



## December Newsletter

762 Fairview Road  
PO Box 940  
Oliver, BC V0H 1T0  
(250) 498-4597

Office Hours:  
Monday - Friday 8:30 - 3:30pm

Principal: Brad Burns  
[www.youlearn.ca](http://www.youlearn.ca)  
(250) 498-4597  
[youlearn@sd53.bc.ca](mailto:youlearn@sd53.bc.ca)

### Principal's Message

#### **Excitement is in the air—winter break is almost here!**

Congratulations to our students, parents and guardians for making it through the first third of the school year! We truly appreciate the efforts for keeping your children connected to their teachers, studies, and our school community. And thank you, students, for your hard work in submitting assignments, staying on track with course timelines, and engaging in our growing in-person programs.

As we head into the break, make the most of the time you have left this term by applying yourself to your learning over the next two weeks. It will make the holidays feel even more relaxing! If you've fallen behind, consider using part of your break to catch up—but don't forget to take time to rest, recharge, and reconnect with family and friends.

School closes for winter break on Friday, December 19 and reopens on Monday, January 5. If you need assistance before the break, please reach out to your teachers or our office—we're here to help.

Finally, from all of us at YouLearn, we wish you peace, joy, and wonderful memories this holiday season. Thank you for being such an important part of our community. We couldn't do what we do without you!

Sincerely,  
B. Burns

### Important Dates

#### **December 15**

Written Learning Updates

#### **December 19**

Winter Celebration

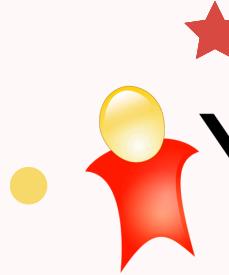
#### **December 22 to January 2**

Winter Break - School Closed

#### **January 5**

Back to School





# YOULEARN.ca



Christmas  
Party

CELEBRATE THE END OF YEAR WITH US

**WHEN** Friday, December 19th, 2025 at 12:30 PM

**WHERE** YouLearn Oliver



19TH  
FRIDAY  
DEC 2025

*Lunch  
included!*

# Early Years Program (Grades K-6)

You've worked so hard this year, and now it's time to celebrate all that you've accomplished! The winter holidays are a chance to rest, have fun, and spend time with family and friends.

Remember, every day is an opportunity to learn something new—even during the break.

Stay curious, be kind, and enjoy the magic of the season.

We can't wait to see all the amazing things you'll do in the new year.



# Middle Years Program (Grades 7-9)

As you head into the winter break, take a moment to reflect on everything you've accomplished this year. You've grown, learned, and faced challenges.

Use this time to rest and recharge, but also to think about the goals you want to set for yourself in the new year.

Every step you take, big or small, shapes the person you're becoming.

See you in 2026!

# Secondary Program (Grades 10-12)

Winter break is a great time to rest and recharge, but also to keep your mind active.

Review what you've learned, catch up on reading, and stay curious.

A little effort now can make a big difference when you return.



Enjoy the season!

## Connections Club

Come get social!

Thursday afternoons from 1 to 3pm  
starting October 24th

Join Megan, Shelley, and Jessica  
as we plan fun activity afternoons with students!



**Registration for the 2025-26 school year is open!**

Please fill out [THIS FORM](#) to register.

If you have any questions, please call our office at (250) 498-4597  
or email [yregistrations@sd53.bc.ca](mailto:yregistrations@sd53.bc.ca)

*Note: Only students within our district's catchment area can register with YouLearn.ca. Out of district students must register with one of their local schools or a [Provincial Online Learning School](#).*

YouLearn Students  
Welcome!

ALL INCLUDED  
**\$6157**  
PER PERSON

# SOSS TRIP TO FRANCE & ITALY

For students in grades 9, 10 and 11 this year!

Paris - Cote d'Azur - Monaco - Eze - Nice  
Florence - Rome - Pompeii

## PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- 11 Days and 9 Nights Tour
- Full European Breakfast Daily
- Dinner Daily
- Local Transportation
- Professional Tour Guide & Tips
- Airfare from Kelowna



**DEPARTURE: 16 MARCH 2026**

**TRIP ITINERARY: [WWW.EXPLORICA/STOPA-6189](http://WWW.EXPLORICA/STOPA-6189)**

**Contact us:**

Mrs. Goncalves

Mrs. Stopa



[rgoncalv@sd53.bc.ca](mailto:rgoncalv@sd53.bc.ca)

[hstopa@sd53.bc.ca](mailto:hstopa@sd53.bc.ca)



