



SOUTHERN OKANAGAN SECONDARY SCHOOL

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Home of the Hornets!

Principal's Message

Welcome to the beginning of semester 2! With exams and final assessments completed last week, report cards have now been published. In some cases, due to illness, students may still have to write their final assessment. In those cases, the report card comment will reflect this and once they have been completed, the final mark will be updated.

Course selection for the 2021-22 school year is in full swing. Please note that students are expected to go to their online portal to complete this task. If you need help, please contact Mrs. Goncalves in the library. The deadline for this is February 11.

A reminder to grads that your Capstone requirements are now due. Please see Mr. Burns, Mrs. Harrington, Mr. Willms, Ms. Smith, or Mrs. Goncalves if you have questions. The dates for grad photos are February 28 – March 4. Sign up online, the link is in TEAMS. Please note that the updated Grad List will be posted next week. Make sure to check it. If you are not on the list, that means that you are missing a graduation requirement. Please see one of the Grad Team members immediately. This is also a reminder that scholarship and bursary applications are available. To be eligible for school scholarships, students must be taking a minimum of six courses at SOSS and be a student in good standing. See one of us if you have any questions.

We are extremely excited to be having a Winter Active Living Day on February 14th thanks to the hard work and dedication of many of our staff. The cutoff for payment was Friday, February 4. Students have already signed up for skiing, skating, bowling, tubing and winter survival games. All events follow PHO orders. Students who have not registered will be in classes. We are looking forward to this fun-filled event.

The basketball teams will be heading into playoffs at the end of February. Thanks to all the coaches for supporting our kids.

Mrs. Podmorow and her Theatre class are busy working on their production of Oliver. Thanks to everyone who is supporting this event behind the scenes as we know it is a lot of work. We are really looking forward to seeing the final product.

Pink Shirt Day Grad vs Staff challenge will be held on February 23rd. The goal is to get as many grade 12's and staff (as well as the rest of the school) to wear pink shirts to support the acceptance of everyone and to eliminate bullying. The group that has the lowest percentage of people participating has to do a random act of kindness. We are hopeful that many people will participate and show their support.

Mr. Kitt has been working with students to get them enrolled in the Gateway to Trades and Gateway to Tech programs. These highly specialized programs provide unique opportunities for our students. The Camosun College Culinary program is in its fifth year and offers incredible opportunities for students with a passion for cooking. This is an exciting time for education!

As a final note, we will be changing the timetable next year to a hybrid format after surveying staff and students. As you may know, we had to make changes two years ago to accommodate Covid protocols. Next September, we will go back to having four blocks per day on Monday, Wednesday and Friday with two long blocks on Tuesday and Thursday. We believe this will be better for students as it incorporates one long block per week per class (great for labs, field trips, shop projects) and allows for students to see their teachers four out of five days per week.

Take care everyone and stay safe.

Tracy Harrington - Principal

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Important Dates

February 11	Course Request Deadline
February 14	Winter Active Living Day
February 14	Ski/Snowboarding Trip
February 18	Pro-D Day, No School
February 21	Family Day, No School
February 23	Pink Shirt Day
February 23	Inquiry Day
	Early Dismissal– 11:57am
February 28	Grad Photos begin



These clubs are offered at SOSS, everyone is always welcome to join! New club ideas are welcome too!

Art Club– Mondays afterschool, Art Room

Student Voice Club—Tuesdays at lunch, room 207

Magic Club– Wednesdays at lunch, room 907

SAGA Club— Fridays at lunch, drama studio



Grad Photos

GRADS...do not forget to sign up for your Grad Photos on-line Grad Photos take place from February 28-March 4th.



Magic Club



If you have ever been interested in learning how to perform magic tricks, we have a new club for you. Wednesday February 9th in room 907 will be the first meeting of the Dazzling Twang Club (SOSS Magicians Club). In the club we will start with some basic card and coin magic and potentially explore cardistry.



Course Selections

Course Selections for next year are underway. On our school website, under Academics and Course Selections, there is information on how to complete this process. Students will select the grade they will be in next year and follow the instructions. All students must include the Primary Choices (the perfect schedule) and Alternate Choices (just in case we can't schedule in one of your top picks).

