

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Home of the Hornets!

Principal's Message

The second semester is well underway, and parents should have access to their child's report card now. If you or your child need assistance getting into the Family Portal, please contact Mrs. Goncalves in the library.

A huge thank you to all our basketball coaches and to our staff who are running clubs, for the time and energy they have spent with our students. A big shout out to all Student Voice members and to Ms. Laver, Ms. Scott and Ms. Martins for organizing "student swag" that was distributed last week.

We would also like to thank our PAC for all the support they offer to our students. To date they have supported the Year-book initiative, the S.T.E.A.M. Club, Yoga Club, Student Voice Club, SOGI Club, Music Club and the Breakfast Club.

A reminder to all parents and students that the courses they select during Course Selection is the information that we use in building our timetable and staffing the school for next year. It is important that courses are thoughtfully selected. For more information, please go to the website. (soss@sd53.bc.ca) Your child should be bringing home a copy of their Course Selection this week for you to sign.

Thank you to Mr. Russo for organizing the PE Ski Trips on February 17th and February 24th. I'm sure everyone is looking forward to a great day on the slopes.

Wednesday, February 24th is Pink Shirt Day. Link Crew and Student Voice are in the process of organizing some fun activities for the students. Please wear your pink shirt to show your support. For Anti-Bullying.

Pro D is February 12th and Family Day is February 15th. February 24th is early dismissal for Inquiry Day.

Mr. Kitt, Mr. Hofman and Mr. Baptiste along with Mr. Turnbull from Osoyoos are running a two-day Women in Trades opportunity for grade 10 girls. This event will be held on February 25th and 26th and is a fantastic way to try a variety of trades including welding, carpentry, electrical, plumbing and automotive.

Our Indigenous Advocates will be organizing the Equity Scan Survey for all Indigenous students and their parents. The purpose of this survey is to find out what is working and what we can improve. These surveys are to be completed by the end of February.

Parent Teacher Interviews are on Tuesday, March 9th from 2:00pm- 4:00pm and from 5:00pm – 7:00pm. These will be held virtually as they were in the first semester. Please note that these are meant to be short, ten-minute interviews. If more time is necessary, please arrange this with teachers for a later date. More information regarding signing up will be sent home.

Well done, everyone!

Regards,
T. Harrington



February 12	Pro-D Day, No School
February 15	Family Day, No School
February 17	Ski Day—APEX
February 24	Pink Shirt Day
February 24	Ski Day—APEX
February 24	Inquiry Day, Early Dismissal— 11:52am
February 26	Grad Breakfast
March 9	Early Dismissal—12:00pm
March 9	Parent Teacher Interviews
March 11	Early Dismissal—12:00pm
March 12	Last Day of Classes before Spring Break
March 15-26	Spring Break

The following clubs are currently being offered at SOSS. New members are always welcome, and students who have ideas for other clubs are encouraged to share their ideas.

Math Club—Mondays at lunch

Yoga Club— Mondays at 3pm

Student Voice Club—Monday at lunch

Chess Club— Wednesdays at lunch

WE Can Talk Club—Wednesdays at lunch

SAGA Club— Fridays at lunch



SAGA



Thanks to the support of PAC, SAGA club was able to expand their collection of LGBTQ+ flags. The club took the flags around the school and had a mini photoshoot: it was an excellent way to build connection and community in the club. Students also had the opportunity to listen to a guest speaker. A 19-year-old trans man came to tell his story, provide resources and connect with the students in our club. We are fortunate to have such compassionate individuals who take time out of their own schedule to connect with our students.

News from your PAC



The SOSS PAC is pleased to announce its newest Board member, Jocelyn Kirs who will be serving as our new Secretary. Serving another term on our Board are Sue Leinor as Treasurer and Karen Somerville as Board Chair.

Using the Zoom meeting interface has dramatically boosted our numbers in meeting attendance. Thank you to all the parents who have been joining in with us—your time and contribution is valued & appreciated. With proceeds from our BC Gaming Grant, PAC is happy to be sponsoring the Yoga Club, Student Voice Club, and the new S.T.E.A.M Club. We look forward to funding many more extra-curricular projects in 2021.

PAC meets via Zoom, and strives to meet on the third Thursday of each month (except for Dec, March, and June). If you would like to join in the conversation and hear from the School Administration and School Board Trustee, please reach out to us at sosspac53@gmail.com ,To be added to the Zoom e-vite or contact Karen by phone 250-689-0130.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 18th at 6:30pm.

Course Selections

Course Selections for next year are underway. On our school website, under Academics and Course Planning Process, there is information on how to complete this process. Students will have had an informational session with the counselling team to outline required courses and elective choices for their grade.

1. See website for [Course Offerings Booklet](#) and [presentations](#) (PowerPoints, movies, infographics) from teachers to help explore the courses before making your selections.
 2. Use the Course Selection Form (provided in the counselling session or printed off website) to indicate the courses you want. Make sure to select enough courses for a full schedule and to include alternate choices in case your ideal schedule cannot be created.
 3. Login to MyEd using your student account and follow [these instructions](#) to input your choices into the system. Return your Course Selection Form with a parent/guardian signature to the library.
- All requests are to be entered into the MyEd Student Portal using student accounts and the Course Selection Form to be filled in, signed by a parent/guardian, and returned to Mrs. Goncalves in the Library by February 12th.

If you have any questions about the process, or require some help, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Goncalves at rgoncalv@sd53.bc.ca



Please remember to check our grad page on the school website regularly to learn about important dates and scholarship opportunities. Deadlines are approaching quickly. It's also important for Grads to be checking the Grad 2021 Teams page as well as the Grad Group on Instagram (@SOSSGRADCOMMITTEE2021)

If your student has applied to any post-secondary institutions, please be sure they check their email account regularly. The information schools send is very important and often time sensitive. Don't forget to check each institution's Financial Aid section as there may be scholarship and bursaries to apply for.

Speaking of Scholarships and Bursaries, the deadline to apply for School Based Bursaries and Scholarships is March 1st. Application forms can be picked up in the office. There are some supplementary documents required and we suggest that students apply sooner rather than later as it may take a little time to get the application package together.

Grad Photos are scheduled to begin Monday, March 1st. Please make sure you have signed up for a time in the office. Students can check in with the office if they have forgotten their time. At this time, grads can book in as a group with a maximum of 5 people. This is subject to change with any changes from the PHO and at the discretion of Mountain West Studios.

All Grads should have signed up in the office for their Capstone Personal Pitch. All other CLC/Capstone work is now overdue and needs to be submitted online. Parents please ask your graduate about their Capstone work and Personal Pitch.

This is the start of the final semester of highschool. Please be aware of the very real epidemic that often occurs called "Senioritis". Please remind your graduate to prioritize school and their learning, so they can have a positive and successful final semester at SOSS.

We will be holding some virtual planning meetings for Grad in the coming months. These will be held on Teams and your grad will have to help you connect to that meeting. We will share times and dates leading up to those meetings. We look forward to working with our parents to hold a meaningful graduation celebration.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Ms. Smith, Mr. Kitt or Mrs. Harrington.