

OSOYOOS SECONDARY SCHOOL

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NOVEMBER 2010

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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Once again, OSS had a busy month of activities in October. Early in October, the Leadership 11 class hosted our first dance of the year which was a "sleepy" success. Thanks to out to Mr. Coutu and his Leadership 11 Class. Then, on October 8, our two French teachers took 25 students to Montreal and Quebec City for a week-long adventure that explored the rich history and culture of French Canada. Thanks to Madames Nazaroff and Scott for organizing a wonderful trip. Our students were privileged to have **Absolute Presentations** give an assembly on Thursday, October 14 that challenged students to make positive choices. That evening, Mrs. Schroeter took a group of 16 students to Vancouver for **We Day** where students were challenged to be global thinkers. On Monday of the next week the Grade 12's had the opportunity to meet with representatives from post-secondary institutions. Thanks to Mr. Coutu for organizing this event. Our soccer team ventured to Valleys and qualified for the provincials. Congratulations to Mr. Mocci and the Soccer Team!!

The last week of October we had two days of parent-teacher interviews. Thanks to all parents who came out. Your involvement has a positive impact on your child's education. Finally, on the last school day of October, we enjoyed numerous lunch-hour Halloween activities organized by our student parliament with the help of Ms. Scott. Despite all these great activities and opportunities, the focus of OSS continues to be academics. Teachers are making greater use of technology and our staff is investigating, and implementing, research-based assessment and learning strategies. It is our goal to have all students find success in their academic pursuits. If you have any questions about your child's progress, please contact the school.

PARENTS URGED TO ASSIST WITH CELL PHONE POLICY

At a recent meeting of the Parent Advisory Council, Mr. Heinrichs was asked about the school's cell phone policy. Simply stated, our policy is that students refrain from using their cell phone during class time. We are asking for parents' assistance in helping us enforce this policy. We would ask that you consider having your child leave their cell phone at home during the school day! Or, if they do bring it to school, have them store it in their locker during the day and only access it before and after school. For many students, cell phones are becoming a distraction where the detriments outweigh the benefits. At the very least, please ensure you do not text or phone your child during the school day. If students are found using their cell phone during class, the phone will be taken away for the day. If it happens again, it will be taken away and parents will be asked to pick it up. Thank you for your assistance with this concern.

GRADUATION TRANSITIONS

Graduation Transitions is a program that is a graduation requirement for all BC students. It involves three areas: Personal Health, Community Connections, and Career & Life. The conclusion of the program is a presentation of the student's work. Mr. Schulting is in charge of Graduation Transitions this year and he will be meeting with the graduates in the near future to discuss the program. This program can be viewed on the ministry website at www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/grad-transitions where a PDF file can be viewed or downloaded. It is our desire that all students graduate on time; and, therefore, it is of utmost importance that students work diligently at this requirement.

DOGWOOD DISTRICT/AUTHORITY AWARD SCHOLARSHIP

Osoyoos Secondary Students are eligible for Dogwood District/Authority Award Scholarships. These awards, valued at \$1000 each, are available to graduates who excel in one or more of the following areas:

- Fine Arts (Visual Arts, Dance, Drama, Music)
- Applied Skills (Business Education, Technology Education, Home Economics)
- Physical Activity (Physical Education, School Teams)
- Second Languages

Graduates must apply for the awards, meet the eligibility requirements and demonstrate how they fulfill the criteria outlined below.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident (landed immigrant)
- Must be enrolled at Osoyoos Secondary School
- Must fulfill the BC Ministry of Education graduation requirements
- Must plan to attend a post-secondary or apprenticeship program

Criteria:

- Demonstrate superior achievement in any one, or more, of the four areas noted above through participation in Osoyoos Secondary courses and activities. (Students may be asked to submit to a summative evaluation which may consist of a final exam, written report, project or demonstration.)

Further Considerations:

- Consideration may be given to attendance, punctuality and work habits
- Consideration may be given to the number of non-provincially examinable courses taken

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Just a reminder that Daylight Savings Time ends **Sunday, November 7, 2010** at 2:00 am.



PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Any parents interested in joining the OSS PAC are invited to our next meeting on **Tuesday, November 30, following the presentation by Staff Sergeant Kurt Lozinski**. Regular PAC meetings will occur the last Tuesday of every month.

