



OCTOBER 2024

SOUTHERN OKANAGAN SECONDARY SCHOOL

HOME OF THE HORNETS

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome fall! Thank you to our Indigenous Advocates for organizing our Truth & Reconciliation activity on Friday. It was great to see so much participation.

Mrs. Podmorow and Link Crew organized our Terry Fox Run last week. Together, staff and students raised over \$1,700 for cancer research. Congratulations everyone for your generous support.

Athletic teams are in full swing thanks to the organization of our Athletic Director, Mr. Podmorow. This year for the fall sports, we have volleyball, field hockey, boys' soccer and cross-country with over 150 students participating on one or more teams. We wish all student athletes a fun and positive season and a huge thank you to all the coaches who are volunteering their time to work with our kids.

The cafeteria is again up and running with delicious food being prepared by our students under the guidance of Mr. Dyer. The monthly menu has been posted on our website. Cafeteria \$60 punch cards are available in the office. Our online payment system is also up and running. If you haven't already paid school fees, please do so as soon as possible.

The first grad parent meeting will be on Thursday, October 10 at 6:00pm in the library. All grad parents are encouraged to attend. The Auto-Dialer system is no longer in place, and we are still working on getting the "School Messenger" system up and running. If your child has missed a block during the day and we have not been notified, the system will phone and email you. Please let the office know if your contact information has changed so we can update it in the system. If your child is going to be away, please let us know.

Thanks to the support of Sam Marsel, the Rotary Club and numerous local business partners as we are pleased to announce that the Starfish Backpack program is back for the fourth year. This program ensures that children in need have food to take home every weekend. These generous donations can support up to twelve children, every weekend, for the full year. We are extremely grateful.

On a different note, please be advised that in accordance with Policy D-1 there is no smoking or vaping on school grounds. If students are in breach of this, parents will be contacted, and appropriate consequences will be assigned. For more information, check out the following [LINK](#).

As a safety reminder, please remember that student pick up and drop off is in the front or back of the school not in the parking lot and not in the bus lanes. Safety is our number one priority and bus lanes are busy enough without adding more vehicles. Thanks for your cooperation on this.

October 23rd is Family Conferences. These will be held in-person. The registration email will be sent out soon and is included in this newsletter. Please be reminded this is an early dismissal day for students. October 24th is also an early dismissal day. Pro D is October 25 and there is no school.

Our next PAC meeting will be October 17 at 6:30pm in the library. We encourage all parents to come out and be involved. We are looking forward to an awesome year! Please don't hesitate to check out our website. Take care and stay healthy.

T. Harrington

Southern Okanagan Secondary School
6140 Gala Street
PO Box 990
Oliver, BC V0H 1T0

Phone: 250-498-4931
Fax: 250-498-6957
Website: soss.sd53.bc.ca
Email: soss@sd53.bc.ca

GRAD INFORMATION

There will be a Grad Parent Meeting on Thursday, October 10th from 6 to 7 PM in the SOSS Library. The meeting will cover topics such as where to find grad information, the required CLC 12 course, prom, dry grad trip, post-secondary applications, scholarships, bursaries, and more.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

IMPORTANT DATES

OCTOBER 9	PANCAKE BREAKFAST
OCTOBER 14	THANKSGIVING, NO SCHOOL
OCTOBER 15	PICTURE RE-TAKES
OCTOBER 23	FAMILY CONFERENCES, EARLY DISMISSAL
OCTOBER 24	EARLY DISMISSAL AT 11:55
OCTOBER 25	PRO-D DAY, NO SCHOOL
OCTOBER 30	INQUIRY DAY, EARLY DISMISSAL AT 11:55



FAMILY CONFERENCES

Family Conferences are on Wednesday, October 23rd from 2-4 pm and 5-7 pm. All conferences will be in person. Please book your conferences using this [LINK](#).



SKATEBOARD CLUB

The fall season is in full swing. We had a great session in Penticton with Teoh's big FS 180s on the flat bank drop to flat bank, Eden attempting to ollie the 9-set, and Felix with some nice clean lines in the big bowl. We were glad to see Xavier back after his injury and we welcomed some new members. We were also lucky enough to bump into our alumni member Pete in Oliver. He was handing out trick tips and being creative, as always. We ended up seeing some clean rock-to-fakies and rock-and-rolls from Felix, Teoh and Eden, and Xavier began learning fakie 360 shuvs, which we look forward to seeing next trip.

We will be joined by our friends in Osoyoos in the coming weeks, and are looking forward to a possible trip to the Airhouse again when the weather gets less pleasant. As always, a huge thanks to Respect Record and Skate for continuing to support Oliver Skateboarding and the SOSS Skateboard Club. Thanks for keeping us rolling!



