

OSOYOOS SECONDARY SCHOOL

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FEBRUARY 2012

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

NEW STAFF AT OSS

This semester we are pleased to announce the addition of two new teaching staff members. Arthur Bakx will be teaching Apprenticeship and Workplace Math 11 as well as Study Skills 8, while Christine Rothwell joins us to teach two classes of Drama to grades 10 - 12. In addition, we have had some changes to our support staff. Katie Rougeau, Sarah Poirier and Melissa VanRysWyk have all joined the OSS staff during the first semester and continue this semester as educational assistants. Welcome to the OSS family.

REPORT CARDS

*Semester 1 final report cards will be mailed home the week of **Monday, February 6, 2012.** If you have questions or concerns about your child's progress, or feel you need more information, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.*

SD 53 JAZZ BAND CONCERT – FEBRUARY 15, 2012, 6:30PM, SESS ELEMENTARY GYM - KEREMEOS

You are invited to attend an exciting evening of big band jazz music put on by the members of the SOSS, OSS and SESS jazz bands, directed by Jonnie Bridgman and Lisa Ante. The concert takes place on Wednesday, February 15 at 6:30 pm in the SESS Gym in Keremeos. These students will be attending an overnight retreat at Rockridge Canyon near Princeton to meet with other music students in the district and prepare for this concert. This concert is also a warm up for these students before they travel to Moscow, Idaho to attend the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival the following week. The South Okanagan Big Band from Penticton will also perform to close out the evening. Admission is by donation and there will be bake sale goodies available. Proceeds from this event will help to support the trip to Idaho and the Music Under the K music scholarships. Thank you for supporting our young musicians!

SATISFACTION SURVEYS

The Provincial Satisfaction Survey is unique in its scope, size and usefulness to schools. It gathers information from parents, teachers and students on topics related to school environment, safety, and achievement. The information is used for planning in individual schools and provides a district and provincial perspective. This month the Satisfaction Survey will be administered to students in grades 10 and 12, their parents, and all school staff. We encourage parents to participate in this survey, as the results are important in identifying and celebrating current strengths, as well as determining where the school needs to focus for improvement. The survey contains standard questions for the Province. This year, the survey can be completed electronically and can be accessed on the internet at www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm. Any computer with an Internet connection can be used, and access to the e-survey is simple and secure. All that is required is a logon number which will be provided in a letter with the report card. Provincial, district and school reports for previous years can be viewed at the same site, without a logon number. The e-survey site will be open until May 31, 2012.

OSS PAC MEETING

A reminder that the February PAC Meeting takes place on **Tuesday, February 28, 2012, at 7:00 pm** in the OSS Library.

PASSPORT TO EDUCATION PROCEDURES AND DECISIONS

The Passport to Education Program recognizes and rewards student achievement in Grades 10 to 12 in a broad range of academic and non-academic areas according to guidelines set out by the Ministry of Education. The intent of the program is to motivate all students to study consistently during the years leading to graduation, and to encourage secondary school students to pursue further education through post-secondary institutions and job-training programs. Passport awards are used to assist students with tuition towards their post-secondary education and/or job training programs.

General Criteria

For Grade 10 and 11 stamps (each worth \$250):

1. Two-thirds of the weighting must be on the academic component - on a student's course grades - the best five provincially authorized courses and/or BAA (Board/Authority authorized) courses, (locally developed courses should not be included). We take the best mark (school mark, or combined school and provincial). Work experience, withdrawn, adapted/modifieds are not included.
2. One-third of the weighting should recognize the non academic components such as effort, work habits, citizenship and school/community involvement.
3. A student does not have to graduate to earn a Grade 10 and/or Grade 11 stamp.

