



Welcome to the 2015-2016 School Year!

We have had a busy but smooth start to the year. Currently, we have an enrollment of 231 students, 5 less than we projected. Last year, OSS students did very well (see Provincial exam results on page 3), and we are committed to continuing our students' strong academic achievement this year.

Our goals for this year are to continue to find approaches that increase students' motivation, engagement and achievement. Our focus areas for inquiry in support of this goal are as follows:

- Assessment for Learning.
- Using Grade 7 students achievement data to determine student placements and class organization.
- Response to Intervention (RTI) - using the set of strategies to better meet the needs of all learners in each class.
- Technology and Computer Applications for Learning.
- Climate and Culture—engaging students in school through student centered climate and culture activities.

Our staff will be using Inquiry time the last Wednesday of each month to work on their learning and application of strategies related to these focus areas.

OSS Staff 2015-2016

Mr. Gajda—Sciences	Mr. Gendron—Special Education
Ms. Johnson—PE, Foods, Core, Leadership	Mr. Khodarahmi—Sciences
Mr. Langley—Tech Ed	Mr. Mocci—Social Studies and Art
Mrs. Illingworth—Counselling, English	Mrs. Schroeter—English, Learning Support
Mrs. Parker—OASIS (Osoyoos Alternate School of Independent Studies)	
Mrs. MacNeil—French, Drama	Mr. Cameron—Math, Planning, Science, IT
Mr. Seminoff—PE, Socials, Law, Hockey & Golf Acad.	Mr. Schulting—Math, Info Tech, HCE
Ms. Scott—English, French	Mr. Short—English, Socials, History
Mr. Ward—Math	Mr. Kitt—Career Prep and Work Experience
Mr. Safek—Principal, Grad Transitions, Leadership	Mr. Chapman—Vice-Principal, Counselling, PE
Mrs. Murseli—Band Club	Mrs. Bolland—Child Care Worker
Mrs. Douglas—Education Assistant	Mrs. Clarke—First Nations Support Worker
Mrs. Turnbull—Education Assistant	Mrs. Weston—Education Assistant
Mrs. Martin—Education Assistant	Mrs. Dickinson—Child Care Worker
Mrs. Hiebert—Secretary	Mrs. Mikulecky—Secretary, Library Assistant
Mr. Howrish—Custodian	

Daylight Savings Time Ends November 1

Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour on Sunday November 1, 2015.

OSS Parent Advisory Council

Meetings take place on the last Monday of the month at 6:00 pm in the OSS Library. All parents are encouraged and invited to attend the meetings.

Wise Choice Wednesday

Troy's Grill will once again be providing lunches on Wednesday's this year. All lunches are \$5 each and pre-ordering is not necessary.

October Menu

October 7 Cheese Burger with Coleslaw
October 14 Chicken Quesadilla with Caesar Salad
October 21 Perogies & Farmer Sausage with Sour Cream

Has Your Contact Information Changed?

If your mailing address, email, phone number, or cell phone number has changed, please contact the school and let us know.

Absences and Lates

Students are more successful when they consistently attend school. When your child is going to be away or late for school, please inform the office between 8:00-8:30 am. We appreciate your support with this. ***Students are reminded to check in at the office if they arrive late for school.***

Code of Conduct

At our grade-wide assemblies held in the second week of school, we reviewed the school's Code of Conduct with students. All parents should have received a copy of the Code of Conduct with the July mailout. Please review the code of conduct which can be found on our website at <http://www.sd53.bc.ca/oss/Code>.

Grade 9 Immunizations

Grade 9 immunizations take place on **October 15, 2015**. All consent forms need to be turned into the office as soon as possible.

School Bus Stops

Parents wanting more information about bussing, please go online at www.sd53.bc.ca/maint/transportation.

Parent Concerns

Parents, if you have a concern or a question, please call us to have a phone conversation or to arrange a meeting. We want to work with you to help your child be successful - if there is something that you are unsure or concerned about, we'd like to know about it! Please call either your child's teacher, Mr. Chapman or Mr. Safek.

Breakfast Program

OSS is fortunate to have volunteers who bake muffins for our students every other Tuesday after school. In addition, there are volunteers who hand out the muffins and juice on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. If you like baking, or greeting teenagers, please call (250)495-2212.

