

OCTOBER 2023

SOUTHERN OKANAGAN SECONDARY SCHOOL

HOME OF THE HORNETS



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to fall! Thank you to Helen Gallagher and our Indigenous Advocates for organizing our Truth & Reconciliation assembly that was held at Parks & Rec on Friday. It was heartfelt and informative.

Mrs. Podmorow and Link Crew organized our Terry Fox Run last week. Together, staff and students raised over \$2,000 for cancer research. Congratulations everyone for your generous support.

Athletic teams are in full swing thanks to the organization of our Athletic Director, Mr. Podmorow. This year for the fall sports, we have volleyball, field hockey, soccer and cross-country with over 150 students participating on one or more teams. We wish all student athletes a fun and positive season and a huge thank you to all the coaches who are volunteering their time to work with our kids.

The cafeteria is again up and running with delicious food being prepared by our students under the guidance of Mr. Dyer. The monthly menu has been posted on our website. Cafeteria \$60 punch cards are available in the office. Our Rycor payment system is also up and running. If you haven't already paid school fees, please do so as soon as possible.

The Auto-Dialer system is in place again this year. If your child has missed a block during the day and we have not been notified by a parent or guardian, the system will phone and email you. Please let the office know if your contact information has changed so we can update it in the system. If your child is going to be away, please let us know.

Thanks to the support of Sam Marsel, the Rotary Club and numerous business partners as we are pleased to announce that the Starfish Backpack program is back for the third year. This program ensures that children in need have food to take home every weekend. These generous donations can support up to ten children, every weekend, for the full year. We are extremely grateful.

On a different note, please be advised that in accordance to Policy D-1 there is no smoking or vaping on school grounds. If students are in breach of this, parents will be contacted, and appropriate consequences will be assigned. For more information about the risks associated with vaping, check out the following link. (<https://video.edweek.org/detail/videos/popular-videos/video/5816269412001/are-students-juuling-in-your-classroom?autoStart=true>)

As a safety reminder, please remember that student pick up and drop off is on the road at the front or back of the school and not in the parking lot or in the bus lanes. Safety is our number one priority and bus lanes are busy enough without adding more vehicles. Thanks for your cooperation on this.

October 18th is Family Conferences. These will be held in-person or by phone. The link to register is on the school website. Please be reminded this is an early dismissal day as is October 19. Pro D is October 20.

Our next PAC meeting will be October 19 at 6:30pm in the library. We encourage all parents to come out and be involved. We are looking forward to an awesome year! Please don't hesitate to check out our website. Take care and stay healthy.

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IMPORTANT DATES

OCTOBER 11 - SR. GIRLS VOLLEYBALL VS SUMMERLAND - 5PM
OCTOBER 13 & 14 - GRADE 8 VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT
OCTOBER 16 - GRAD PARENT MEETING
OCTOBER 18 - EARLY DISMISSAL - CLASSES OUT AT 11:55AM
OCTOBER 18 - FAMILY CONFERENCES (2-4 AND 5-7 BOOK AHEAD)
OCTOBER 18 - SR. GIRLS VOLLEYBALL VS. MAGGIE - 5PM
OCTOBER 19 - EARLY DISMISSAL, CLASSES OUT AT 11:55AM
OCTOBER 19 - PAC MEETING, 6:30 LIBRARY
OCTOBER 20 - PRO-D DAY, NO SCHOOL
OCTOBER 24 - PHOTO RE-TAKE DAY
OCTOBER 25 - EARLY DISMISSAL INQUIRY DAY, CLASSES OUT AT 11:55 AM
OCTOBER 31 - HALLOWEEN



GRAD INFORMATION

Grad Parent Meeting on Monday, October 16 in the library from 6:00-7:00pm. We will be discussing where to find grad information, the CLC 12 course, prom, dry grad events, post-secondary applications, scholarships & bursaries, fundraising and more. Grads should be checking their SOSS Grad Teams PAGE regularly for information about things coming up.