For Grade 12 stamp (worth \$500):

1. Two-thirds of the weighting must be on the academic component – on a student's course grades – the best five provincially authorized courses and/or BAA (Board/Authority authorized) courses, (locally developed courses should not be included). We take the best mark (school mark, or combined school and provincial). Work experience, withdrawn, adapted/modifieds are not included.
2. One-third of the weighting should be based on a student's Graduation Transition Standards, also recognizing effort, work habits, citizenship and school/community involvement.
3. A student must be a graduate to receive the Grade 12 stamp.

FROM THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION...

BC's Education Plan engagement site has been up and running since October 28th. Since then, we've been hearing from hundreds of BC citizens about their thoughts on the ministry's blueprint for education transformation – BC's Education Plan. The questions on the engagement site have changed to a new theme: flexibility and choice. **The three new questions are:**

1. What do you think are the benefits and challenges to offering students more flexible learning opportunities?
2. Flexibility and choice are evident in many B.C. schools and communities. Do you have some good examples to share?
3. How do you think our schools and school districts need to change to support more flexibility and choice?

To learn more about the Plan and to share your thoughts and ideas with us on the direction you would like to see education go in the future, please visit <http://www.bcedplan.ca>. You can also follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/#!/bcedplan>. The Ministry will continue to post regular updates on the website including highlights of what we are hearing from the conversation in the discussion forum.

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR OUR GRADS!

****PARENTS OF ANY STUDENTS GOING ON THE DRY GRAD TRIP MUST ATTEND THE INFORMATION MEETING ON TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2012, 7:00 PM IN THE LIBRARY. CONTACT MR. GAJDA DIRECTLY IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND. STUDENTS MUST ATTEND WITH THEIR PARENTS.****

In the weeks and months to come, Grade 12 students will be required to keep up with "GRAD" and "DRY GRAD" activities. Even though a student may not be involved with Dry Grad, there are still responsibilities that he or she must meet in order to make this final year of high school a success. For example, Grade 12 students must make sure they have the courses and credits to graduate. It is their responsibility to achieve the minimum 80 credits necessary to receive the Dogwood Diploma. Should a student fail a course and lose credits, he/she should immediately see Mr. Coutu or Mrs. Miller to determine how this might affect your grad status. Students and parents are

reminded that only those Grade 12's who are able to graduate in June will be allowed to take part in the Graduation Ceremonies on June 9, 2012.

Following is an unofficial list of musts before June:

- 1. Sign Up and have Grad Photos taken February 13, 14, and 15.**
- 2. Select (via survey right after Spring Break):**
 - Class Valedictorian
 - Select a Speaker for the Ceremony
 - Select Grad Songs (in and out of ceremony)
- 3. \$20 fee for gown rental is due with their nomination ballot.**

FINANCIAL AID

We are heading into the last half of the year and it is time to start thinking of making plans for next year. If you are planning to attend a post secondary institution next year, you need to have applied, or begin applying to schools/programs of interest. Check out the individual school sites online, or make an appointment with Mr. Coutu if you need some help. For information on student loans, go to StudentAid BC website at <http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/studentaidbc>. Most institutions begin taking applications in the spring. More information can be found on the school website under "Grad Planner."



2012 SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

We are anticipating a great selection of scholarships and bursaries to be available to students for our 2012 Graduation Ceremony on Saturday, June 9, 2012, at 11:00 am. A meeting for Grade 12 students (graduates) will be held **February 16** to review the application process for the various awards. To ensure sufficient time for the selection process, completed applications must be received in the school office by **Friday, March 9, 2012**. Students will be considered for awards only if the required application forms/letters are submitted. Information and application procedures can be found on the school website.



DRY GRAD 2012

The grads of 2012 would like to thank all of the grads and parents who have assisted us in the first five months of our senior year. They are all looking forward to the grad preparations and activities that will be happening in the upcoming months.



GRAD PHOTOS... Graduation photos are scheduled from Monday, February 13 to Wednesday, February 15. This year, the photographer is encouraging students to bring along items that are significant to them. Needless to say, items must be appropriate for a school picture. Come to the office to book your photo time.

