

FALL NEWSLETTER 2020

Home of the Hornets!

Principal's Message

Welcome back to another school year at SOSS. September is always a busy and exciting month. I would like to welcome our new staff including Mr. Kaiser (Science, Math, CLE), Ms. Karrow (PE, Socials), Mr. Johnson (PE, Math), Mr. Carriere (Spanish, Foods), Mr. Willms (Counsellor), Mrs. Koffler (Head Secretary), Kim Tighe (EA), and Shynai Borho (Indigenous Advocate).

We would like to also welcome all the new families who have settled into the community. Our enrollment for September is very similar to last year with just over 500 students. Thanks to the hard work of our counsellors, Mr. Willms, Ms. Ibaraki, and our Librarian Mrs. Goncalves, we have been able to settle students into their classes with minimal disruption.

Mrs. Podmorow and Link Crew have been instrumental in welcoming the grade 8's to SOSS with an action-packed first day of school. Tuesday, September 29th was our Terry Fox Spirit Day (in their Learning Groups following the PHO guidelines) Students participated in the three-kilometer route followed by a barbeque lunch fundraiser for all staff and students in the "U". Thank you for donating to this worthwhile cause where over \$1100.00 was raised. Additionally, Orange Shirt Day was on Wednesday, September 30th.

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 and field hockey with over 80 students participating on one or more teams. Of course, this year is different. Students are playing within their Learning Group. Mr. Podmorow previously sent an email describing how athletics at SOSS will roll out. 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 Ms. Ibaraki. The monthly menu has been posted. Check it out on our website. Cafeteria \$30 punch cards are available in the office. Our Rycor system is also up and going..... If you haven't already paid school fees, please do so as soon as possible. You can pay for fees on our website using this link <https://www.studentquickpay.com/ossd53/>. Debit is also available this year for lunch purchases.

The Auto-Dialer system is in place again this year. 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

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Principal's Message Cont.....

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 business partners as we are pleased to announce that the Starfish Backpack program is coming to the high school. This program ensures that children in need have food to take home every weekend. These generous donations can support up to ten children, every weekend, for the full year. We are extremely grateful.

On a different note, please be advised that in accordance to 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.

<https://video.edweek.org/detail/videos/popular-videos/video/5816269412001/are-students-juuling-in-your-classroom?autoStart=true>

As a safety reminder, please remember that student pick up and drop off is on Gala Street in front or back of the school and **not in the bus lanes**. Our next PAC meeting will be October 15th 6:00pm via ZOOM. We encourage all parents to be involved. Contact Karen Somerville at 250-689-0130 to be added to the Zoom meeting.

We would like to recognize how hard the students, staff and parents are working to adhere and follow all of the Health and Safety guidelines put into place. We are looking forward to an awesome year!

Tracy Harrington

Important Dates to Remember

October 12	Thanksgiving Day (no school)
October 15	PAC Meeting, 6:00pm—ZOOM
October 20	Early dismissal Day, 12:45- Parent Teacher Interviews
October 20	Parent Teacher Interviews 2-4 pm & 5-7pm
October 22	Early dismissal day, 12:45am
October 23	Pro-D Day (no school)
October 25	Professional Development Day (no school)
October 28	Inquiry—early dismissal 11:57am



Overdue Student Fees

All students must pay a \$25 student activity fee. This covers locker costs, and activities throughout the year. Even if your child does not want a locker, they still must pay the activity fee. New students are required to pay a \$35 textbook deposit. This will be returned at the end of their tenure at SOSS once all books have been returned in good condition. Math students may be required to purchase a workbook; cost varies by class.

All outstanding student fees are now due! Payments can be made by cash, cheque, interac, credit card or online using our new Student Quick Pay. Click this link <https://www.studentquickpay.com/ossd53/> to create an account. Set up the account with your own email address and password. You will also need the Student ID and last name of each student you wish to add to your account.

Student Drop off/Pick-up

Reminder that drop off and pick up must happen in the back of the school or on Gala Street. **ABSOLUTELY NO PARKING/PICKING UP/DROPPING OFF IN THE BUS LANES IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL WILL BE PERMITTED.**

Office Info

Absences: Please advise the office (not just classroom teachers) if your son/daughter is going to be absent for any reason or duration of time.

Contact info: Please let us know of any changes to your address, phone number or email address.