Textbook Appeal

Parents and students — we need your help and cooperation! Could you please check your closets, drawers, desks, and underneath beds for text books and/or library books that have not been returned to the school. We have a lot of books that have gone missing. Even if they are older, they are still valuable to us and we need them back. Please send them in with your children or drop them off at the OSS office. Thank you for your help.

Medical Alert Planning Forms

If your child has a life threatening allergy or medical condition you feel the school should be aware of, please contact us. Medical Alert Planning forms are available at the office and will need to be completed. Thank you for your cooperation in this regard. Your child's safety is a serious matter.

Student Portrait Retakes—Monday, October 26, 2015

There is no risk, as all photos are fully guaranteed. If your child was absent for the original photos, or if you have chosen not to order from the first previews, please have your child obtain a Photo Order Envelope from the School Office. The student will give the photographer your payment enclosed in the Order Envelope on photo retake day Monday, October 29, 2015. ***Portrait packages will only be made for students who submit a Photo Order Envelope with payment to the photographer on photo retake day.***

Parent Consent Forms

Please return the Parent/Guardian Consent Forms to the office as soon as possible. These were mailed home in July with student report cards. If you are needing another copy, one has been attached with this newsletter.

OSS Website

Please check our website regularly for updates, calendars, block rotation and current information. www.osyoossecondary.ca

2014-2015 Student Performance Data

Below is a summary of how our students performed last year.

Semester 1

Course	School Mark %			Exam Mark %			Final %		
	Sch.	Dist.	Prov.	Sch.	Dist.	Prov.	Sch.	Dist.	Prov.
Eng. 12 (28)	81	78	75	70	67	68	76	74	73
Eng. 10 (17)	81	73	72	74	69	66	80	72	72
S.S. 11 (20)	75	75	73	78	80	72	76	76	74
AW Ma 10(12)	72	77	65	62	56	55	70	73	65
FMA 10 (31)	74	72	72	73	69	71	74	72	73
Sc. 10 (23)	76	74	72	70	66	68	75	73	72
Comm 12 (1)	65	67	66	49	63	67	59	66	69

Semester 2

Course	School Mark %			Exam Mark %			Final %		
	Sch.	Dist.	Prov.	Sch.	Dist.	Prov.	Sch.	Dist.	Prov.
Eng. 12 ((15)	74	75	75	61	65	67	69	71	73
Comm 12 (1)	60	65	65	72	72	63	65	67	66
Socials 11(17)	76	73	74	78	76	71	76	73	74
AWMa10 (1)	65	77	63	61	59	55	64	73	64
Engl. 10 (27)	75	73	73	66	66	67	73	71	73
Sc. 10 (21)	80	74	73	74	68	70	79	74	73

Timetable Exploration

One of our additional focus areas this year is to explore other timetable/scheduling possibilities for the 2016-2017 school year. Our goal is to provide our students with a well-rounded education with courses that meet student needs/interests, lead to graduation, and support students' post-secondary plans. This becomes ever more challenging as enrollment declines.

Currently we run a hybrid linear-semester timetable for grade 8s and 9s, and a semester timetable for grade 10s to 12s. Last year, we visited A.L. Fortune Secondary in Enderby to look at their timetable. A.L. Fortune runs a modified "open" timetable that they developed several years ago in response to declining enrollment. We will be sending a team of students, teachers and parents to AL. Fortune again this year to learn about what they are doing, and if that might be a better fit for our students' learning. As well, we will be sending a team to Eagle River Secondary in Sicamous. They have also adopted a non-traditional timetable.

During our visits we will be talking with students, teachers, administrators and hopefully parents about the workings of their respective timetables, and bring that information back to OSS to share with our school community via newsletters, emails, assemblies and forums.

Nothing has been decided except that we will go through the process of gathering information, and sharing it with our school community. We hope to have information out to parents prior to Christmas break, spend January and February in discussion about whether or not a change (and what that change might look like) is to the benefit of our students. We would then make a final decision in March/April on keeping or modifying our timetable. If you have questions or would like to know how you can be involved in the process, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Safek at 250-485-4433.