250-488-7195

250-498-7691

*Greetings from Mexico*

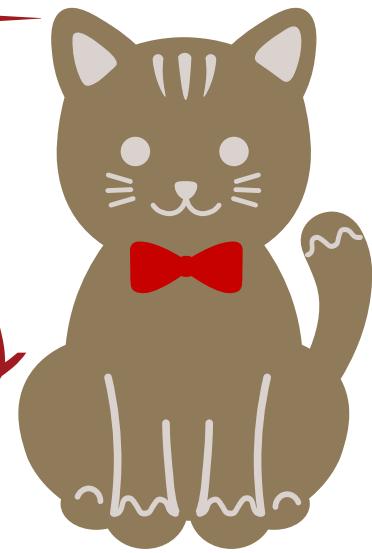
*- Jessica M.*

*Thank you Resh  
for covering the front desk!*



# Happy Holidays

*from YouLearn.ca!*



**We will be closed from December 22nd to January 2nd**

**See you on Monday, January 5th in 2026!**

# YouLearn.ca's Career Programs Summary

Period	Program	Details
September	Health Care Sampler	2 days per week online and 2 days per month on campus in Penticton.
September	Information Technology (Computers) Sampler	(Offered every other year) 1 day online and 1 day on campus each week in Penticton.
September	Early Childhood Educator	2 days online each week and 2 days each month on campus in Penticton.
February	Chef Program Camosun College	Online self-paced lessons with a lab one afternoon in Oliver.
February	Trades Sampler	4 days each week in Penticton for 16 weeks.
July	Emergency Medical Responder	5 weeks during the Summer Break.
May	Royal Canadian Mounted Police Jean Minguy Youth Academy	10 days in Vernon in the spring. <u>Deadline to apply is in early January.</u> Recommended participants are grade 12 students.
May	Inclusive Trades Sampler	1 day in each secondary school. Recommended participants are grade 10 students.
All Year Intake	Nail Technician	Kelowna - Marvel College
All Year Intake	Dual Credit College Programs	Penticton and Kelowna Campuses Some common programs include automotive services technician, welding, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, etc.

Please contact YouLearn.ca's Career Education Teacher, Steve Pozzobon, if you are interested in taking any of the above programs!

# YouLearn.ca's Career Programs – Health Sampler Information

## ***Interested in any of the following career paths?***

Health Office Administration

Dental Health

Pharmacy

Nursing

Social Work and Counselling

Allied Health

## **Enroll in YouLearn's Health Sampler program today! in partnership with Okanagan College**

This 120-hour course is a gateway to the dynamic world of health care professions. It will provide students with an opportunity to explore a variety of high demand health care careers, sample job tasks, and identify educational requirements for entry into the profession. The learning experience is designed to help students choose a health career path that aligns with their passion and skills.

### **Enrollment Requirements**

Students must be in Grade 11 or 12

### **Credits Earned**

Students will earn 4 credits (one course) at the Grade 12 Level

### **Dates**

February 2nd to June 17th

### **Times & Locations**

Tuesdays and Thursdays Online from 6-9 pm

+ every second Saturday at the Okanagan College Penticton Campus

- Learn common terminology used in health care settings.
- Build therapeutic relationships with professional practice standards.
- Understand scope of practice and interprofessional health care teams.
- Develop cultural sensitivity and inclusive practices.
- Identify labour market needs, job opportunities in the local area, and how to prepare and apply to college programs.

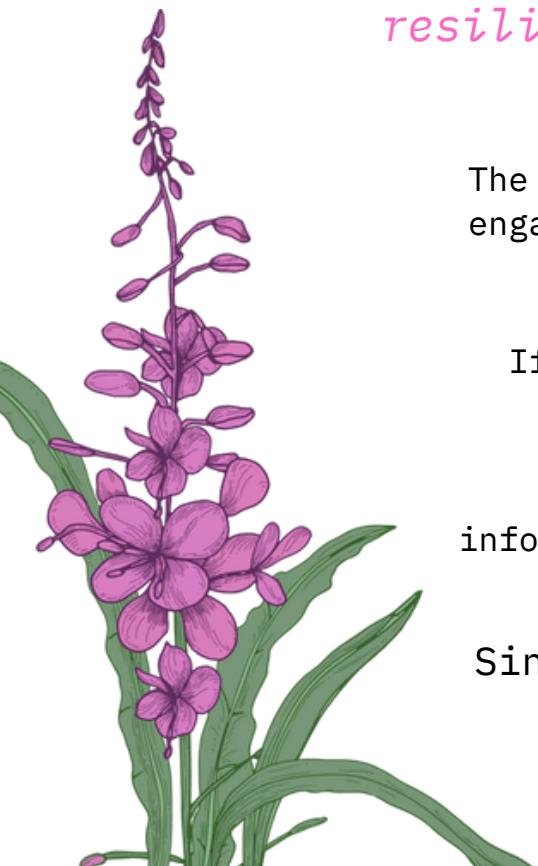
Please contact YouLearn.ca's Career Education Teacher, Steve Pozzobon, if you are interested in taking the above programs!



# The Fireweed Collective

A group for children &  
youth who have  
experienced primary loss

*Why fireweed? ...with its ability to thrive in disturbed areas, long blooming season, and wind dispersed seeds, fireweed is a stunning symbol of rejuvenation and new growth after destructive events. Its beauty and resilience are truly remarkable*



The Collective is a multi-age group who meets monthly to engage in nature-based social activities. The purpose of 'being around others who just get it'.

