

DECEMBER 2023

SOUTHERN OKANAGAN SECONDARY SCHOOL

HOME OF THE HORNETS

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The holidays are approaching quickly and there is excitement and energy as we enter the last few weeks before the break. Our fall sports have wrapped up and the winter sports are just getting started. Thank you to all our coaches for providing these opportunities for our students.

A big thank you to Ms. Ibaraki, Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Koffler and Mr. Kitt for organizing the Grad Meat and Flower Fundraiser this year. This event helps our grads to pay off their grad fees. Thank you to everyone who supported this event, and we hope you enjoy your purchases. Pick up is Friday, December 8th from 3:30pm-6:00pm at the front entrance.

A big thank you to Linda and Larry Larson for providing juice, milk, and granola bars to our breakfast program on a regular basis and to our community partners who donate to the Starfish Program. This year, we are fortunate to have additional funding through the Feeding Futures Fund for families in need. If you are in need of some additional support around food or winter clothing, please contact the office.

The Grads will be hosting a school-wide breakfast on Friday, December 8th and on Thursday, December 21st we will be hosting a school-wide luncheon. These are free for all students, and we are really looking forward to them.

Mrs. Podmorow and her senior Drama class are busily working on Christmas Chaos. This yearly performance is a much loved and highly anticipated tradition at SOSS as you are never truly sure of the final script. There are always many laughs and a few inside jokes. This year, we will be watching the performance in the theatre. Christmas Chaos performance will be on Friday, December 22nd.

Link Crew is organizing the Five Dress up Days of Christmas and Ms. Ibaraki and Ms. Seymour are organizing the Christmas Store for our Priority families. If you would like to make a cash donation to the Christmas Store, use Student Quick Pay on our website, or come in and drop it off at the office. Every little bit counts! Last year around 80 students were able to participate.

Happy Holidays to you and your family! We look forward to working with all of you in 2024!

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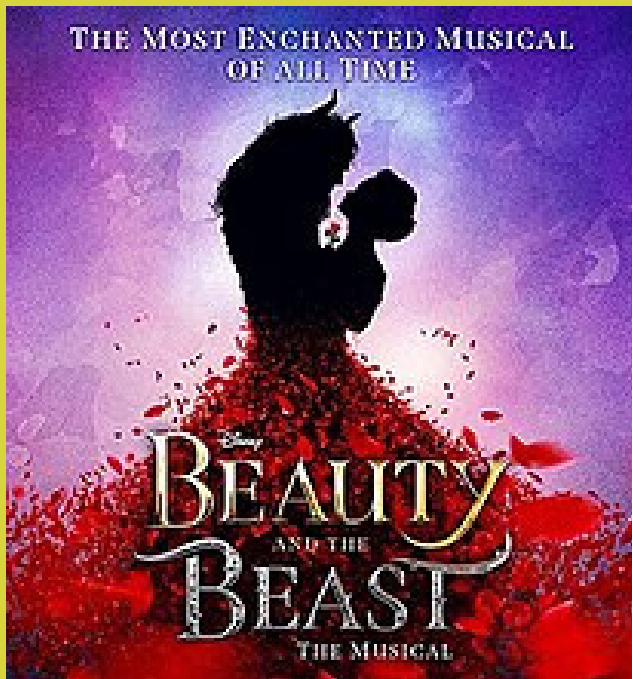
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IMPORTANT DATES



DECEMBER 8 GRAD MEAT AND FLOWER PICK-UP, 3:30 - 6:30
DECEMBER 8/9 JR GIRLS TIP OFF BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
DECEMBER 13 SR GIRLS/BOYS BASKETBALL VS. PMSS, 5PM
DECEMBER 15/16 SR GIRLS DESERT INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT
DECEMBER 18-22 SPIRIT WEEK
DECEMBER 19 GR 8 GIRLS/BOYS BASKETBALL VS PSS, 4PM
DECEMBER 21 CHRISTMAS CHAOS, 7PM FRANK VENABLES THEATRE
DECEMBER 22 LAST DAY OF CLASSES BEFORE WINTER BREAK
JANUARY 8 FIRST DAY BACK AFTER WINTER BREAK

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST



SOSS Musical Theatre is currently working on a stage version of the Disney classic tale as old as time, **Beauty and the Beast**. The story tells the tale of an enchanted prince who has been transformed into a hideous beast because he is selfish and unkind. Only true love can break the spell on him and his castle. A young, intelligent woman enters his life. She must learn to love him if the curse is ever to be broken. The stage version of **Beauty and the Beast** has enthralled theatre audiences for more than 20 years. The SOSS Musical cast and crew are extremely excited to be taking on this endeavor. The show will be presented March 7th, 8th, and 9th, in the Venable Theatre. Tickets will go on sale in January.