Consent Forms: Please return the Parent/Guardian consent form to the office as soon as possible. These forms give permission for students to use technology, go on walking trips etc.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Parent/Teacher Interviews are October 20th. A separate e-mail will be sent out shortly with details on how these will be proceeding.

News from your PAC

Future PAC meetings will be by Zoom. If you would like to attend please contact Karen Somerville at 250-689-0130.

Up-coming Meeting Dates:

October 15th, 6pm

AGM and Meeting, November 19th, 6pm

No meeting December.

January 20, 6pm





Volleyball

Grade 8 volleyball will look a little different this year with co-ed practices and no inter-school competitions. However, we will practice every Tuesday and Wednesday afterschool from 3-4:30pm, working to build our skills, teamwork, and overall athleticism. Everyone is welcome at these practices and Mrs. McIntyre and Mrs. Seminoff are excited to be working with this year's grade 8s.



Field Hockey

The Hornets field hockey team is getting fresh air up on the field on Mondays and Thursdays. It's good to have the opportunity to get together and hit the ball around again. SOSS sports teams are open to all students this fall, so it's still not too late to join and pick up some new skills.

Writing Club

Writing club is coming.... If you are a creative writer and want to join a group of others who write, Mr. McKinnon will be running a writing club once the weather turns. Stay tuned in October for more details.

Skateboard Club

Skateboard Club will be back starting next week. We will walk to the Oliver Small Wheels Park and skate Thursday afternoons until the weather changes and in spring we will start up again for travel to other local parks. Skaters should see Mr. McKinnon (Room 206) for permission forms and safety training, and will need a skateboard and a helmet.

RECON

(Research and Education Collaborative Occultation Network)

The first two RECON campaigns of this school year will be on Oct. 18th and 21st. If you are interested in taking part in these campaigns, please get in touch with either Mrs. McIntyre or Mr. Johnson. Below is a brief outline of the RECON project (taken from their official website) and an overview of SOSS's contribution to it.

"Have you ever wondered what's found in the outer reaches of our solar system? It turns out many, many objects orbit the sun out past Neptune. Called trans-Neptunian objects (TNOs), these frozen bodies were formed at the same time as the rest of our solar system – making them close to four and a half billion years old. Determining the sizes of these objects will help us better understand their formation and composition, and could tell us a great deal about the origins of our solar system. One population of these objects is called the Kuiper Belt. Pluto was the first Kuiper Belt Object (KBO) discovered in 1930. Since 1992, we have discovered over a thousand KBOs and it is estimated that there are more than 100,000 objects larger than 100km in diameter in this region of our solar system. Our goal is to measure the sizes of a particular category of these objects known as "cold classical KBOs." These objects are in nearly circular orbits around the sun that have likely not been altered since the formation of the solar system."

To measure the size of a TNO, we use the shadow it casts on Earth as the TNO moves in front of a distant star – an event called an occultation. SOSS is part of a network of telescopes spanning from southern California up to Vernon that try to capture these occultation events. Throughout the year, we take part in approximately 5-7 occultation events, where we take our telescope out in the middle of the night onto the upper school field.



Post-Secondary Information

Students in Grades 11 and 12 will have an opportunity to gather more information about Post-Secondary options during the annual Post-Secondary Information sessions.... BUT... as with everything Covid19 related... Things are going to be different.

Post-Secondary BC is a website that helps students manage the transition between High School and Post-Secondary. From this site, students and parents can get information on programs, learn about application procedures, and attend virtual events. Post-Secondary BC: <https://www.postsecondarybc.ca/>

Apply to post-secondary schools on Education Planner: <https://www.educationplannerbc.ca/>

You can explore post-secondary options and admission requirements on Education Planner. Be sure to check out this page!

Virtual Post-Secondary Fair

The Virtual Fair will have representatives from all the Post-Secondary Institutions in BC providing information about programs in a live format. They will provide students with links to presentations that are live or recorded. Students can chat with the reps about programs and learn more about what they have to offer. Students will need to register from the link below to access the fair.

Our students and parents will have access to the Virtual Post-Secondary Fair hosted by Post-Secondary BC on:

October 5 2:00 pm-6:00 pm

October 6 3:00 pm-7:00 pm

Virtual Fair Link: <https://postsecondarybcvirtualfair.easyvirtualfair.com>

If you have any questions about the Virtual Fair, please contact Ms. Ibaraki, Mr. Willms, Mrs. Goncalves, or Mr. Kitt



Harman Buttar and Kaitlyn Nemeth having fun with music!

