

SOUTHERN OKANAGAN SECONDARY SCHOOL



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Second semester is now well underway, and SOSS continues to be a vibrant and busy place. Our basketball teams are in playoff season, and we look forward to some exciting games ahead—congratulations to all of our teams on their efforts and accomplishments.

Semester One report cards have now been published. Parents and guardians have received an email with instructions on how to access these reports. If you or your child need assistance accessing them, please contact Mrs. Goncalves in the library.

Following the conclusion of Semester One, an updated Grad list has been published. In addition, the course selection process for the 2026–27 school year is currently underway. Please refer to the course selection section of this newsletter for further details.

As I conclude my time at SOSS, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the entire SOSS school community for a rewarding semester. I know you will be in excellent hands with Ms. Beyer, your incoming principal, and I wish you all continued success.

Bev Young

Thank you all for the warm welcome to SOSS. My first couple of days with staff and students has been very enjoyable. I have transferred from my role as Principal of Johnston Heights in Surrey to SOSS. I bring with me a curiosity and open heart to my new community of Oliver. I met with all the grade groups and shared a couple things about myself, but as you will get to know me, I love the outdoors and everything that brings. The students told me that SOSS was about connection, pride and spirit. This is something I look forward to continue to foster at SOSS. I look forward to getting to know you all. So far, I love being a Hornet.

Susan Beyer

IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY 12	OIB POWWOW FUNDRAISER
FEBRUARY 13	PRO-D, NO SCHOOL
FEBRUARY 16	FAMILY DAY, NO SCHOOL
FEBRUARY 18-20	GRAD PHOTOS
FEBRUARY 19	PAC MEETING, 6:30 PM
FEBRUARY 20	COURSE SELECTIONS DUE
FEBRUARY 25	EARLY DISMISSAL @ 11:55 AM
MARCH 5-7	ROCK OF AGES, VENABLES THEATRE
MARCH 9	APEX SKI TRIP
MARCH 9	GRAD PHOTO RE-TAKES
MARCH 14-29	SPRING BREAK

SOUTHERN OKANAGAN SECONDARY SCHOOL
PRESENTS

ROCK OF AGES

HIGH SCHOOL EDITION

MARCH 5 7 PM MARCH 6 7 PM MARCH 7 2 PM & 7 PM

ADULTS \$20 STUDENTS \$15

GRADE 8 BOYS BASKETBALL

The Grade 8 Boys' Basketball Season started all the way back in mid-November. The 16 enthusiastic and energetic team members have been working hard under the leadership of coaches Davies, Dhillon, and Seymour. Learning to play a more structured and organized form of basketball has been a challenge for many. Although there have not been many victories for the team this season, the growth has still been significant. From improved shooting, stronger defense, and better cohesion on the court, the team has been able to see the benefits of their practice and learning. The boys host their season-ending tournament on February 6th and 7th here at SOSS. We look forward to seeing where this group goes in the coming years.



SD# 53 Annual Powwow Fundraiser

Come out and enjoy a Bannock Taco dinner, a Loonie Auction & 50/50 Draw

Date: February 12, 2026

Location: OIB Community Hall
(6046 Sandpoint Drive Oliver, BC)

Time: 5:00p.m.

Taco dinner and pop or water:

\$12 per person or \$40 per family of 5 or more (same household)
Pop or water \$1.00



Everyone Welcome!

All proceeds go to our SD# 53 Annual Powwow event held April 17 & 18 2026 at Southern Okanagan Secondary School

Organized by the SD#53 Indigenous Advocate Powwow Committee

COURSE SELECTIONS

Course selections for next year are underway. Information can be found on our [school website](#) to explain how to complete the process. All students must include their ideal schedule along with alternate choices just in case we can't schedule in one of your top choices.

- See the website for the [Course Offerings Booklet](#) which has descriptions and some multi-media links to further explain the courses. If you are going into grades 10-12 the descriptions will be in [MyBlueprint](#) when you click on the course.
- 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.
- Students in grades 10-12 next year will use [MyBlueprint](#) to select their courses for next year, submit their choices and then enter a parent/guardian email for approval.

All student requests are to be completed by February 20. 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. An information session will be provided for these students to help guide them in their choices and answer specific questions.



SOSS PAC

Proudly partnered with
The Case Lot Guys
- Okanagan

CITRUS FUNDRAISER

Purchase Fresh 10lb bags and support the SOSS PAC scholarship and our student programs, activities, and school initiatives.

- ✓ Navel Oranges
- ✓ Raspberry Oranges
- ✓ Cara Cara Oranges
- ✓ Mixed Citrus - lemon, limes, oranges & grapefruits

Only
\$25/ 10lb
Bag



📅 ORDERS CLOSE: FEBRUARY 20

✓ PICKUP DATE: MARCH 4

Order online through the Student Quick Pay or by scanning the QR code by Feb 20.

A PAC member will call to you with pick up details!



SCIENCE FAIR

With the support of community partners and volunteers, there is an upcoming Okanagan Shuswap Regional STEM Fair! The Regional STEM Fair, will be open to students in grades 3-12, attending public school (Districts 19, 22, 23, 53, 67, and 83), FNSA affiliated schools, Independent schools, and home-schools, living within the Interior. The event will be hosted at UBC Okanagan in Kelowna, BC, on March 10-11, 2026. Winning projects will qualify those students to represent the Region, at the annual Canada Wide Science Fair.