"I's" - INCOMPLETE

Students with incomplete assignments or failing grades will receive an "I" shortly. The "I" form will outline the work the student needs to achieve a passing grade. A copy of the "I" form is mailed home to parents. Most of the "I's" will have a resolution date of November 5th. This gives students time to resolve their "I" before report cards are issued. If students do not resolve their "I", they may receive a letter grade of "F" on their report card.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

It is possible that there could be media coverage of a school event that could include your child's photo, name, and comments being part of a broadcast or publication. This situation could also apply to school fundraising, Parent Advisory Committee or Dry Grad activities throughout the year. The school will normally make the parent/guardian's name, telephone number, mailing address, as well as your child's name and grade, available to the school's fundraising committee for contact purposes. If you **DO NOT WISH** this information to be released or if you do not wish your child to be involved in media coverage, would you please come into our school office and sign a *Freedom of Information Disclaimer Form*.

****IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS****

On Tuesday, November 30, at 7:00 pm, RCMP Staff Sergeant Kurt Lozinski will give an informative presentation on drugs in the OSS Theatre. He will speak to the problem that exists in our area and will give suggestions for drug-proofing your children. Please plan to attend.



****REPORTING DATE****

Report Cards will be mailed home Monday, November 15, 2010

POST-SECONDARY SCHOOLS VISIT OSS

On Monday, October 18, fifteen post-secondary schools and training facilities from BC sent representatives to Osoyoos Secondary to provide for our grade 12 students, as well as grad-hopefuls from SESS (Keremeos), an opportunity to check out their multi-faceted offerings. These students, as well as Mr. Coutu's Leadership 11 class, who were excellent hosts helping set up the university/college reps prior to the 2 forty-minute sessions and the 'mini-fair' in the gym, had the opportunity to ask questions about programs, requirements for admission, residence costs, extra-curricular offerings, and just about any other topic that involved the student's future. OSS staff hosted the representatives to a pot-luck lunch prior to the afternoon sessions and a big thank you goes out to the staff members who brought food for the luncheon. Any student wishing to follow up or to obtain information on any post-secondary institution can still do so by speaking with Mrs. Nazaroff or Mr. Coutu.

HOOPS FOR HEARTS

The 15th Annual "Hoops For Hearts" Basketball Tournament is scheduled for **Friday, November 26**. This year's Hoops Tournament, which runs in support of the British Columbia Heart and Stroke Foundation, will begin our basketball season here at OSS. Students are reminded that they must be a part of a five-person team (preferably one player from each grade level... Mr. Coutu has "commissioner rights" to veto any 'stacked' teams). Pick up donation envelopes from any member of Mr. Coutu's Leadership 11 class and begin collecting donations for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. As in the past, this year's tourney will be make a 'fashion statement' (with teams receiving prizes for the best dressed), and provide exciting basketball action throughout the day. If parents would like to get involved in the tournament, give Mr. Coutu a call at the school (250-495-6559) and submit a Parent Team. The more teams the better the competition, and the more fun in this "environmentally-friendly" and health-centered event. The tournament will begin at **10:00 am and will finish at 2:30 pm** on Friday, November 26. We hope to see you there!!!



LEADERSHIP 11 DANCE ROCKS A "SLUMBER PARTY" DANCE

The first dance of the year was a 'Sleeper of Success'. On Wednesday, October 6, students danced and rocked the night away dressed in their best 'slumber' attire. Dancing in their pjamas to the sweet sounds of DJ, *Giant Quintin Williams*, students from all grades welcomed in the new school year with their combined toe-tapping, foot-stomping and smooth-as-silk moves. A good time was had by all, and when all of the dancing was done, the sponsoring Leadership 11 class gratefully acknowledged all who had come out to start the new year off in fine 'sleepy-time' fashion. Thank you as well to all the chaperones who came out to help!



NOTES FROM THE RATTLERS JAZZ BAND



The Rattlers are off to a great start! We are rehearsing every Monday and Wednesday morning at 7:00 am, and are preparing a variety of swing and Latin jazz tunes for performance at the Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival in February 2011. New students are still welcome, particularly if you play piano, trumpet, or trombone - come on out, make some music, and travel with your friends!

The Rattlers will be joining the Royal Canadian Legion for the Town of Osoyoos Remembrance Day Ceremonies at the Sonora Centre on November 11, performing O Canada, God Save the Queen, and the Legion hymns. Students will also be volunteering their time to help the Legion set up and break down equipment before and after the ceremony.

The Rattlers will once again be selling poinsettias this fall. Students should be visiting you with order forms soon, or you can contact Mr. Thompson directly at sthompso@sd53.bc.ca. All proceeds will go towards helping students pay for the trip, or for maintaining and purchasing instruments and music supplies. Mr. Thompson is maintaining a band website at www.sd53.bc.ca/~sthompson/. Please add this to your bookmarks, and check back regularly for information regarding performances, fundraisers, and trips.

