

SOUTHERN OKANAGAN SECONDARY SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 2026 — **HOME OF THE HORNETS**

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Congratulations to our Cross-Country Running Team, which will be representing SOSS at the Provincial Championships in Abbotsford on November 7, and to our Field Hockey Team, who will compete at the Provincials in Shawnigan Lake starting November 3rd. Look for more to come from our Volleyball and Soccer teams who head to Valleys shortly. We are proud of the dedication and sportsmanship shown by all of our student athletes. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the coaches and volunteer drivers whose time, energy, and support make these opportunities possible for our students.

It was wonderful to see families during our recent Family Conferences. If you were unable to attend in person, please feel free to contact your child's teachers directly with any questions or concerns. Report cards will be sent home with your student, an email will be sent letting you know when to expect them. There is a two-page attachment that will go with the report card. We ask that you provide us with some feedback and return it to the main office. You will be entered in a draw for a grocery gift card for No Frills.

Our Remembrance Day Assembly will take place on Tuesday, November 10th at 10:00 AM, as we come together to honour and remember those who have served and sacrificed for our freedom. A special thank you to Ms. Stopa's Social Studies 10 class for organizing and leading this important event.

Excitement is already building for the upcoming SOSS Drama production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Auditions over the past two weeks drew lots of enthusiastic students, and rehearsals will begin later this month. Stay tuned for the performance dates.



Our school garden has now been harvested and prepared for winter following a highly successful growing season. The garden continues to supply fresh produce for our breakfast cart, cafeteria, and food programs. This time of year also brings an abundance of apples, which are being dehydrated by Mr. Wurflinger and his students for use on team trips and in our breakfast program. Thank you for helping ensure that SOSS remains a healthy, sustainable community.

Sue Beyer
Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

NOVEMBER 4 - BEYOND THE BLUES PRESENTATION
NOVEMBER 10 - REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY
NOVEMBER 11 - REMEMBRANCE DAY, NO SCHOOL
NOVEMBER 12 - TERM 1 ENDS
NOVEMBER 13 - TERM 2 BEGINS
NOVEMBER 19 - U OF CALGARY PRESENTATION
NOVEMBER 25 - INQUIRY DAY, CLASSES OUT@11:55
NOVEMBER 26 - WINTER FORMAL DANCE

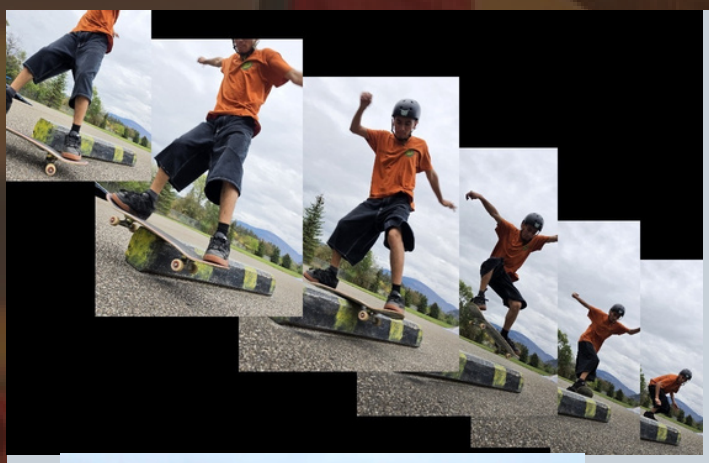
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MCLEAN CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

Mrs McIntyre and Miss Seymour's grade 9 science classes participated in a tree planting restoration project at McLean Creek. The project, a combination of Penticton Indian Band, National Trust and the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program, introduced students to the importance of maintaining habitats and how human intervention can have a significant impact. Students learned about the land modifications for farming and the restoration aims before planting and mulching a large area with various trees and shrubs. Great work, grade 9s. Your service to the local community was greatly appreciated.









SKATEBOARD CLUB

Skateboard Club has been working on pushing our skills this semester. We have a lot of grade 8s who have been working on ollies and shuvits, big roll-ins and learning to approach slides. I expect to see some big things from these skaters in coming seasons.

As for senior skaters, we are seeing some perseverance beginning to pay off. Rylan and Darcy are taking their ollies and kickflips to bigger ledges and drops. Odin is learning 50-50s and has made a few very impressive manual to rock-fakies. Eden has made some massive improvement with down ledge 50-50s and a few monster ollies. He is even attempting to kickflip the 9 set in Penticton... no makes yet, but you can bet there will be some photos and video on our instagram. Follow us... @sossskateboardclub.

We have one more session at Airhouse, where skateboard coaches will help us build our half-pipe skills and develop some street skills in the back lot. This session has always led to some pretty impressive growth and we're looking forward to more this year.

Special thanks to Maddox LaRose for his work to film our process and perseverance.

