

HOME OF THE HORNETS

MARCH 2026

SOUTHERN OKANAGAN SECONDARY SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome, March!

A huge thank-you to Mrs. Podmorow and her team for all their hard work preparing for the Rock of Ages production that took place last week. I hope you all saw it, as the talent in this school is outstanding. A shout out to the grade 12 students who are graduating this year. You are leaving a legacy. Thanks to Mr. Russo for organizing the Apex Ski/Snowboard Day and the Baldy Ski/Snowboard day. It is always wonderful when we can provide opportunities for our students to be active.

Basketball season has now wrapped up, and our spring athletics are underway. We are excited to have over one hundred students participating in Ultimate, Soccer, Golf, and Tennis. Thank you to all our coaches for supporting our athletes. Our seasons start when we get back from Spring Break.

Family Conferences are just around the corner. They will be held on Thursday, April 9th from 1:00–3:00 pm and 4:00–6:00 pm. Parents must sign up online to book a time. A reminder that appointments are scheduled in ten-minute increments; if more time is needed, please arrange an additional meeting directly with your child's teacher. (Please note early dismissal on April 9th and 10th.)

Course selections should now be entered into the system. Please check MyBlueprint if you would like to review your child's choices. Immediately after March Break, we will begin reviewing requests as part of next year's scheduling and staffing process. If your child has not yet submitted their selections, please encourage them to see Mrs. Goncalves as soon as possible.

We are missing many textbooks from the last few semesters. If you can have a look at home for any textbooks that belong to SOSS. Please return them to the library asap.

Spirit Day is upon us.. Link Crew is organizing a spirit event on Thursday, March 12th, and the grads will be hosting a school-wide breakfast.

Our next PAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 9th. New members are always welcome.

We hope you have a relaxing and fun-filled March Break. We look forward to seeing everyone back on March 30th. Safe travels to our group heading to Europe and everyone else who is traveling during spring break.

IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH 14-29

APRIL 3

APRIL 6

APRIL 9

APRIL 9

APRIL 10

APRIL 17 & 18

SPRING BREAK

GOOD FRIDAY - NO SCHOOL

EASTER MONDAY - NO SCHOOL

FAMILY CONFERENCES, 1-3 & 4-7

EARLY DISMISSAL, 11:55

EARLY DISMISSAL, 11:55

DISTRICT POWWOW @ SOSS

Twelve students from Grades 8 to 12 represented our school at the 48th Physics Olympics at UBC Vancouver, joining 79 teams from across the province in a full day of engineering and physics-based challenges. Students competed in two pre-build events: one requiring teams to design a device capable of launching a hacky sack as far as possible within given constraints, and another requiring them to engineer a mechanism to carry a phone up and down a pole with the least acceleration. They also took part in four on-site events, including a physics knowledge competition, a Fermi question challenge, and two lab-based problem-solving activities. This rigorous competition pushed students to apply engineering principles, use their physics and math knowledge, and think critically in hands-on lab scenarios. Our team: Lilah Smith, Rocky Toon, Warispreet Brar, Anden Moura, Olivia Goncalves, Brooklyn Methven, Fanilo Andrianasolo, Morgan Linders, Sophia Pearle, Rajpreet Brar, Evelin Enockson, and Ruthann Brown, gained valuable experience and demonstrated impressive creativity and problem-solving skills throughout the event.



GARDOM LAKE

THE ANNUAL GRADE 9 TRIP TO GARDOM LAKE WILL BE MAY 26-28 THIS YEAR. THIS IS A FANTASTIC 3 DAY, 2 NIGHT TRIP TO AN OUTDOOR CAMP NEAR SALMON ARM.

STUDENTS SPEND THE THREE DAYS PARTICIPATING IN A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES AT A SUMMER CAMP. STUDENTS STAY IN CABINS AND FOOD IS PREPARED BY CHEFS AT THE CAMP. THE TRIP COST IS \$250 AND THERE ARE PAYMENTS SET UP ON THE STUDENT QUICKPAY SYSTEM. WE ARE AWARE THIS TRIP IS EXPENSIVE AND WOULD LIKE TO ENSURE THIS TRIP IS ACCESSIBLE FOR ANY GRADE 9 STUDENTS WHO WANT TO ATTEND. PLEASE CONTACT MR. ADAM IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE PAYING PART OR ALL OF THE FEES TO ATTEND THIS TRIP.

CONGRATULATIONS to Lynnea Holmstrom and Gus Holmstrom who competed at the BC Winter Games in Archery. Lynnea finished 6th overall in the women's category and Gus finished 7th overall in the men's category!

SKATEBOARD CLUB WILL BE BACK AFTER SPRING BREAK. SKATERS SHOULD COLLECT THEIR PERMISSION FORMS FROM MR. MCKINNON IN ROOM 206. LISTEN TO THE ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MORE DETAILS. EVERYONE IS WELCOME. BRING YOUR OWN HELMET. SEE YOU IN APRIL!!!

41st Annual Spaghetti Bridge Building Contest

We were proud to have four teams represent our school at the 41st Annual Spaghetti Bridge Building Contest held at Okanagan College in Kelowna. Students worked extremely hard as they designed and constructed bridges that met the competition requirements: each bridge needed to span at least 50 cm and support 1 kg for 60 seconds. All teams chose to focus on building the lightest bridge possible, a challenging engineering goal that they approached with creativity and determination. Although none of our teams took home a prize this year, every student demonstrated outstanding teamwork, perseverance, and problem-solving skills. Most importantly, they had a great time collaborating and putting their engineering ideas to the test.