SAVE THE DATE

Prom - Saturday, June 8 from ~5:30-10:00pm at the Oliver Community Centre Hall.

UPCOMING

Winter Plant & Meat Fundraiser...order forms to come out in November. Grads get \$5 put towards their Grad fees for each item sold.

CLC 12 COURSE

CLC 12 is a required course for graduation and is offered outside the timetable. Students work on the course independently and are responsible for handing in assignments on time. Assignments and due dates are posted on Teams. Questions? Ask Mrs. Russo - crusso@sd53.bc.ca or Mrs. Burns - jburns@sd53.bc.ca

Join the Cooking Club!

Bored on a Friday afternoon? Join us after school from 3:00-4:30 pm in the cafeteria with the amazing DUO Mr. Dyer and Ms. Frank as your culinary guides. What's in store for you? Learn cooking fundamentals, discover cool recipes, create delicious dishes, meet fellow foodies, fun times and good tunes!

To ensure a hands on experience there will be a maximum of 15 students in the kitchen per day. Whether your a seasoned chef or a total newbie in the kitchen, everyone is welcome!

Mark your calendar. Cooking Club begins Friday October 13th!

STUDENT VOICE CLUB

The SOSS Student Voice Club meets every Tuesday in Room 207. New members are always welcome. This year the Student Voice Club met on Tuesday September 26th at the Ditch Café for our annual retreat. Students welcomed our new members with ice breaker activities and brainstormed for the monthly activities that our club would like to organize throughout this year. They held a bake sale fundraiser on Thursday October 5th. Currently Student Voice is selling merchandise online and offering SOSS hoodies as well as a windbreaker/jacket and sales will continue until the week of October 20th. For more information you may contact teacher reps. Ms. Scott, Ms. Laver or Ms. Martins or any of our student voice members.



Skateboard Club

It's been a rainy fall and we've had to re-arrange some trips, but there are still a few weeks left before the end of the fall session. Looking forward to getting some more days in before everyone trades skateboards for snowboards!

Check out our most recent trips on instagram: @sossskateboardclub

Skate club members can send attachments of pics and video to Mr. McKinnon on Teams for club coverage.

Special Thanks to Gord Goble from the Penticton Now for getting Gavin Heise's skateboarding pic blown up larger than life on the front of the new Penticton Skatepark Washroom building. Thanks Gord!



SOSS ATHLETICS

GRADE 8 GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

After a few weeks of regular practices and some team building, the grade 8 girls' volleyball team has begun their regular season last week in Osoyoos. There was significant improvement in confidence and understanding in the games against OSS and PSS. They were able to take a set from OSS as kept the other sets close as well. The rest of their regular season matches are as follows:

Oct 3rd at SOSS versus Summerland Middle School and Skaha Lake Middle School.

Oct 10th at SOSS versus KVR Blue and Osoyoos Secondary School

Oct 17th at SLMS versus Princeton and SLMS

Nov 1st at KVR versus KVR Blue and KVR Black

The girls will also participate in two tournaments. The first is our local SOSS tournament on October 13th and 14th. The second is the Monster Mash in Vernon on the 27th and 28th of October.

We look forward to seeing many of you out to support the Hornets over the coming weeks at a local match or tournament!

SENIOR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

The Sr. Girls volleyball team have started their league play for the 2023 season. In their first match, they lost a hard fought game against Maggie in Penticton. The next match is Wednesday October 11th at home vs Summerland. Game time is at 5:00 PM and check out the schedule on the website for more home games. The team will travel to Castlegar October 27-28 and Osoyoos Secondary November 3-4 for their next tournaments. Hope to see you at the games!