We want to acknowledge the hard work of Parks and Rec Staff in getting the donations and funding in place to break ground for the pump track. Skateboard Club is looking forward to building speed through the whoops this spring.

As always, we want to thank Respect Record and Skate for their support, Paric Skateboards for their ongoing events and community building, and Valley Skateboard Coalition for their advocacy at the grassroots level.

See you after Spring Break!

JR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Junior Girls' Green Volleyball

As we are near the end of the volleyball season, it is good to reflect on the growth and development of our athletes. The SOSS Green team has seen improvement at both the individual level and the team level. With players trying new positions, the team running variations in their offence and lots of players showing grit and determination, the future looks promising for SOSS Girls' Volleyball. The team would also like to say goodbye and good luck to exchange student, Tia, who has been training with and co-managing the team since her arrival in September. You will be missed!!



The Junior Girls Gold Volleyball Team had a positive season filled with lots of personal and team growth. The girls competed in three tournaments and in the local junior girls volleyball league. The girls showed lots of spirit and versatility throughout the season and truly came together as a team to do their best. Good work, Hornets!







JUNIOR FIELD HOCKEY

The Junior Field Hockey team wrapped up their season on Thursday, October 29th at the Regional Finals here at SOSS. The team included 13 players brand new to the sport, supported by 9 returning players. The team started their season off at their home Fall Festival, learning to play the 6-aside version of the game and celebrating every goal. The highlight of the season was travelling to the Chilliwack tournament and exploring the Greendale Farm Corn Maze. Throughout the season, the team played in various configurations of different grades and sizes which resulted in a lot of growth and skill development. As one of the youngest teams in the region, they placed 4th after some hard fought games and many opportunities to score. We are so proud of all of our players and look forward to another great season with them next fall.

The team includes: Iknoor Dhaliwal, Cienna Fossett, Michelle Haward, Ella Albertyn, Akadia Gibb, Rashi Sharma, Gracie Williams, Irene Soriana, Gurnaz Buttar, Atticus Foss-McCauley, Parveen Badesha, Evelin Enockson, Raj Brar, Maiden Wilson, Nimrit Natt, Pari Gill, Alexis Newstead, Cori Clarke, Riley Resh, Maya Pouget, Karmen Brar, Elana De Vries. Coaches Carly Russo and Hayley Stopa.



MOUNTAIN BIKE CLUB

THE SOSS MOUNTAIN BIKE CLUB HAS HAD A BUSY FALL SEASON. THE CLUB HAS GROWN A LOT THIS YEAR. STUDENTS HAVE DONE MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDES AROUND THE REGION INCLUDING AT THREE BLIND MICE, SMITH CREEK, MAHONEY LAKE, CAMPBELL MOUNTAIN AND AN OVERNIGHT TRIP TO ROSSLAND.

THE CARTER BYBEL FOUNDATION GENEROUSLY DONATED SEVERAL MOUNTAIN BIKES AND A BIKE RACK TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO TRY MOUNTAIN BIKING. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO INVITE STUDENTS TO TRY MOUNTAIN BIKING FOR THE FIRST TIME.

THANKS TO MR. BAERG, MR. BRENEMAN, MRS. BURNS, AND MR. ADAM FOR ORGANIZING AND CHAPERONING AND THANK YOU TO PARENTS WHO HAVE HELPED TO DRIVE AND JOINED ON SOME TRIPS. WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO MORE RIDES IN THE SPRING!







GRAD NEWS

OPERATION CHRISTMAS TREE

This holiday season, SOSS is decorating five Christmas trees to brighten our foyer and spread holiday cheer. We are collecting gently used ornaments, garland, and tree toppers throughout November. Donations can be dropped off at the school office. The decorated trees will be gifted to local families in need of some Christmas cheer during the last week of school before winter break.
Together, let's make the season a little brighter for others.
Thank you for your generosity and support!



HELP SUPPORT GRADS WITH THE MEAT AND FLOWER FUNDRAISER HAPPENING NOW!
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO HELP WITH THEIR GRAD FEES AND THE PRODUCTS ARE AMAZING!



FOR MEAT PLEASE ORDER FROM
https://www.studentquickpay.com/ossd53/MyAccount/Main.aspx?webitemid=451

FOR FLOWERS PLEASE ORDER FROM
https://southernokanagansecondary.growingsmilesfundraising.com/home

REMEMBRANCE CONTESTS

THERE'S STILL TIME TO ENTER THE LEGION REMEMBRANCE CONTESTS! STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POSTER, LITERARY, VIDEO, AND PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORIES.

FULL CONTEST DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE AT REMEMBRANCECONTESTS.CA, AND POSTER AND LITERARY ENTRY FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

PHOTOGRAPHY SUBMISSIONS MUST BE SENT ONLINE DIRECTLY TO THE BC/YUKON COMMAND.THE DEADLINE FOR PAPER SUBMISSIONS IS NOVEMBER 13. PLEASE BRING YOUR ENTRIES TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE BEFORE NOVEMBER 13, AS A LEGION REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE PICKING THEM UP THAT DAY.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING OUR STUDENTS' CREATIVITY AND THOUGHTFUL TRIBUTES TO REMEMBRANCE DAY!

