hornet Invitational. It was an outstanding achievement and a testament to their teamwork and skill.

2nd Place at the Rattler Rumble: The team continued to shine, finishing in 2nd place at the Rattler Rumble. The consistent high-level performance has been motivating.

The excitement doesn't stop here - the team is gearing up for the playoffs, which are set to take place the week of November 6. This is where the true test of determination, teamwork, and skill unfolds. We're confident that our team is well-prepared and ready to give their all.



INDIGENOUS DEPARTMENT

Every Wednesday (except early dismissal day), Nick hosts homework club in the gathering room from 2:45 until 4:00pm. It is open to everyone.

Stick Games is starting at SOSS, and we are looking to put a team together to compete with the other schools. See the Gathering Room for more information and watch for announcements of the meetings.

November 8th is a day that we take to remember the Indigenous peoples who fought in the First and Second World Wars. We honor all First Nations status and non status, Metis, and Inuits who fought. Those enlisted faced enfranchisement - meaning their status was removed. Upon returning home there were no celebrations like the other soldiers, nor did they receive the same support. One local from OIB served and lost his life. Ernie Baptiste George enlisted in the Second World War, and lost his life in France on December 14th 1944. There is a memorial for him located at the band office.



PAC NEWS

SOSS PAC Meeting

WHEN: Thursday, November 23 @ 6:30pm

WHERE: SOSS Library

Open to all parents and Guardians, we look forward to seeing you on November 23rd as we all build our school community.

A poster for the SOSS PAC Coffee Fundraiser. At the top, there are two logos: a bee on the left and a wolf on the right. The text "SOSS PAC COFFEE FUNDRAISER" is prominently displayed in the center. Below this, it says "PURCHASE LOCALLY OWNED & ROASTED COFFEE AND SUPPORT THE SOSS PAC SCHOLARSHIPS." It then lists coffee options: "Choose from a light/medium, dark, espresso or decaf blend. Each bag is 1lb and available ground or whole bean." It also mentions a 4-pack deal for \$20. A QR code is provided for ordering. At the bottom, there is a cup of coffee and a bag of coffee beans. The text "Questions? Please email SOSSPAC53@GMAIL.COM" is at the bottom left, and "Promotional photos by: @southernmountaindesign" is at the bottom right.

GRAD FUNDRAISING MEAT/FLOWERS

The Grad 2023 winter fundraiser has begun. Grads will be selling frozen meat and food items and an amazing selection of floral and greenery products.

The Frozen Food orders and payments are due back to the office and online by Tuesday November 21st. You can order frozen food at: SOSS Grad Fundraising.

The Flower and Greenery order deadline is Tuesday November 21st. You can order the flower and greenery online at: Growing Smiles Fundraising.

Payment can also be made by cash or cheque and we also accept debit and credit card payment in person at the school. Order forms are included with the Newsletter. All orders will be ready for pickup Friday, December 8th between 3:30 - 6:00 PM in the parking lot in front of SOSS.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Kitt or Mrs. Koffler.



HALLOWEEN FUN



✦ FAIR NOTICE ✦

RESPONSE TO THREAT-MAKING BEHAVIOUR

School District 53 (Okanagan Similkameen) is committed to a safe and supportive environment for all. We take all threatening comments and behaviours seriously. Students, staff and parents should be aware of the District's Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol that can be found on the district website at www.sd53.bc.ca and in all school main offices.

WHAT IS A THREAT

- ✦ A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something
- ✦ A threat may be verbal, written, drawn, posted electronically or made by gesture
- ✦ A threat may include any high risk behaviour such as possession of a weapon

WHAT IS A THREAT ASSESSMENT

Threat assessment is a process that is followed when a school becomes aware of a threat made against a student, staff member, or the safety of the school building and its occupants. When any form of a threat is made, a threat assessment team will investigate and appropriately enact the District's Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol. A threat assessment team is made up of individuals who have received formal threat assessment training.

WHAT PARENTS AND STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW

- ✦ Any threat must be reported to the school administration, counsellor or some other trusted adult
- ✦ Investigation may involve the police and/or other community agencies
- ✦ Investigation may involve locker or personal property searches
- ✦ Interviews will be held with the threat-maker and other students or adults who may have information about the threat
- ✦ Parents of students who are directly involved will be notified
- ✦ Threatening behaviour may result in discipline for a student
- ✦ An intervention plan may be developed for the student making the threat and a support plan developed for any individuals targeted by threats

EVERYONE HAS A DUTY TO REPORT

Often when we hear in the media about a violent incident, we learn that the threat-maker had made threats in advance of acting violently. To keep our school communities safe, students, parents, staff and community members must report all threat-related behaviours and high-risk activities.

School District 53 (Okanagan Similkameen) will follow up on every reported threat.