If your child has experienced the death of a parent, caregiver, or sibling, please reach out to your school's Administrator if you would like further information or to register your child/teen for the group.

Sincerely, The District Counselling Team, ICY & Healthy Schools



# 2025/2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR

## September 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## November 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

## January 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## March 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## May 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## October 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## December 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## February 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## April 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## June 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

September 1	Labour Day
September 2	Schools Open
September 30	National Day for Truth & Reconcil.
October 13	Thanksgiving Day
November 11	Remembrance Day
December 22	Christmas Break Begins
January 5	Schools Re-Open
January 23-27	Secondary Exam Days
January 28	Second Semester Begins
February 16	Family Day
March 16	Spring Break Begins
March 30	School Re-Open
April 3	Good Friday
April 6	Easter Monday
May 18	Victoria Day
June 22 to 24	Secondary Exam Days
June 25	Last Day of Classes
June 26	Administrative Day (School Closed for Students)

Number of Days in Session 192

Number of Days of Instruction 184

## DISTRICT NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS

October 24 – Professional Development Day  
February 13 – Professional Development Day  
March 23 to 27 - Connected to Spring Break

## EARLY DISMISSAL DATES

Schools will notify parents of early dismissal times  
Also available on our website: <http://www.sd53.bc.ca/>  
Cawston/Keremeos: October 22 & 23 / April 9 & 10  
Osoyoos: October 22 & 23 / April 9 & 10  
Oliver/OK Falls: October 22 & 23 / April 9 & 10  
  
*District wide early dismissal days for Inquiry Time are indicated on calendar with this symbol { }*

## Family Conferences

October 22: CPS, OKF, OES, OSE, OSS, SESS, SOSS, TEN  
April 9: CPS, OKF, OES, OSS, SESS, SOSS, TEN  
April 9 and/or 10: OSE

○ Stat/School Holidays

□ Non-Instructional Days

之心 Secondary Exam Days

○ Year End Administration

*We are an innovative learning community where all members are supported in their academic, social, and mental well-being equipped with the skills and experiences necessary to thrive in a diverse and changing world.*

## **SCHOOLS IN DISTRICT**

### **Cawston Primary School**

Principal: Amanda Palmer

Phone: 250-485-4434

Fax: 250-499-5288

Hours: 8:38am-2:30pm

## **DISTRICT CONTACTS – 250-498-3481**

Marcus Toneatto

Superintendent of Schools

Subra Paliappa

Secretary Treasurer

Naryn Searcy

Director of Learning & Inquiry

Debby Sansome

Director of Facilities

Susan Trower

Manager of Human Resources

Heather Rose

Director of Student Services

Melia Dirk

District Vice Principal, Early

Learning & Childcare

### **Okanagan Falls Elem. School**

Principal: Katie Poole

Phone: 250-497-5414

Fax: 250-497-8279

Hours: 8:30am-2:27pm

### **Oliver Elementary School**

Principal: Scott Tremblay

Phone: 250-498-3468

Fax: 250-498-0339

Hours: 8:30am-2:23pm

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION:**

Rob Zandee

Debbie Marten

Casey Brouwer

Sholeh Pickell

Christine Watson

Karen Clayton

Brenda Dorosz

### **Osoyoos Secondary School**

Principal: Dave Foster

Phone: 250-485-4433

Fax: 250-495-2669

Hours: 8:35am-2:45pm

### **Similkameen Elem. Sec. School**

Principal: Stacey Smith

Phone: 250-499-2727

Fax: 250-499-2411

Elem Hours: 8:30am-2:35pm

Sec Hours: 8:30am-2:40pm

## **PARENT AND STUDENT APPEALS:**

Where a decision of an employee of the Board significantly affects the education, health or safety of a student, the parent/guardian of the student, or the student may, within a reasonable time from the date that the parent/guardian or student was informed of the decision, appeal that decision to the Board. Further information regarding the appeal process can be obtained [HERE](#).

### **Southern Okanagan Sec. School**

Principal: Bev Young

Phone: 250-498-4931

Fax: 250-498-6957

Hours: 8:30am-2:45p

## **ELEMENTARY PROGRESS REPORTS ISSUED:**

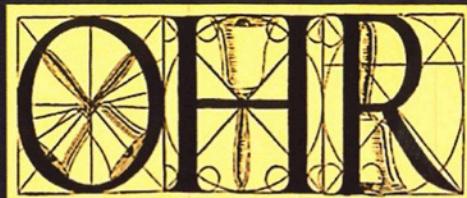
### **YouLearn.ca – Online Learning & Continuing Education**

Principal: Brad Burns

Phone: 250-498-4597

Mid-Year Reports: Date to be determined by each school

Final Report: Thursday, June 25, 2026



OLIVER HANDBELL RINGERS &  
THEIR SINGERS PRESENT

# *Bethlehem Night*

FRIDAY DECEMBER 12, 7:30PM  
SUNDAY DECEMBER 14, 3:00PM  
OSOYOOS BAPTIST CHURCH  
6210 HIGHWAY 97, OSOYOOS

Admission is free; monetary  
donations gratefully accepted

