



HOME OF THE HORNETS

April

2026

SOUTHERN OKANAGAN SECONDARY SCHOOL

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We hope everyone had a relaxing and rejuvenating Spring Break. Over the break, we had a group of students travel abroad and explore parts of Europe, including Italy, France, and Monaco. We've loved hearing their stories and experiences! A special thank you to the teachers who supervised this trip and helped create these amazing, lifelong memories for our SOSS Hornets.

As we reflect on the winter sports season, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our parents and families for your incredible support of our student-athletes.

Your encouragement, dedication, and presence made a meaningful difference throughout the season.

As we move into spring, we are excited to share that the spring sports season is now underway! Some of our teams have already kicked off their seasons, with early games in Ultimate, Golf, and Soccer. It's been wonderful to see our students back in action, demonstrating teamwork, sportsmanship, and school spirit. We hope you will be able to join us on the sidelines to cheer on our students.

We also look forward to seeing you at our upcoming Family Conferences on April 9, offered from 1:00–3:00 PM or 4:00–6:00 PM. These conferences are a great opportunity to connect with your student's teachers and receive an early update on your student's progress. Please be sure to sign up in advance to reserve a time. Finally, we are proud to be hosting the School District's Pow Wow on April 17 and 18. This special event is a celebration of the tradition of the Pow Wow and is open to the public. Festivities begin on Friday evening, starting with a free community dinner at 5:30 PM. Please check out the event poster for more information about the weekend.

If you have never attended this event before, this is a wonderful opportunity to experience and celebrate an important cultural tradition—we are honoured to host such a meaningful event.

Thank you for your continued support, we appreciate your support helping students get to school and be prepared for the day.

We look forward to a great spring season both on and off the field!

## IMPORTANT DATES

APRIL 3	GOOD FRIDAY - NO SCHOOL
APRIL 6	EASTER MONDAY - NO SCHOOL
APRIL 8	GARDOM LAKE MEETING - ZOOM
APRIL 9	FAMILY CONFERENCES, 1-3 & 4-6
APRIL 9	EARLY DISMISSAL, 11:55
APRIL 10	EARLY DISMISSAL, 11:55
APRIL 17 & 18	DISTRICT POWWOW @ SOSS

Course selections for next year are well underway. Please make sure that your student(s) has submitted their course requests. We are at the point of making cuts to courses that we are able to run next year based on the students' requests and this information is timely. If you have any question please reach out to our scheduling team: Mrs Goncalves (rgoncalv@sd53.bc.ca), Ms Ibaraki (libaraki@sd53.bc.ca) and Mr Breneman at jbreneman@sd53.bc.ca.

## 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.

There will be a parent meeting on Wednesday, April 8 at 4pm on Zoom.

## FAMILY CONFERENCES

FAMILY CONFERENCES ARE SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 9, FROM 1PM - 3PM AND 4 PM TO 6PM. AN EMAIL HAS BEEN SENT HOME TO FAMILIES.

USE THIS [LINK](#) IF YOU WISH TO BOOK A TIME WITH THE TEACHERS



The SOSS Competitive Golf Team played their first round of the season in Penticton on Tuesday. The team had some ups and downs but had a decent start overall. Michael Skolos set the pace with the teams best round. The golf team season continues for another 5 weeks with league play and then into playoffs after that.

In addition to the competitive team, there is a learn to golf program that runs every Friday at Nk'Mip from 3-4pm. If anyone is interested in joining, please talk to Mrs. McIntyre.

## SOSS Mountain Bike Club

We're excited to start another spring season of the mountain bike club, with plans to ride trails in Osoyoos, Oliver area, and Penticton. It's a fun way to get outdoors, get in shape, and see some amazing parts of the Southern Okanagan. New riders are always welcome; permission forms with detailed information will be available by Tuesday, April 6. This club is run by Mr. Baerg, Mr. Breneman, and Mr. Adam.

## Rising Stars 2026

Our third annual Rising Stars showcase of talent is coming soon to Venables Theatre. This year's show takes place Thursday, May 7 at 7pm. Tickets are \$20, and they will be available at the box office and through the theatre's website. The show features vocal, instrumental, and dance performances from some of our very talented and dedicated students. A selection of artwork by SOSS students will be on display in the foyer before the show. Come out to support our students and to enjoy a great evening of local performing arts entertainment!

## HOOPS FOR HOPE

Hoops for Hope is back with another exciting basketball tournament, featuring both senior and junior divisions! After the incredible success of last year's event, where we raised \$3,300 for BC Children's Hospital, we're proud to once again support this important cause. This year's tournament aims to build on that momentum and make an even greater impact. If you're interested in donating, here is the [LINK](#)  
Stay tuned for more details!



# THE HORNETS TOOK EUROPE 2026

The SOSS Europe Trip was an unforgettable experience for our 29 students, who spent 11 days over Spring Break exploring some of Europe's most iconic destinations, including Paris, Nice, Florence, Pisa, Monaco, Rome, Vatican City, and Pompeii. Highlights of the trip included visiting the Eiffel Tower, the Chateau de Versailles, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Louvre, the Colosseum and Roman Forum, and the ancient ruins of Pompeii, along with admiring the luxury cars of Monte Carlo.

Throughout the journey, students were outstanding representatives of both their school and community, demonstrating curiosity, respect, and enthusiasm. They embraced every opportunity to experience local culture—especially enjoying shopping, sampling new foods, and indulging in plenty of gelato and Margherita pizza.

We extend our sincere thanks to the families and community members who supported this trip and made it possible. A special thank you to Ms. Stopa and Mrs. Goncalves for their outstanding work organizing and chaperoning this trip, and to Mr. Hill and Mr. Adam for their support as chaperones throughout the journey.