Counselling Corner

Post-Secondary Schools Visit OSS

OSS was pleased to host the annual Post-Secondary Institution Visitation Day on the morning of Tuesday, September 29, 2015. Fourteen post-secondary schools and training facilities from BC sent representatives to speak to grade 11 and 12 OSS students interested in learning more about various post-secondary programs offered throughout the province. Students signed up for two sessions of their choice followed by a mini-fair in the concourse where they had the opportunity to ask questions regarding programs, requirements for admission, residence costs and student services. A huge thank you goes out to Mr. Chapman for organizing this event. Several reps commented on a job well done! Any student wishing to further discuss post-secondary options can arrange to see Mr. Chapman. Grads are reminded to apply for admission to their post-secondary institution(s) of interest asap. It is recommended that students apply to more than one school in case they are not accepted at their first choice.

Helpful websites

For information on careers, programs, schools etc.:

educationplanner.bc.ca

schoolfinder.com

studentcounsellor.ca

jobsetc.ca

For the application process:

Applybc.ca (allows students to apply to more than one institution OR students may opt to apply directly through a post-secondary institution's website)

For distribution of transcripts:

Bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/handbook/

-for the PSI selections form click on "Student Secure Web". Students will need their PEN (personal education number) to create an account.

For Scholarships and Bursaries (non-local):

bcscholarships.ca

Studentawards.ca

For financial aid:

StudentAidBC.ca

Grade 11 & 12 Course and Credits Review

Over the next few weeks, Mr. Chapman will be meeting individually with all of our grade 12s to review the courses they are currently enrolled in and their future plans. After that, he will be meeting with Grad 11s to plan for their grade 12 year and ensure they have enough credits to graduate. If you have any questions about your child's current program of studies and credits, please contact Mr. Chapman.

OSS Snake Pit

Starting Monday, October 5, 2015, OSS will be running an after-school program. "PIT" stands for *Positive Intervention and Tutoring*. The purpose of this program is to provide a venue and assistance to students who chronically do not get their homework done at home. Students can self-refer themselves by speaking with their teacher, and teachers and parents can also refer students. The PIT will run Monday to Thursday from 2:50—3:50 pm in the Library. If you are interested in finding out more or would like to refer your child, please contact your child's teacher.

Attachments to the Newsletter

There are attachments to the newsletter which contain valuable information on nutrition, as well as online privacy, security and youth. Please take the time to read over the information provided there.

For Our Grads.....

Grade 12 Graduation

For a grade 12 student to participate in the year-end graduation ceremony, he/she must be on-line to successfully complete the required 80 credits as outlined in the 2004 Graduation Program. At our first grade 12 assembly in September, all grade 12's were advised to see Mr. Safek to ensure that they are eligible to graduate. Please ensure that your child has done that, and feel free to call if you have any questions. The updated 2015-2016 Grad Planner is attached for your reference.

Grad Transitions

All students expecting to graduate from a B.C. high school are expected to complete the four credit Grad Transitions program. All grade 12 students have received a hard copy of their Grad Transitions course, and learning requirements have been reviewed with them by Mr. Safek. Their Grad Transitions work is due on Monday, May 2, although if students work on this regularly, they ought to be able to complete it well before then. As well, Mr. Safek will be emailing students their Grad Transitions course. The course is set up so that the majority of the learning activities can be done and submitted electronically. As well, we will be sending all parents a copy of the Grad Transitions course. Parents, please take some time to review it with your child and monitor their progress from time to time to ensure they are working on it. Mr. Safek will also be meeting with grade 12's and holding regular "help" sessions to support students and ensure that they are on track to complete their Grad Transitions requirements satisfactorily. Please call Mr. Safek if you have any questions about Grads Transitions requirements, or go to the website at www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/grad-transitions/welcome.htm.

2015-16 Grad Planner

Attached to the newsletter is the 2015-16 Grad Planner from the Ministry of Education. The planner contains some very valuable information for parents and students. Please take the time to go over this document.