The Legion National Foundation

Implemented by Legion

WIN A TRIP

Win a trip for two to Ottawa to represent Canada's youth at next year's National Remembrance Day Ceremony on November 11th.

NATIONAL YOUTH REMEMBRANCE



CONTESTS

COMPLETE GUIDELINES FOR

LITERARY, POSTER AND VIDEO CONTESTS

YOUTH REMEMBRANCE CONTESTS:
PHOTOGRAPHY

Share what Remembrance means to you.



NEW: Students in British Columbia and the Yukon can now submit original photos for this year's contests!

Contest Categories:

Posters Essays Poetry Video Photography

legionbcyukon.ca

Legion
British Columbia/Yukon Command

100
1926 · 2026

Scan the QR code to apply or learn more.

Beyond the Blues

LEARN • CONNECT • FEEL BETTER

Sleep & Mental Health

Better Sleep. A Healthier You.

Join us for an engaging and informative session designed for students and youth!

Learn how sleep impacts your mental health, boosts your mood, improves focus, and helps you feel your best – inside and out.

Your mind matters. So does your sleep.

Wednesday, November 4, 2026 | **1:00 – 2:00 p.m.** | **Venables Theatre**

You'll Learn About:

- How sleep affects your mental health
- Tips for better sleep habits
- Building healthy routines and balance
- Simple ways to support your overall well-being



ABOUT OUR PRESENTER:

DR. SEAN LARSEN, PHD

Dr. Sean Larsen is Director of Operations for Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) in the Okanagan and West Kootenays. With more than 20 years of experience working with children, youth, families, and the systems that support them, Sean has worked across inpatient, outpatient, and community mental health settings. Areas of expertise include adolescent suicide risk assessment and prevention, anxiety, adverse childhood experiences, trauma, neglect, attachment disruptions, and sleep.

In his current role, Sean provides regional leadership for CYMH services and works collaboratively with families, schools, health-care partners, and community organizations to support the mental health and well-being of children and youth.

Sean lives in Rossland, BC, on the traditional territories of the Sinixt, syilx (Okanagan), Secwépemc, and Ktunaxa peoples. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time in the mountains with his family, skiing, biking, and exploring the outdoors.

In Partnership With:

CYMH Child and Youth Mental Health

Integrated Child and Youth Teams ICY

SCHOOL DISTRICT 53 Okanagan Similkameen



Career Ed. Newsletter - November 2026

Career Ed Report

October 1 started with Dual credit applications for the 27/28 year registering for the fall starts. School District 53 has a record number of students.

School District 53 hosted the Post-Secondary Institution Day where we had 17 post-secondary schools tour the district. Secondary students from all three secondary schools had a chance to learn about post-secondary opportunities available to them. It started at OSS as career fair with SESS attending, and moved to SOSS with a mini fair, and transitioned to break out sessions for grade 10, 11, and 12 students.

First Nation Teacher Education Program is under development. School District 53 has created three unique pathways for students to meet graduation requirements. We are continuing to work with the local bands to build local support networks for our students. School District 53 has teacher education pathways built into current agreements with our post-secondary providers but are always looking to provide new opportunities for our students.

Dual Credit numbers are still strong and continue to grow with 18 students currently accessing academic and trades programs. Youth Work in Trades scholarships are now available and students have been notified to check their eligibility. School District 53 continues to monitor 26 Youth Work in Trades apprentices.

District Careers staff will be meeting with the Career Educators Society next week and will be learning about the new realities and parameters that will impact Skilled Trades and Dual Credit Programs. November is Career month; the Career Educators Society will provide initiatives and programs to enhance Career Programs.

SD 53 Careers teams finished October with presentations to the CLE 10 classes on opportunities for students as they move into grades 11 and 12. The volume of students looking to access dual credit programs has required the career education teachers to be proactive and inform students of the opportunities so we can plan and provide our students with the necessary seats required. Early applications will ensure seats.

Upcoming Events

November 1-3 Career Education Society
November 23-27 Career Education Week
December 2 Career Bus
January 29 Dual Credit Applications for 27/28 Programs
Professional Cook 1 Starts
Feb. 1 OC Applications for Winter 28 Programs Due
Feb. 9 Trades Sampler Starts



Check out this link for more on our Healthcare Sampler

Sd53- Healthcare Sampler

Current Offerings:

2026-2027
Auto Service Tech Foundations
Plumber Foundations
Carpenter Foundations
DC Course/Programs
Healthcare Sampler
Technology Sampler
Trades Sampler
Engineering Sampler
Healthcare Aid

2027-2028
Professional Cook 1
ECE Assistant Certificate