

OCTOBER 2025

SOUTHERN OKANAGAN SECONDARY SCHOOL



HOME OF THE HORNETS



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to October! Fall in the South Okanagan is a stunning season – a time of brilliant colours, crisp air, and an abundance of harvest which benefits SOSS. Our school is especially grateful for the local contributions as well as our school garden that enrich our cafeteria and daily breakfast program with fresh fruits and vegetables and local ingredients for cooking.

On Monday, September 29th, our entire school gathered at the community park to honour National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Together, we listened to the story of the Orange Shirt Day, reflected on the tragic history of residential schools, and acknowledged the lasting impacts still felt today. Commitment to reconciliation remains one of our paths forward.

Our Terry Fox Run, held on Thursday, September 25th, was another inspiring school community event. Led by our Leadership students under the direction of teacher Alison Podmorow, the entire school participated by walking, running, or joining as teams to raise awareness, funds, and school spirit. One creative group, Gru's Minions, raised over \$300 on their own! Through their spunk and dedication, the Leadership team raised more than \$3,100 for the Terry Fox Foundation. A huge thank you goes to Buy-Low Foods, who generously donated all the food and beverages for our student-run BBQ fundraiser at Buy-Low. Our enthusiastic LINK Crew organized this event one Saturday and brought in another \$800! We also thank No Frills for their \$200 contribution to our school-based BBQ. These partnerships truly highlight the incredible community spirit that supports our students and school.

SOSS has launched its first student-led garden club this year, under the direction of teacher, Mrs. Katy Splane. The club is cultivating friendships, produce, and flowers. Two grade 10 students planted dahlias last semester and this semester they are harvesting the beautiful blooms. Thank you to the garden club for the flower arrangements they are sprinkling around the school! Pictured below are students after an evening of learning about and creating floral arrangements--everything grown on SOSS's campus!

Looking ahead, a few important dates to remember. Thursday, October 9th is a grad parent meeting, 6:00PM in the library. All parents of graduating students are encouraged to attend. More information was sent directly to families by email. Thursday, October 16 is the first Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting of the year at 6:30PM in the school library. Everyone is welcome, even if you just want to learn more about the committee and its role in supporting our school. Wednesday, October 22nd are Family conferences (in-person). Booking information is included in this newsletter and will also be sent directly to families by email soon. Please note that this is an early dismissal day for students. Thursday, October 23rd is also an early dismissal day for students, and Friday, October 24th is a Professional development Day (no classes for students).

Finally, please continue to visit our school website for important dates, event information, and helpful resources for students and families.

Thank you for your continued support of SOSS.

Sincerely,
Bev Young



IMPORTANT DATES



OCTOBER 8
OCTOBER 9
OCTOBER 13
OCTOBER 16
OCTOBER 22
OCTOBER 22
OCTOBER 23
OCTOBER 24
OCTOBER 29

GRADE 8 DAY ON THE LAND
GRAD PARENT MEETING, 6-7:30 PM
THANKSGIVING, NO SCHOOL
PHOTO RETAKES
EARLY DISMISSAL, 11:55AM
FAMILY CONFERENCES, 2-4PM & 5-7PM
EARLY DISMISSAL, 11:55AM
PRO-D DAY, NO SCHOOL
EARLY DISMISSAL, INQUIRY

CONNECTING SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE WITH TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE ON THE LAND

In Science 9 this semester, students have been learning about the interconnectedness of the biogeochemical cycles (water, nitrogen, phosphorus, and carbon cycles). Throughout, there has been a threading of the knowledge brought to this topic by both scientific research and traditional ecological knowledge. Specifically, students learned about the overarching belief that we are borrowing from the present and must ensure the ability to pass on to the future generations.

The unit culminated with a trip on the land to see how human interactions have changed our environment and what knowledge this has uncovered about the nutrient cycles. Students learned about the impacts of fire and infrastructure development and how nature responds to these changes.

We ended our trip by giving back to the community through seed spreading, fire protection support, and invasive species removal.