School Sports

Girls Volleyball will be running at our school this fall. Unfortunately, we did not get enough interest to run a boys' soccer team. Miss Johnson will be coaching Grade 8 Girls volleyball, and Ms. Kelly Law will be coaching Sr. Girls Volleyball. All winter sports will resume as usual. We are still looking for coaches for some of our basketball teams. If you or someone you know is interested in coaching, please visit <http://osoyoossecondary.ca/athletics> and fill out the coaching application and criminal record check. Thank you!

Okanagan College Career Fair

Okanagan College is hosting its 34th annual Career Fair on Sunday, November 1 at the Kelowna Campus (1000 KLO Rd) from 10:30 am - 3 pm. The Fair will inform students about the post secondary system in BC, how to apply to post secondary, and how to access scholarships and bursaries. If your child is planning on attending a post secondary institution, this is a very worthwhile event to attend.

Students—Get Ready to Vote!!

The federal election is coming. You can vote if you are a Canadian citizen and you will be 18 years old or older on October 19, 2015.

In order to vote, you must register. You can register and vote at:

1. An Elections Canada office (8322 Main Street, Osoyoos)
2. The polling place during advance voting, October 9-12 between noon and 8:00 pm (Sonora Centre in Osoyoos)
3. The polling place on regular voting day, October 19 between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm (the Inkameep Community Hall on Sandpoint Drive for those who live on OIB land, and Sonora Centre for Osoyoos residents)

You will need identification to register and vote. To see the list of authorized ID, go to the Elections Canada website at www.elections.ca and click on ID to Vote. And don't forget to remind your parents to vote!!

OSS-October 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
DCBA				1(2)	2(1)	3
4 ABCD	5(2)	6(1)	7(2)	8(1)	9(2)	10
11 CDAB	12 Thanksgiving	13(1)	14(2) Student Vote	15(1) Immunizations	16(2)	17
18 BADC	19(1)	20(2) Early Dismissal @ 12:45 pm	21(1)	22(2) Immunizations	23 Provincial Pro-D Day	24
25 DCBA	26(1) PAC 6:00 pm Library Photo Retakes	27(2)	28(1) Inquiry – noon dismissal	29(2)	30(1)	31 Halloween

OSS Athletics — October 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Sr. Girls VB Practice 4:30-6:30		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Gr. 8 Girls VB Pract. 3:00-4:30 Sr. Girls VB Practice 4:30-6:30	Gr. 8 Girls VB @Skaha Lake 4:00	Sr. Girls Vball vs. SESS 4:30	Gr. 8 Girls VB Pract. 3:00 - 4:30 Sr. Girls VB Practice 4:30-6:30		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Gr. 8 Girls VB Pract. 3:00-4:30 Sr. Girls VB Practice 4:30-6:30		Gr. 8 Girls VB Pract 3:00-4:30 Sr. and Gr. 8 VB @ Summerland	Gr. 8 Girls VB Pract. 3:00-4:30 Sr. Girls VB vs. Summerland 4:30		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Gr. 8 Girls VB Pract. 3:00-4:30 Sr. Girls VB Practice 4:30-6:30	Gr. 8 Girls VB @McNicoll Park 4:00	Gr. 8 Girls VB Pract 3:00-4:30 Sr. Girls Vball vs. Princeton 4:30	Sr. Girls VB Practice 4:30-6:30		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	Gr. 8 Girls VB Pract. 3:00-4:30 Sr. Girls VB Practice 4:30-6:30		Gr. 8 Girls VB Host @ 4:00 Sr. Girls Vball @SESS 4:30	Gr. 8 Girls VB Pract. 3:00- 4:300 Sr. Girls VB Practice 4:30-6:30		

Aboriginal Ancestry

Are your children descents of First Nations, Metis or Inuit peoples? If yes, they qualify for additional funding from the Ministry of Education. This funding is used by the school district to provide additional academic and cultural support to our Aboriginal ancestry students. Parents/legal guardians only need to self-identify to qualify for this funding. If you would like additional support for your child please complete the form below and return it to your child's school office.

Aboriginal Ancestry Declaration

The following students are of Aboriginal Ancestry (First Nations, Metis, Inuit):

Please list:

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Name: _____ Grade: _____

I declare that I am the parent/legal guardian of the above students and that they are of Aboriginal ancestry and would like this additional support.

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____

After Completion: Please drop off at your child's school office