SOSS HOLIDAY SPIRIT WEEK



SPIRIT WEEK WILL BE DECEMBER 18-22. EACH DAY WILL BE A DIFFERENT THEME. THEMES THIS YEAR ARE: JERSEY DAY, TWIN DAY, CHRISTMAS SWEATER DAY, TACKY TOURIST DAY, AND FORMAL FRIDAY.





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.

SOGI-inclusive resources are one of many tools used by teachers in schools to promote understanding and acceptance of every member of our community, regardless of race, culture, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Sexual orientation and gender identity are protected under the BC Human Rights Code, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and provincial legislation and we are committed to ensuring that our school is welcoming and all students feel safe and supported.

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 promotes a specific sexual orientations or gender identity.

FACT: SOGI-inclusive education does not promote any specific identity or orientation and is designed to create a safe and inclusive environment for all students, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. It aims to combat discrimination by fostering representations of all types of people within classroom resources and enhancing awareness of the experiences and challenges faced by 2SLGBTQ+ individuals.

SKATEBOARD CLUB

We wrapped up the fall season with a trip up to West Kelowna Skatepark and a training session with the Kelowna Skateboard Association.

Skaters worked with Ollie Tatum of One Boardshop and Anna Zeitner of the Kelowna Skateboard Association to develop street and halfpipe skills. Everyone in the club can drop in and pump, with some major advances in fundamentals and a few lip tricks coming out of the bag. It's so great to see everyone building skills and confidence, and supporting each other.

Skate club will return after Spring Break. New members are always welcome, even if you're a total beginner. Check us out on instagram: @sossskateboardclub.



SENIOR FIELD HOCKEY

Senior Field Hockey had a huge season this year—one which involved lots of games, lots of travel and a lot of practice. Team members' commitment, enthusiasm and work ethic were amazing. Thanks to everyone who supported these students in their efforts, and thank you to the maintenance crew for keeping the fields in beautiful and safe playing form! In the 21 games prior to the Provincials Championships, the Hornets won 10, tied 8, and lost only 3 games. They were extremely stingy defensively all season, allowing only a handful of goals, and their great team play brought the AA Valley Championship Trophy back to SOSS. As Okanagan 1st seed to Provincial Championships in West Vancouver, the Hornets played hard and continued their strong defense, but just couldn't muster the offense they needed to steal wins. They earned a 12th place finish amongst a group of super-strong field hockey teams. Congratulations to graduating Field Hockey Hornets Emma K, Kaylee, Emma M, Mya, Jordyn and Anabel on a great finish to their 5 years of play, and for bringing so much to our team.

Team Photo, Back Row (l to r): Coach Nofle, Riya Chahal, Olivia Veenendaal, Ishmeet Dhaliwal, Maia Bellingan, Mya Crowley, Harnoor Brar, Olivia Goncalves, Emma Klassen, Coach Lang. Front Row: Lilah Smith, Kismet Dhaliwal, Emma Millward, Anabel Lefebvre, Kaylee Klassen, Kate Nofle, Heera Buttar, Jordyn Koteles, Annelise Goncalves.



INDIGENOUS DEPARTMENT

November was busy for the Gathering Room. We took several students to the UBCO student day in Kelowna. The students went on a tour of the campus and saw the resources that are available to them, if they choose to attend. The room will be planning a lunch in December for our students to celebrate the holidays. On behalf of everyone in the Gathering Room we wish you a Merry Christmas Xast Sputa!!





December's Mental Health Moment



Important Dates:

3rd	International Day Of Persons With Disabilities
10th	Human Rights Day
12th	Universal Health Day
15th	Ugly Sweater Day
25th	Christmas Day
26th	Kwanzaa
31st	New Years Eve



Take a look:

- We Think in Pictures But Speak In Words
- Mental Illness Happy Hour
- The Anxiety Healer's Guide



Holiday Self-Care Tips:

PRIORITIZE "ME TIME"

This self-care time will rejuvenate your spirit and keep stress at bay!

SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Setting achievable goals will help you feel more in control and less stressed.

STAY ACTIVE

Exercise releases endorphins, which can boost your mood and reduce stress.

PRACTICE GRATITUDE

Shift your focus away from stressors and towards the positive aspects of the season.

SET BOUNDARIES

Saying "no" when necessary is an act of self-care.

[LINK TO ARTICLE](#)



"I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights."

—Maya Angelou