E-scooters at SOSS

There has been an increase in the number of e-scooters and e-bikes being used to commute to SOSS.

Electric scooters, bikes, skateboards, and scooters are a great environmentally responsible mode of transportation. Unfortunately, some safety concerns have been arising as well. We have also had several community complaints of students riding unsafely.

Students who ride to school on e-scooters, e-bikes, bikes, skateboard; and scooters are reminded of the following expectations:

- please ride safely to and from school

- please wear a helmet

- students are not permitted to ride on school property (riding to the entrance on the road is fine)

- please do not ride on sidewalks

- please store e-scooters, bikes, and scooters at the bike and scooter racks at the front of the school (do not bring them into the school)

- skateboards should be stored in lockers

- BC regulations say you must be 16 or older to ride an e-scooter in BC

- BC regulations only permit one rider on an e-scooter

- BC regulations only permit a maximum speed capability of 25 km/h

Students who are riding unsafely to school will be asked to find another method of transportation.

Please discuss these responsibilities with your child who is riding to school.

Use this link for more information [Electric kick scooter rules and safety - Province of British Columbia](#)

SPACES AND FAMILY CONFERENCES

Reporting on student learning for our grade 8 and 9 students will be shared through Spaces. This digital space provides an opportunity for students to share what they have been working on in their classes with their family, including samples of work, student reflections, teacher comments and an overview of the proficiency scale. Please check your email for invitations to the course to begin sharing in the learning process. For an overview of the platform please use [this link](#).

FAMILY CONFERENCES ARE COMING UP ON OCTOBER 22nd. USE THIS [link](#) TO BOOK YOUR TIME WITH THE TEACHER.



2025/2026
★ *PAC*
meetings

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

OCT 16 6:35 PM	NOV 20 6:35 PM	JAN 15 6:35 PM
FEB 19 6:35 PM	APRIL 16 6:35 PM	MAY 21 6:35 PM

 SOUTHERN OKANAGAN HORNETS

All meetings are held in the SOSS Library!
If you have questions or would like to be added to our monthly email list - contact us at sosspac53@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram

October 2025

Entrée \$5
Salads \$3 to \$5
Baked Goods \$1

Wraps \$4
Juice \$1

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
29 Pizza Day	30 National Day for Truth & Reconciliation No School	1 French Toast Sticks with Berries and Whipped Cream	2 Vietnamese Noodle Bowls with Peanut Sauce	3 Poutine
6 Pizza Day	7 Sushi Bowls (California Roll Style)	8 Penne Alfredo with Broccoli	9 Chicken Taco Salad	10 Roast Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, and Green Beans
13 Thanksgiving Day No School	14 BLTs with Oven-Baked Fries	15 Fried Rice with Spring Rolls	16 Perogies with Smoked Sausage, Onions, and Sour Cream	17 Walking Tacos
20 Pizza Day	21 Crispy Chicken Burgers with Caesar Salad	22 Family Conferences Early Dismissal No Service	23 Early Dismissal No Service	24 Pro-D Day No Service
27 Pizza Day	28 Chana Masala with Rice	29 Inquiry Early Dismissal No Service	30 Grilled Cheese Sandwiches with Soup	31 Draculoni & Cheese (Mac & Cheese \$5) Halloweenies (Hot Dogs - \$2)

SKATEBOARD CLUB

Skateboard Club has been out to a few local skateparks and the weather has been cooperating! A few highlights so far: Eden and Theo with monster big three block ollies at Penticton - a 6' drop! James tightening up his stance in the bowl and getting in lots of clean lines. Zach, Xavier and Eric representing the scooter world with an endless variety of spins and whips. Theo with a monster 50-50 in Penticton. Gabe just starting out but showing a tonne of confidence developing his skills. Isla and Lacey holding it down for the girls, building up their ollies and pumping each other up. Darcy with super clean kickflips, and even Old Man McKinnon with a boneless and a boardslide in Summerland. We are looking forward to our trip to Kelowna in early November, and we welcome photography students to the club to document our progress. Thanks for your support!