LASER STRIKE 
Presents
REVILO
HAUNTED
ASYLUM TOUR

OCTOBER 29-31
5 PM - 9 PM

Admission By Donation, Proceeds going to a local Charity
Bo Betty's Food Truck On Site During Tour Hours
SOSS Students In Collaboration With Laser Strike

 **5966 Sawmill Road Oliver** 

TERRY FOX RUN

The annual SOSS Terry Fox Run took place on September 26. The run was a tremendous success thanks to the great efforts of Link Crew, students and staff. We raised over \$1700.00 in support of cancer research. The school's commitment to keeping Terry's dream alive is truly inspiring. Together, we continue to make a difference, one step at a time. Thank you to everyone who participated and donated.

A special thank you goes out to Curran, Jude, Zachary, Jesse, Ava, Thomas, and Hugo for being willing runners!



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION DAY





CODE OF CONDUCT



SMOKE-FREE, SMOKELESS TOBACCO-FREE AND ELECTRONIC SMOKING PRODUCTS-FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT (Policy D-1)

In the interest of the health of students, staff and all others who use or visit schools and school district facilities, B.C.'s Tobacco Control Act makes it illegal to use tobacco on school property at any time. As per section 2.2(2) "a person must not smoke or use tobacco, or electronic smoking products, or hold lighted tobacco, in or on school property".

Always ban in effect: The law makes tobacco or smokeless products prohibited on school property illegal both during and outside of regular classroom hours.

The law applies to everyone: Students, staff, parents and the general public (including groups that rent school facilities outside of school hours) are affected by the law.

All school district facilities are included in the ban: Tobacco use is not permitted on any part of a property that is owned, leased or operated by a school board, or any property that is used for the purpose of delivering educational or other learning programs.

All Okanagan Similkameen School District employees are responsible for ensuring the law and board policy are followed in the best interests of everyone's health

SOSS – 2024/25 STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

This code is designed to provide guidelines for appropriate student conduct while under the jurisdiction of the school while:

- travelling to and from school
- at school
- at any school function whenever and wherever held

Consistent with the BC Human Rights Code the Student Code of Conduct is intended to ensure that all students regardless of age, race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, family status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and mental or physical disability have equal access, status and acceptance and safety within the school setting.

Students who do not meet the Code of Conduct expectations can expect consequences from the school. These consequences will be consistent with the seriousness of the issue and appropriate for the students' age, maturity, and cognitive level. Furthermore, the school will notify parents, RCMP, social service agencies, counselors or school board when deemed appropriate and/or necessary. As much as possible consequences will be of a restorative and progressive nature rather than punitive and may include restitution, repair, mediation, conferencing, counseling, service or assistance.

Link to Okanagan Similkameen School District
Student Conduct and Discipline Policy F3 & F14 Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
<http://www.sd53.bc.ca/district/pols/PolicyF-3.pdf>



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES



Keeping Our Schools Safe

The Okanagan Similkameen School District is committed to providing safe and caring environments in which all learners can achieve academic excellence, personal growth and responsible citizenship. Safe and caring school environments are free from acts of:

- bullying, harassment, threat and intimidation
- violence in any form
- verbal, physical or sexual abuse/exploitation
- discrimination
- theft and vandalism

Safe and caring schools do not tolerate the presence of:

- intoxicating substances
- weapons, explosives, intruders or trespassers

It is expected that students will:

- neither take part in, nor condone (provoke, encourage or make a spectacle of) any form of violence
- seek to prevent violence and potentially violent situations
- not use, possess or display any weapon, replica weapon or toy weapon on any school property or at any event that is organized or sponsored by a school
- not use, possess or sell any intoxicating or controlled substances
- demonstrate appropriate digital stewardship
- show respect for the property of others by refraining from theft, vandalism, graffiti and other inappropriate behaviours
- abstain from smoking/vaping on school, and all other District, property.
- attend daily and on time at the appointed hours
- use respectful language and refrain from using obscenity or profanity while in a school building, on school or District property and at school-sponsored activities
- demonstrate commitment to learning by coming to school prepared to learn and by contributing to a positive, orderly, and peaceful environment
- practice academic and personal integrity by not participating in or encouraging plagiarism, cheating, theft of evaluation instruments, use of unauthorized aids, or false representation of identity
- maintain appropriate standards of dress and hygiene

Starting in September 2024, there has been an update to our code of conduct concerning the use of personal digital devices at our school. These restrictions are in accordance with the amended Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Order from the Ministry of Education and Child Care and apply to Board Policy E3, Technology Access and Use. This new order's main goals are to promote online safety and create a more focused learning environment for our students.

The new policy includes the following key points:

- **Device Restrictions:** Students will not be allowed to use personal digital devices during instructional hours unless explicitly permitted by a teacher for educational purposes.
- **Accessibility and Accommodations:** Exceptions will be made for students with specific accessibility or medical needs, ensuring that all students have the support they require.