Participants included:

Warispreet Brar, Steven Hernandez, Anissa Khodarahmi, Vienna Von Burg, Rajpreet Brar, Sophia Pearle, Evelin Enockson, Ruthann Brown, Morgan Linders, and Remi Sheridan.







“Celebration Of Traditions”

Pow Wow

April 17th & 18th, 2026

Southern Okanagan Secondary School

6140 Gala St, Oliver, BC, V0H 1T0

School District 53 Indigenous Education Committee Hosting

Host Drum – Smokey Valley

Second Host Drum - High Water

Emcee – Levi Bent

Arena Director – Lawrence Trottier

Admission is Free - Open to the Public

Dinner: Friday and Saturday 5:30pm

Breakfast: Saturday 9:00 - 11:00am

Friday Schedule: 10:00am-2:30pm SD#53 students

Friday Evening: Open to the Public 7:00 - 11:00pm

Saturday Schedule: Open to the public 1:00 - 5:00pm & 7:00 - 11:00pm

Saturday Afternoon

Tiny Tot Special

By

Heaven N Earth

Native Art

All drum groups will receive an Honorarium
(minimum 4 singers and all drums must be registered)

Vendors Welcome: \$75.00 plus a Door Prize Donation

Contact Tara Havig for Booking: 250-498-4931 or thavig@sd53.bc.ca

For all other inquires, please contact Helen Gallagher: 250-498-4346

THIS IS A SMOKE AND VAPE FREE ZONE

New! S.T.E.A.M Club

At SOSS

When: Mondays after school, 2:45-4:15 starting March 2nd

Where: The shop computer lab

Teachers: Mr. Hofman, Jacob and Mrs. Kingsfield

The first project will be to design your own Pokéball using TinkerCad and then 3D print it. Afterwards students will have the option to paint their project in art club and to sculpt a Pokémon to go with it.



Calling all Pokémon Super Fans!!

***While we create our project we will be streaming favorite episodes of Pokémon!**

Career Ed. Newsletter- March 2026

Career Ed. Report

With February well underway SD53 currently has 64 students accessing dual credit post-secondary and trades training programs from 7 different institutions.

Our Careers teachers recently attended the Career Education Society of BC Conference in Vernon. The conference provided valuable insight into opportunities available to students and an appreciation of the collaboration required across all levels of government to successfully create and sustain dual credit programming.

Skilled Trades BC publicly acknowledged School District 53's contribution and the work that we do supporting our youth in trades. Skilled Trades BC did a promotional video with Siobhan Detkavich who acknowledged her start as a professional cook in PC 1 course hosted in our district together with Camosun College.

On February 20, we took 90 students to Skills Canada Regional competition at Okanagan college in Kelowna. All our students did an awesome job the competitions, and we're excited to send our winners to the Provincials on April 15th.

Congratulations to Blake Kriesel (SOSS) and Taylor St. Cyr (SESS) for being selected to attend the Youth RCMP Academy in Vernon April 25-29

Upcoming Events :

Minerva WomensLeadershipForum	March 4th
Interior Health Career Exploration	March 10th
Skills Canada Provincials- Tradex	April 15th
OC Jill of Trades Female Trade Event	April 28th
Youth RCMP Academy	April 25th-29th
Experience Okanagan College Penticton	May 4th
SD53 Wilderness Career Fair- Camp Boyle	May 7th

Please use the link to view information on the Health Care Sampler: [Health Care Sampler](#)

Skills Canada Winners:

SilverinSpaghettiBridge:

OSS- John Bourne, Cohen Hesketh
Grayden Klein Hofmeijer, Joel Parker

Jr. Spaghetti Bridge Bronze:

SESS - Zack Nelson, Partap Brar,
Sukhman Rai

Sr. Carpentry Gold:

OSS - Alex Satterfield

Sr. Electronics Gold:

OSS - Emmett Madsen

Jr. Gravity Vehicle Gold:

OSS - Selina Backstrom-Resch,
Avery Lockerby, Shanica Szarka,
Charlie Redenbach,

Jr. Gravity Vehicle Silver:

OSS - Maye McDonald, Liliana Bento,
Elena Bento, Mila Keller

Jr. Gravity Vehicle Bronze:

SESS - Luka Manazza, Carson Whelpton

Sumo Robots Gold:

SESS - Kai Rivest, Matteo Manazza

Jr. Sumo Robots Silver:

OSS - Addison Dortman, Grace Kelly

Current Offerings

SEATS ARE AVAILABLE FOR 26/27

Early Childhood Educator,
Refrigeration & Air Conditioning
Mechanic,
Welding,
Automotive Service Technician,
Heavy Duty Mechanics,
Health Care Aid,
Business Administration,
Technology Sampler,
Carpentry
Plumbing
Aircraft Maintenance Engineering
Structures,
Electrician,
Professional Cook,
Trades Sampler,
Health Sampler,
Engineering Sampler,
Academic Dual Credit,
Office Administration,
Nail Technician,
Hairdressing,
Leadership in Action,



SPRING SOCCER

NEW! Open Play Games! 2013 and Older

- One Open Play session per week (90 mins)
- No Training Required
- Coed teams - Scrimmage



**DON'T FORGET OUR
OTHER PROGRAMS!
SCAN TO LEARN MORE**



**LOCAL PROGRAMS FOR ALL
SKILL LEVELS.
ARE YOU READY?**



WWW.PINNACLESFC.CA