We are massively grateful for all the support and a very generous donation of gear from Respect Record and Skate. The folks in our little skate shop are ensuring that kids in our town have what they need to stay on board, even if they're hard on their gear. Thanks guys - you rule!



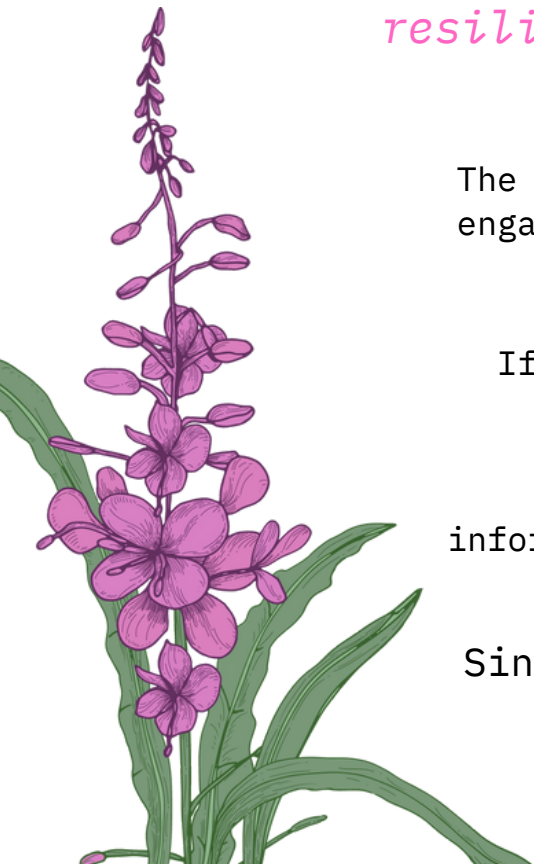


Why fireweed? ...with its ability to thrive in disturbed areas, long blooming season, and wind dispersed seeds, fireweed is a stunning symbol of rejuvenation and new growth after destructive events. Its beauty and resilience are truly remarkable

The Collective is a multi-age group who meets monthly to engage in nature-based social activities. The purpose of 'being around others who just get it'.

If your child has experienced the death of a parent, caregiver, or sibling, please reach out to your school's Administrator if you would like further information or to register your child/teen for the group.

Sincerely, The District Counselling Team, ICY & Healthy Schools



Guidelines for Positive Communication



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

In the Okanagan Similkameen School District, we want schools to be safe, supportive, and welcoming places for students to learn and for staff to work. A key part of creating this environment is how we communicate and work together as a community.

We deeply value the partnership between home and school and ask for your support in the following areas:

Communication

- Please follow our process when concerns arise: Begin by making an appointment to speak with your child's teacher, and if more follow-up is needed, contact the school administration. Additional information can be found in Board Policy [F-10 Dispute Resolution Policy](#)
 - Use respectful language in all communication, whether in person, on the phone, or through email.
 - Please understand that responses may not always be immediate. Staff will do their best to communicate with you as soon as possible.
- Clarify your child's perspective with staff to better understand the full picture, and work toward calm, reasonable solutions.
- Avoid using social media to air complaints. It does not resolve concerns and often makes situations harder for everyone involved.

Partnership

- Support your child's regular attendance at school and reach out if you need help with this.
- Work with staff to find solutions when issues come up.
- Review and discuss the Student Code of Conduct with your child so they understand expectations.

Conduct

- When visiting the school, please remain calm and respectful. Swearing, inappropriate language, threats, or verbal abuse are not acceptable.

School Culture

- Please join us in treating all members of our school community with dignity and respect. This includes respecting diversity in identity, race, culture, beliefs, family status, abilities, gender, and age, as outlined by the BC Human Rights Code.

Together, we can build a school environment where all students and adults feel safe, respected, and supported in their learning. Thank you for your partnership in this important work.

Warm regards,

Marcus Toneatto
Superintendent of Schools
Okanagan Similkameen School District No. 53

