

## *OSOYOOS SECONDARY SCHOOL*

Mr. G. Heinrichs, Principal

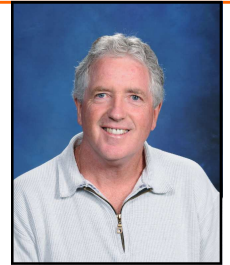
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*"To enable learners to achieve their individual potentials and to become healthy productive citizens of a global society."*



Mr. Robin Bonnett

In our last newsletter, we made mention of several staff members who are leaving the school. However, one individual was not mentioned. That person is Mr. Robin Bonnett. In light of his long service to the school, we are sending out this special edition to commemorate a long and illustrious career served entirely at OSS.

Osoyoos Secondary opened its doors in September of 1979. In the fall of that year, a Senior Science position opened up and Mr. Bonnett joined the OSS staff in January of 1980. Osoyoos Secondary's first graduation was held in June of 1980. Mr. Bonnett was there. Our most recent graduation was held on June 11, 2011. Mr. Bonnett was there. In other words, Mr. Bonnett has connected with every single graduation class since the school opened its doors. He has taught at the school for 32 years. In recognition of this tremendous commitment to our school, our current graduating class asked Mr. Bonnett to be their guest speaker at the graduation ceremony. Both before and after his speech, Mr. Bonnett received a standing ovation.

His message recounted the many activities and trips that built positive memories of the school. He also mentioned future opportunities that should be embraced with courage and determination. He noted the changing landscape that technology is creating and implored students to make sure it is used to suit their needs rather than being mastered by it. He also challenged the Grads to volunteer their time and lives in service to others. He thanked his wife for her years of dedication that allowed him to invest heavily in the lives of his students. Mr. Bonnett concluded by describing his teaching career as a privilege.



Over the years, Mr. Bonnett has spent countless hours in the classroom teaching, tutoring and inspiring students. He has made strong connections with his students who always remember him with great fondness. He regularly took students to the Physics Olympics at UBC, Spaghetti Bridge Building at Okanagan College and has run many Science Fairs. Teachers throughout the school have heard a crash or explosion at one time or another and need to be assured that it is just Mr. Bonnett conducting an experiment, giving a demonstration or launching a rocket. Needless to say, Mr. Bonnett held students interest and attention

in all his lessons even though he is the only teacher in the building who still continues to use chalk boards!

At our recent Athletic Awards Ceremony, Mr. Bonnett estimated that he has coached 50 - 60 teams throughout his career. This only serves to underline the tremendous commitment that Mr. Bonnett has made to the school and its students. Keep in mind that coaching is a voluntary activity that demands countless hours devoted to practices and games, plus many weekends away from home each season for tournaments. Mr. Bonnett always encouraged his athletes to strive for improvement and display character rather than focus on the scoreboard. In this regard, athletes on Mr. Bonnett's team were always winners.

Mr. Bonnett has helped shape the positive culture and climate that OSS enjoys. He was one of the first teachers to organize Dry Grad activities and he also organized many proms for the school. He has served as department head for many, many years. He has taken student-teachers into his classroom and served as a mentor for many new teachers. He constantly asks the question, "What is best for kids?" This principle guides his every decision and demonstrates his tremendous commitment to the students of OSS.

Mr. Bonnett has remarkable insight and his advice is regularly sought out. After all, no one knows the history or culture of the school better than Mr. Bonnett. He knows where the school has been and has a keen interest in where it is going. He has seen every change the school has gone through, has worked with every administrator and knows what has worked and not worked throughout the school's history. Mr. Bonnett is a valuable asset to the school and his presence will be greatly missed.

In the past year, Mr. Bonnett has been a shining example of what it means to finish strong. He coached two teams in each of the past two years and has been highly involved in all activities and, even though he will not be here next year, demonstrates great interest and concern for the direction the school is going. He is truly invested in this school and is a shining example of commitment and integrity. Simply stated, Mr. Bonnett is irreplaceable.

We wish him all the best as he enters into the next phase of life known as retirement. Boonski - we're done!



Ms. Harstone's English 12 class wrote the following poem and recited it to Mr. Bonnett at our Day Award Ceremony on Wednesday, June 15, 2011

*Mr. Bonnett*

Hey everyone take off your hats and coats,  
It's time for you to "pull out your notes".  
You've been here since day one  
All the way back in 1981.  
To the world you'll be known as Mr. B,  
But to us you'll remain our beloved Twiggy.  
Your hands were always covered with chalk  
But to us it was always our favourite block.  
If your question is about his luscious white hair,  
Don't ask 'cause it will always be there.  
No matter the amount of peroxide or dye  
He'll still always be a really good guy.  
From the basketball boys, we'd like to thank you a lot.  
You always inspired us to make the right shot.

Spaghetti and glue doesn't last very long  
But your memory in us will always stay strong.  
Learning our names often took you awhile,  
It's Shayna not Shawna, and my name isn't Kyle!!  
Your scary experiments were always so loud,  
Shrapnel often flew into the crowd.  
With the last standing chalk board in the school  
We always thought that was pretty cool.  
Firing a potato gun straight up in the air  
When it came down it gave quite a scare.  
Once I was talking to a friend during class  
But I turned around and you kicked my...shin.

Once you slapped me with a big stack of paper  
Your sense of discipline is a real "people shaper".  
The way you dress is quite unique  
It accentuates your slender physique .  
Even after the last bell rang  
We didn't stop until you did your thang.  
After a long career and maintaining good health  
It's time to put the meter stick back on the shelf.  
How many years of saying "science is life"  
You talk about it like it's your second wife.  
From science, to physics, chem to math  
You've always lead us down the right path.  
Over the past 30 years you've had lots of fun  
But now it's time for us to say "**Boonski**" you're done !!

*Thank you.*