JUNIOR FIELD HOCKEY

Our Junior Field Hockey team played an excellent weekend of hockey Sept 22-23rd at our home Fall Festival tournament. In the 5-side format, the girls all had lots of touches on the ball and improved tremendously as the weekend went on. Their first league game against Maggie the following week ended in a 2-2, with plenty of scoring opportunities throughout. This week, the team is away in Chilliwack competing for the first time in full field, 11-side games. This year's roster includes: Ophena Pepee, Zoey Jones, Aloe Kendrick, Deepika Brar, Neera Brar, Arpan Dhaliwal, Vienna von Burg, Audrey Nofle, Meredith Lester, Rowan Stopa, Florence Klimo, Maia Bellingan, Olivia Veenendaal and Sarah Saysomsack.



SENIOR FIELD HOCKEY

The Senior Field Hockey Hornets have had a competitive start to their season. The Hornets are developing grit and tenacity, learning to hold their own in tough situations. Against provincially competitive teams this season, they have lost 3, won 1, and tied 3. Kaylee Klassen has been a rock in net, and the team in front of her is increasingly dangerous, and threatening to score more and more often. Joining Kaylee this year are Jordyn Koteles, Mya Crowley, Anabel Lefebvre, Emma Klassen, Evleen Badesha, Emma Millward, Kate Nofle, Annie Goncalves, Heera Buttar, Riya Chahal, Maia Bellingan, Olivia Veenendaal, Ishmeet Dhaliwal, Kismet Dhaliwal, Lilah Smith, Harnoor Brar, and Olivia Goncalves.

INDIGENOUS DEPARTMENT

Truth and Reconciliation Day held at Oliver Parks and Rec bandshell this year. SOSS, TEN, OES and Sen Pok Chin Band schools participated in the event. They had opportunity to listen to residential school survivor stories and a class participated in the Blanket Exercise with some community members from town. It was great to have the entire SOSS student body attend..



I'm Megan Edwards, the District Youth Peer Support Worker. I spend time in each high school weekly supporting the students as an integrated member of the team. I've been in Oliver for 7 years and with the school district for 5. I started off as an EA and started this position in January 2023.

Peer Support is a relatively new addition to the circle of support in our schools, and, understandably, there are many questions surrounding the idea. I hope to answer a few for you!

Peer Support Workers are care supporters who identify as having lived/living experience of mental health and/or substance use challenges. They utilize their experience as expertise, and along with peer support training, provide emotional/practical support, validation, acceptance and mentorship to those facing similar situations and regardless of circumstances. The goal of peer support is to recognize the student as an expert in their own life and work collaboratively with them on their goals. The focus is to ensure they feel supported in their situation, that they and/or their caregivers are receiving the proper support, school based or community based, and are not left feeling isolated. This is different from a counselling role in that I can share my personal experiences, I don't offer clinical advice, and can offer connection to community support.

I'm available Monday and Wednesday at SESS; Tuesday and Friday at SOSS and Thursday at OSS. I can also be reached at medwards@sd53.bc.ca. Please reach out with any inquiries.

I'm excited for this upcoming year. It's going to be a great one!

SENIOR BOYS SOCCER

Senior Boys Soccer Makes a return to SOSS

SOSS has not fielded a boys soccer team in almost a decade. They returned to action this season. To date the boys have played in 11 games and have an overall record of 6 and 5. The boys are learning a lot about the game and they get stronger every week. The team is off to Hope for a tournament in the middle of October.

PAC NEWS

SOSS PAC Meeting

WHEN: Thursday, October 19 @ 6:30pm

WHERE: SOSS Library

Open to all parents, we look forward to seeing you on October 19th as we all build our school community.

\$25 PAC Optional Donation - Student Quick Pay The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) would like to introduce SOSS parents to this new annual contribution that supports your children in both the classroom and in extra-curricular and sporting activities. The 2023/2024 PAC \$25 voluntary contribution is available now on the Student Quick Pay <https://www.studentquickpay.com/ossd53/>. Your donations enhance your child's school experience in so many ways. Your \$25 PAC donation works alongside the BC Gaming Grant funds that the PAC applies for each year. Please see the attached for more info or email us at sosspac53@gmail.com.