More details and information on how to register will be coming soon. We are excited for students to demonstrate inquiry, exploration of the scientific process, and sharing of results, in an inclusive and supportive environment. Please feel free to reach out to Ms Seymour, or the Science Fair Committee at osstemfair@gmail.com, with further questions.

February 2026

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

Snack Cups \$3
Wraps \$4
Juice \$1

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
2 Pizza 	3 Perogies	4 Spicy Sausage & Pepper Pasta	5 Caprese Sandwiches with Chips 	6 Meatloaf with Mashed Potatoes
9 Pizza 	10 Beef Tacos	11 French Toast with Bacon 	12 Pulled Pork Sandwiches with Coleslaw	13 Pro-D Day (No School)
16 Family Day (No School)	17 Pizza 	18 Butternut Squash Lasagna 	19 Chicken Chow Mein	20 Pesto Pasta 
23 Pizza 	24 Chicken Quesadillas with Beans & Corn	25 Early Dismissal (No Service)	26 Spring Rolls with Fried Rice 	27 Pizza Subs with Caesar Salad

 = Vegetarian entrée available

Lion's Park Capital Improvement Community Feedback Needed!

Oliver & District Recreation has a capital improvement project in the works to add a new outdoor play-based structure or feature to Lion's Park (between Hwy 97 and the Okanagan River). They would like your feedback on the recommended 3 different concepts for the park, each with its own merits for physical activity elements and project considerations (target age range, maintenance/repair, environmental impact etc.). The 3 concepts include:

1. Pump Track
2. Parkour/Action Park
3. Nature-based Playground

An informational slide presentation and a short survey are now available on the Recreation website www.oliver.ca/recreation.





Exciting News Southern Okanagan Secondary Grads and Families!

Grad Cap and Gown and Full Length Fashion photos are coming up soon! Photo sessions will take place at the school, in Room 122 of the Tech Building. This environment allows us to provide quality photography within a safe and comfortable location.

Our goal is to provide portraits that CELEBRATE you and your 13 years of academic achievement. In order to appear in your school yearbook and on the commemorative school composite, it is important that you have your graduation photo taken by Mountain West Studios. We are your official graduation photographer!

To book your preferred session times, please visit these links:

Grad Cap and Gown/Fashion - February 18-20, 2026

The sitting fee is \$20 and includes the following year-end memorabilia presented at graduation: diploma folder, mini composite, 5x7 ceremony photo, and an 8x10 group photo

[Southern Okanagan Individual Grad Sitings](#)

Buddy/Friendship and Family Groups - February 20, 2026

The sitting fee is \$10 per person, per group, and includes 1 complimentary 5x7 for each participant.

[Southern Okanagan Buddy Sitings](#)

For more information on how to prepare for your grad sitting, please review:

<https://videos.mountainwest.ca/mountainwest/MWSGradVideo.mp4>

<https://www.mountainwest.ca/grad-photos>

Have Questions?

Email: help@mountainwest.ca

Phone: 1.888.644.4494



Career Ed. Newsletter- February 2026

Career Ed. Report

As we wind down semester one, WEX students and Youth Work in Trades students are finishing hours and completing final assignments. While Train in Trades students continue to work in their programs at OC.

With Semester 2 approaching School District 53, has 21 students starting trade programs at Okanagan College, Camosun College and UFV, as well as 5 students starting academic dual credit programs for the winter semester at OC, TRU and College of the Rockies. The success that SD53 students are having in post-secondary dual credit courses can be attributed to having support through their transition from secondary to post-secondary.

Trades programs throughout the province fill up quickly so if the school district needs to secure more than our priority seats it is important that students interested in dual credit programs apply when applications open.

Skills Canada Regionals is just around the corner on February 20, 2026. All three secondary schools have students competing in a variety of skills.

Finally, our dedicated careers team and CLE and CLC teachers will be attending the Career Educator Society's interior mini conference.

Up Coming Events :

Interior Health Career Exploration
February 10th

Career Education Society Interior Conference
February 13th

Skills Canada Regionals
February 20th

Check out this link for more information about the ECE program:

[Early Childhood Education-Okanagan College](#)

WORK EXPERIENCE



Work Experience prepares students transitioning from secondary school to the world of work. It consists of 100 hours of work at a work site, combined with 20 hours of related career and work experience assignments.

The Goals of Work Experience

- Students have the opportunity to observe and practice generic employability skills required in the workplace, as well as technical and applied skills relating to occupations or industries.
- Connect what they learn in the classroom with the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed in the workplace to be successful
- Develop job readiness skills for specific occupations and careers
- Understand the similarities and differences in behavior standards between the workplace and school



What does the course consist of?

- Unpaid work meant to gain employability skills, many students turn their placements into paid jobs.
- Provide work to an employer with a Placement Agreement in place, ensuring that students are covered by the Ministry of Education's Workers Compensation plan- The School District will handle any WCB claim.
- Students must complete all safety assignments and provide documentation prior to commencing work experience at the placement



READY TO EXPLORE CAREER EDUCATION WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM?

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



Current Offerings

SEATS ARE AVAILABLE FOR 26/27

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