# Career Ed. Newsletter- April 2026

## Career Ed. Report

As we return from spring break our spring programs are well underway. We have a few students that did not get break as they started programs all over the province. As part of the Dual Credit Health Care Program initiative, four students have started programs related to the health care field. One student began the Healthcare Assistant program at Okanagan College, another started the Medical Office Assistant program at the College of the Rockies, one began a Psychology degree at Thompson Rivers University, and another started coursework for the Dental Assistant program at Okanagan College

Three of our Youth Work in Trades Apprenticeship students have accumulated enough hours to start their level 1 technical training. These students transitioned to Youth Train in Trades program and will be completing Level 1 trades programs at different institutions. The Welder is at Okanagan College, the Carpenter is at University of the Fraser Valley, and the Electrician is at Camosun.

In late February, the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology did a tour for all the CLE 10 classes in School District 53. Our Skills Canada Regional winners have all been registered for provincials taking place April 15 at Tradex in Abbotsford. We are looking for female students interested in trades to go to OC for the Jill of Trades event April 28 in Kelowna.

Finally Dual Credit programs for the 26/27 year are being promoted and are starting to fill up. Grade 10 and 11 students and parents are encouraged to contact Mr. Turnbull or Mr. Toth to learn how to get your post-secondary tuition paid!!

## Up Coming Events :

Skills Canada Provincials-Tradex	April 15th
OC Jill of Trades Female Trade Event	April 28th
Youth RCMP Academy	April 25-29
ExperienceOkanaganCollege Penticton	May 4th
SD53 Wilderness Career Fair Camp Boyle	May 7th



## TECHNOLOGY SAMPLER AT OC

Sept - Feb



A 22 week program delving into the rapidly advancing world of information technology and computer science.  
Hone your digital literacy and technical proficiency with practical training and industry-relevant learning in two key areas: IT Essentials and Introduction to Coding.  
This program is one night online and one night at OC and gives students the opportunity to explore:

- Hardware/ Software/
- Coding & Programming
- IT Systems & Networks
- Cybersecurity/ Data Protection
- Ethics in Technology
- Industry Demands & Career Pathways

*Ready to Explore Information Technology?*

Scan the QR Code and a staff member from the SD53 Careers Department will get in touch with you

Have a question? Email Mr. Turnbull at: [bturnbul@sd53.bc.ca](mailto:bturnbul@sd53.bc.ca)



## Current Offerings

### SEATS ARE AVAILABLE FOR 26/27

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

Please use the link to view information on the Health Care Sampler:

[Health Care Sampler](#)



# “Celebration Of Traditions”

## Pow Wow

### April 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Southern Okanagan Secondary School

6140 Gala St, Oliver, BC, V0H 1T0

School District#53IndigenousEducationCommittee Hosting

**Host Drum – Smokey Valley**

**Second Host Drum - High Water**

**Emcee – Levi Bent**

**Arena Director – Lawrence Trottier**

## Admission is Free - Open to the Public

**Free Dinner:Fridayand Saturday5:30pm**

**Free Breakfast: Saturday 9:00 - 11:00am**

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

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

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

**Dancers welcome. Please register before Grand Entry**

### Saturday Afternoon

Tiny Tot Special

By

Heaven N Earth

Native Art

All drum groups will receive an Honorarium with a minimum 4 singers and must be registered

Vendors are full - You can unload at the back of school then must move vehicles to the front

Public Parking at the front of SOSS

**Elder and handicap parking at the back of school**

### Saturday Evening

Honouring Jemma Louie

Initiation to Jr Girls Category

Special Age 7 - 13

1<sup>st</sup> Prize \$200, 2nd Prize \$150,

3rd Prize \$100, 4th Prize \$50



## THIS IS A SMOKE AND VAPE FREE ZONE

PowWowCommitteemembers&SchoolDistrictNo.53arenotresponsibleforanyinjuries,theft, or items lost

Southern Okanagan Secondary School

# JAPAN2028 FUNDRAISER



Car Detailing - by  
appointment

- Vacuum
- Interior clean
- Windows

Get your car looking snazzy for spring  
while helping our students raise money  
for a trip of a lifetime!

Saturday April 11 9AM – 3PM.

1 Hour time slots.

Location - the back parking lot at  
SOSS.

Please email teacher sponsor  
Lindsey Kingsfield to book your  
appointment

[lkingsfi@sd53.bc.ca](mailto:lkingsfi@sd53.bc.ca)

**\$45 (cash or e-transfer)**

A huge thank you to our  
sponsors!

Oliver's Lordco and  
Canadian Tire

# Parent, Caregiver & Youth Gathering



Fri, May 22<sup>nd</sup> . Sat, May 23<sup>rd</sup>  
UBC Okanagan Campus

Door prizes available for Youth, Parents/Caregivers, and Families  
Complimentary and limited accommodation is available at UBC Okanagan on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Families will be provided with a

gas card for travel

This engaging and informative event is designed to bring together parents, caregivers, and youth in supporting educational success.

Participants will gain valuable insights and discover helpful resources to enhance both youth and parent/caregiver experiences in education.

The Gathering is geared towards Indigenous youth in Grades 7 -12, but all Indigenous Youth and Parents/Caregivers are welcome to attend.

Contact Ryan Conneely for more info: [ryan.conneely@ubc.ca](mailto:ryan.conneely@ubc.ca)

Register here: [ubc.ca/qualtrics.com/ife/form/SV\\_Or2ctll1QRVbHV4](https://ubc.ca/qualtrics.com/ife/form/SV_Or2ctll1QRVbHV4)