GRADUATION TRANSITIONS

Graduation Transitions is a graduation requirement. While all of the grade 12 students have received information about the Transitions Program, none have yet fulfilled the requirements of the program. A package containing all of the required elements can be accessed through the student's TLC account. Students are expected to complete the required material prior to the end of March. For more information see Mr. Schulting.

HELP AVAILABLE

The PIT (Positive Intervention and Tutoring) continues throughout the second semester. This program runs from 2:50 - 3:50 pm Monday to Thursday and is designed to assist students with their assignment completion. All students are free to attend.

HOT LUNCH/SALAD BAR MENU FOR FEBRUARY, 2012

- February 1 Beef Stroganoff
- February 8 Chili
- February 15 Penne Alfredo
- February 22 Lasagne
- February 29 Beef Burrito



**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53 (OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN)
NOTICE OF
KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**

January 16 - March 9, 2012

1. Children who will be five years old by December 31, 2012, may begin their first year of Primary (Full Day Kindergarten) in September, 2012. These will be children who were born in 2007.

Parents or guardians may register these new students from Monday, January 16 to Friday, March 9, 2012 at the following schools:

Cawston Primary	250-499-5617	8:00 - 3:00 pm
Okanagan Falls Elementary	250-497-5414	7:30 - 3:00 pm
Oliver Elementary	250-498-3488	8:00 - 3:30 pm
Tuc-el-Nuit Elementary	250-498-3415	8:00 - 3:30 pm
Osoyoos Elementary	250-495-7248	8:30 - 3:00 pm
YouLearn (closed 12-12:30)	250-498-4597	8:30 - 3:30 pm (Mon-Thurs) 8:30 - 1:15 pm (Fridays)

2. **Please bring your child's birth certificate and Medical Card with you.** Should you require further details, please contact your local school.
3. Parents may defer the entry of their child into Kindergarten for one year but registration must occur in the following school year.
4. Early registration assists the district with plans for September, 2012. Also, Kindergarten spaces in a school may be limited and placement is done on a first come, first serve basis.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53 (OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN)
PARENTS OF GRADE 1 TO 12 STUDENTS
REGISTERING OR REQUESTING A CHANGE OF SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER 2012**

Parents or guardians may enroll their son or daughter in an educational program at any school in our district, as outlined in Section 74.1 of the School Act, and providing there is space available in the respective grade. Registrations prior to June 15, 2012 will be accepted on a first come, first served and availability basis. Beginning June 18, 2012, registrations will be accepted in the following priority order as per section 74.6 of the School Act:

- (a) a catchment area child who, in the previous school year, attended the school at which the educational program is made available;
- (b) a catchment area child;
- (c) a non-catchment area child;
- (d) a non-school district child

For further information, please contact your local school's principal.

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ABCD			1	2	3	4
5 CDAB	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 BADC	13 Grad Photos	14 Grad Photos 	15 Grad Photos Jazz Band Concert 6:30 pm SESS	16 Grade 12 Scholarships & Bursaries Meeting	17	18
19 DCBA	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 ABCD	27	28 PAC Meeting 7:00 pm Library	29			

February 2012 Athletic Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Pen High 9 @ OSS Jr. Girls@4:00 Pen High 9 @ OSS Jr. Boys@5:30	3 Jr. Boys & Girls	4 Home Tournament
5	6	7 OSS @ SSS Jr. Boys OSS @ SMS Gr.8 Girls@4:00 OSS @ SMS Gr.8 Boys @5:30	8 Keremeos @ Sr. OSS Girls@4:15 Keremeos @ OSS Sr. Boys@6:00	9 SSS @ OSS Jr. Girls@7:00 OSS @ SOSS Jr. Boys@5:30 McNicoll @ OSS Gr.8 Girls@5:30 McNicoll @ OSS Gr.8 Boys@4:00	10 Sr. Boys/Girls Home Tournament	11 OSS @ SOSS Jr. Girls@9:00am
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			