News from the Library

Ebooks and Audiobooks are at SOSS! We are excited to continue with SORA for our students to access books and audiobooks on their mobile devices.

If accessing the materials through the internet the link is <https://soraapp.com/library/bcnsdcca> and on mobile devices (Phones or Tablets) download the SORA app from the store.

Select 'School District 53 Okanagan Similkameen' as the library and use your school login information to login. (Username: lastnamefirstname and Password: student number). Once you have accessed your book it will show how many days left you have it borrowed for, at which point the book will be pulled from your device.

And as always, if there are books that you would like to read but are currently not in our Library, please let Mrs. Goncalves or Mrs. Wolfe know and we will add them to our book order list.

Happy Reading!



TERRY FOX

Our Annual Terry Fox Day was held on September 29th. Students ran in their cohorts and prizes were awarded to the top 3 racers. Students also received raffle tickets for their donations for a chance to win some amazing prizes. There were hot dogs, ice cream and pop sales during lunch and all proceeds were donated. We have raised over \$1,100 for this worthwhile cause!

SAGA

(Sexuality and Gender Alliance)

SOSS is excited to announce SAGA Club's return! We will be meeting in Ms. Shione's room on Fridays from 11:30 to the end of lunch. This club offers a space for students who identify with the LGBTQIA+ communities and allies. The club is meant to serve as a safe space that welcomes and celebrates students' individuality.



Indigenous Department

Way' (hello) families,

We are welcoming a new Indigenous Advocate to our team, Shynai Borho. Shynai is Shushwap from Invermere originally. Shynai comes to us with an open heart and is looking forward to meeting everyone.

September has been a busy month for the Indigenous department here at SOSS. We started the year off by hosting two separate information dinners for our Indigenous families based around health and safety information. We shared bannock and chili and a few laughs as well following all PHO guidelines.

We have been going into classes and getting familiar with all our students. In EFP 10 (English First Peoples) your children will be familiar with us as we are in that class daily. In EFP we are going on local field trips around the area. We have gone to Nk'mp and learned about pit houses and Syilx culture, we are going for walks to the river and learning about local traditional ceremonies and medicines.

September 26th was a new day of recognition to celebrate the wearing of our traditional Ribbon skirts and shirts. We asked a few of our students to join in on the first one and take some photos for the hashtag: #myribbonskirt, to create awareness of our traditions and culture.

September 30th was Orange Shirt day. At SOSS we added an announcement to explain the importance of orange shirt day and handed out orange pins and encouraged staff and students to wear orange shirts. We invited a Residential School Survivor and Family Preservation worker from OIB to come in and speak with our EFP 10 class. We have also been going into classes to do activities and talk about the importance of Orange shirt day. We look forward to October and all fall has to offer.

Lim Lim't (thank you),
Shannon Peltier
Shynai Borho
Indigenous Education Advocates



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 – 2020/21 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 expectations of the Code of Conduct can expect that there will be 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 behaviors
- 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
- maintain healthy lifestyle and attitude



Cafeteria October Menu

21 Day 2	22 Day 1	23 Day 2	24 Day 1	25		
Students in Training	Students in Training	Students in Training	Students in Training	Broccoli Cheddar Soup		
No Service	No Service	No Service	No Service	Macaroni & Cheese 🥕		
28 Day 1	29 Day 2	30 Day 1	1 Day 2	2 Day 1		
No Service	TERRY FOX RUN! Hot Dogs \$1.00 All proceeds to Terry Fox Foundation	No Service	Red Pepper Corn Chowder 🥕 Quesadillas (chicken or veggie)	No Service		
5 Day 2	6 Day 1	7 Day 2	8 Day 1	9 Day 2		
Borscht	No Service	Chicken Tortilla Soup	No Service	Italian Sausage Gnocchi Soup		
Perogies & Bacon		Taco Salad		Chicken Alfredo		
12	13 Day 1	14 Day 2	15 Day 1	16 Day 2		
Thanksgiving	No Service	Wonton Soup	No Service	Cream of Mushroom Soup		
No School		Teriyaki Bowl		Pulled Pork		
SEPT/OCT 2020			Entrée	\$4.00	Desserts	\$0.50-\$1.00
			Small Soup	\$2.50	Juice	\$1.00
			Large Soup	\$3.00		
			*soup served with fresh bread			

🍷 = vegetarian option available

**menu subject to change – check cafeteria TV☺