1. See the website for the [Course Offerings Booklet](#) which has descriptions of the courses and some multi-media links to further explain the courses.
2. **Grade 9 students** (this year's grade 8's) will use the Course Request Form to make their selections, have the form signed and returned to Mrs. Goncalves in the library.
3. **Students in grades 10-12** next year will use My Blueprint to select their courses for next year, submit the choices, print off the Verification Sheet, bring the signed sheet to Mrs. Goncalves in the library.
4. **All students** then need to login to MyEd using their student account and follow [these instructions](#) to input their choices into the system.

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.

BASKETBALL

Grade 8 Girls

The grade 8 girls basketball team has shown huge improvement since the beginning of the season. Although we are small in number, we are big on shooting and scoring! It is not very often that a grade 8 girls' team can score 50-70 points per game. The girls continue to work hard to develop those hidden talents. Although all our tournaments have been cancelled due to Covid protocols, they have stayed upbeat and dedicated to learning as much as they can about the game. We are looking forward to playing our last few games and ending the season on a strong note. Great work everyone!

Grade 8 Boys

The Grade 8 Boys Basketball team has had a season of development and growth. The team of 14 players has worked hard week in and week out to develop a better understanding of playing organized, team basketball. From offensive plays and improved shooting to defensive positioning, every player has set a goal and made major strides in achieving these goals. With their current 5-1 record, the boys have also shown they can convert lessons learned in practice to game day success. Well done to all the members of the team.



Junior Boys

The Jr. Boys have had a good season with finishing 3rd in the league. Earlier in the season we had a few tough loses, but the boys are coming together as a team and realizing their potential. We play our first playoff game Monday against Pen High and if the boys manage to pull out a win, the chances of going to the valley tournament in Kamloops increases. This season we have saw notable games from quite a few Hornets, Saxon Garrity, Karamjot Braich, Hayden Scanlon, Kyle Ward, Ravinder Aujla, and Landon Somerville.



Grad Information



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 2022 CLC/Capstone Teams page as well. 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, February 28th to Friday March 4th. Please make sure you have signed up for a time by using the link in the Grad 2022 CLC/Capstone Teams page. Students can check in with the office if they have forgotten their time. Please arrive at your appointment at least 10 minutes early to sign in and make last minute preparations. Mountain West Studios will provide the cap, gown, school colours, flowers, diplomas and a variety of backgrounds and creativity. 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 high school. 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 Mr. Burns, Mr. Kitt or Mrs. Harrington.

Foods 9/10

Ms. Martins' Foods 9/10 Block C Q2 class got to take part in a field trip to the Tucehnut Provincial Park on Friday, January 14th. Students got to take part in Indigenous ways of Learning on the Land. We went on a hike, played games and made bannock wrapped smokies, maple syrup caramel and smores on the open fire. The students had a lot of fun in this outdoor activity and the class would like to thank Jenny Martin from the Board Office for helping us with this fun filled day. They would also like to thank our Indigenous advocate Shan Pelletier for making the bannock and her assistant Jimmy Baptiste, as well as Mr. Kitt for driving the minibus for us. We had a great morning!



Upcoming Surveys

Our grade 8 students will be participating in the MDI (Middle years Development Instrument) next Wednesday and Friday, February 8th and 10th. The Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) is a self-report, anonymous questionnaire that asks children in middle childhood about their thoughts, feelings and experiences. The MDI gathers information about the lives of children both in school, in the home and in the community, from their own perspective. The survey uses a strengths-based approach to assess five dimensions of child development that are strongly linked to social and emotional well-being, health, academic achievement, and overall success throughout the school years and in later life.

Our grade 10 and 12 students will be participating in the anonymous Student Learning Survey (SLS) on March 2nd and 4th. This survey helps us to plan for the future by learning about our student's education experiences. Students in Grades 10 and 12, their parents and all staff in B.C. public schools are invited to participate in an annual online satisfaction survey about their school experience. Parents can find a link to the survey on the SOSS website.