VOYAGE AU QUEBEC

Recently, 25 grade 10 and 11 students spent a fabulous week in “La Belle Province” visiting Montreal and Quebec city. The trip was organized through SEVEC (Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada) and was jam-packed full of educational and exciting adventures. The weather was beautiful and the fall colours were glorious. The students admired the architecture in the old parts of each city, and participated in numerous activities related to Quebecois history, culture, and art. Furthermore, they partook in many interdisciplinary activities such as visiting the Botanical Gardens, attending a circus school, and training as an astronaut at the Cosmodome. The students had a blast at Lazer Quest and played hard at La Ronde – the six flags amusement park. One of their favorite activities was shopping, and no doubt, *Simons* department store had a spike in sales while we were there! Mme Scott and Mme Nazaroff would like to thank Mr. Heinrichs for accompanying them on the trip and for his valiant efforts to communicate in French. He was a wonderful role model for the students! As for the students, may this be just the beginning of your travels, and may you one day return to further explore this beautiful part of Canada. Mme Scott and Mme Nazaroff hope to offer this travel opportunity to OSS students again in the fall of 2012. Start saving your pennies!



Christmas Comes Early at Santa's Night Out



Admission only
\$5.00

Parents of the
Class of 2011
Present . . .

- Entertainment
- Snacks and Beverages
- Merchant Displays
- Shopping
- Door Prize with the purchase of admission
- Silent auction
- Fashion show
-

Come out and have a fun evening with your friends and get started on your Christmas shopping

Bring your cheque books!
Free ride home provided by
Wine Tours Gone South

**Friday
November 19th, 7 pm
Sonora Center**

NOVEMBER 17, 2010 DARE DAY IN BC

Wednesday, November 17 is DARE Day in British Columbia and we are asking that former DARE graduates wear their DARE T-shirts in support. DARE graduates, adults, teachers, parents, kids, officers, volunteers and supporters can check out the website at www.darebc.com for more information. Below are some “Tips for Parents” taken from www.darebc.com

***Building Family Connectivity***

Kids say that one of the biggest reasons they choose not to do drugs is because they don't want to disappoint their parents. Parents can encourage this sense of family connectivity in the following ways:

- make time for family activities
- share household chores
- have family meetings to plan activities and settle problems
- develop family rituals – pizza night, movie night, camping trips
- celebrate birthdays, holidays, graduations together
- spend one-on-one time with each child
- eat together
- be a good listener
- set a good example

Building School Connectivity

School connectivity is an important protective factor. Parents can help their children feel connected to their school and do well academically by creating an environment at home that encourages learning.

- model reading for pleasure yourself and read to them
- teach them how to search for what they need in the library and on the internet
- help them with homework projects, but also teach independent learning
- show an interest in what they are doing at school
- be an active member of the Parent Advisory Council
- attend all school functions
- meet with the teacher regularly
- volunteer to chaperone school trips and activities
- get to know other students and their parents

Building Resiliency

Resiliency and self esteem gives kids courage to resist peer pressure, make good decisions, and say “no” to drugs and alcohol. Parents can help to build resiliency in their children by doing the following:

- teach children to be assertive
- teach them to achieve their own goals – don't jump in to help or “fix”
- demonstrate confidence in them
- teach them about conflict resolution
- teach good decision-making skills
- keep criticism constructive
- encourage them to be good at something (e.g., playing an instrument, hockey, gymnastics)
- let them learn from disappointment

Decision Making Skills

Parents can help their kids learn to make healthy decisions by modeling good behaviour and healthy living, and by reinforcing the D.A.R.E. decision making model with their kids.

November 2010

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BCAD	1		2	3	4	5	6
					Soccer Provincials	Term One Ends Sr. Girls VBall Tournament	→ →
7 ABCD	8 <i>Term Two Begins</i>	9	10 <i>Remembrance Day Assembly @ 10:45 am</i>	11 <i>Remembrance Day</i> 	12	13	
14 CABD	15	16	17 <i>D.A.R.E. Day</i>	18	19 <i>Volleyball Valley Championships Ms. Santa's Night Out 7:00 pm Sonora Cre.</i>	20	
21 BCAD	22	23	24	25	26 <i>Hoops for Heart</i>	27	
28 ABCD	29	30 <i>RCMP Presentation at 7:00 pm OSS Theatre</i>					