Questions about these surveys can be directed to Ms. Smith (MDI), Mr. Burns (SLS) or Mrs. Harrington

Indigenous Department

Way' Families! Happy Semester 2. So far in January we went on a foods field trip to do some outdoor cooking with Ms. Martins' 9/10 Foods class. We also were busy helping students get ready for exams. This month we are looking forward to lots of time spent in EFP 10, doing cultural projects and trips on the land. We are starting a traditional stick games team so we can participate in the district wide stick games tournament this spring. We are in full swing with Grizzly Crew and the Snkclip Sisters' group. We will be working on our double ball sticks to introduce the game to PE classes.

This month in the Indigenous Department we are holding our first of hopefully many beading sessions! The first one is taking place on Tuesday February 8 at lunch time in the Gathering Room. If you have not signed up for this and are interested please come to the Gathering room to do so.

Reminder to all Indigenous Grads that there are Indigenous Grad meetings the first Friday of every month. We had our February meeting February 4th and our next one will be March 4th. Listen to the announcements for reminders about these meetings.



Student Voice

THE STUDENT VOICE CLUB is recognizing Black History month. During the morning announcements in February, members of the club will spotlight the contributions and achievements of people of African descent.



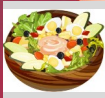
BC's Black Pioneers: Influencing the Vision of Canada

Designed and developed by BCBHAS
with investment from Digital Museums
Canada



Also, the MERCH orders are hopefully being delivered by the end of February. There will be an announcement to pick up MERCH when all of it finally arrives.

New members are always welcome to join the club. They meet at lunch on Tuesdays in room 207.



CAFETERIA MENU



31 Day 1 No service Students In Training	1 Day 2 No service Students In Training	2 Day 1 No service Students In Training	3 Day 2 Pizza Day	4 Day 1 Tomato Basil Soup 🍷 Mac N' Cheese 🍷
7 Day 2 Cold Service Cobb Salad 🍷 Biscuits/Pretzels	8 Day 1 Broccoli Cheddar Soup 🍷 Italian Sausage Penne	9 Day 2 Cold Service Cobb Salad 🍷 Biscuits/Pretzels	10 Day 1 Thai Coconut Curry 🍷 Butter Chicken & Naan	11 Day 2 Pizza Day
14 Day 1 Active Living Day Chili & Biscuits Cobb Salad 🍷	15 Day 2 Cold Service Cobb Salad 🍷 Biscuits/Pretzels	16 Day 1 Borscht 🍷 Perogies & Bacon	17 Day 2 Pizza Day 🍷	18 NO SCHOOL
21 FAMILY DAY NO SCHOOL	22 Day 1 Spiced Chickpea Soup 🍷 Chicken Pesto Penne	23 Day 2 INQUIRY DAY NO SERVICE	24 Day 1 French Onion Soup 🍷 Meatball Subs	25 Day 2 Pizza Day
28 Day 1 Chicken Noodle Soup Grilled Cheese w/Caesar 🍷	Entrée \$4.00 Large Soup \$4.00 Small Soup \$3.00 Dessert \$1.00 Juice \$1.00 *soup served with fresh bread	February 2022		

🍷 = vegetarian option available

**menu subject to change – check cafeteria TV📺

News from your PAC

The SOSS PAC is here to ensure that parents and caregivers have an organized voice in their child's' education.

PAC offers an opportunity to be involved in the student experience (eg. by providing funding for some extracurricular activities, field trips, clubs); while providing parents with a place to voice any concerns or issues. We also receive direct feed-back from the school administration and School Board Trustee at each of our meetings.

PAC meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of each month via ZOOM (no meetings in December, March or June). Our next meeting will be **February 17th at 6:30pm.**

To access the Zoom meeting, please click the following link: <https://sd53-bc-ca.zoom.us/j/62096977768>

To read the minutes from our previous meeting, please click this link:

https://soss.sd53.bc.ca/apps/pages/index.jspuREC_ID=1060898&type=d&pREC_ID=1356708

If you have any questions please contact PAC at sosspac53@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you on February 17th.

