

YouLearn.ca October Newsletter

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

Principal: Brad Burns www.youlearn.ca (250) 498-4597 youlearn@sd53.bc.ca

Administrator's Message

Just like that, it's October! Time really does fly when you're busy, and it's been busy around our three sites in Oliver, Keremeos, and Osoyoos. Staff have been connecting with students in the physical spaces as well as online to support coursework and activities. September numbers have been submitted to the School Board Office, and staff will continue focusing on students working towards completing courses in a timely manner, while providing academic and social/emotional supports.

I'm pleased to announce that we will have a Parent Advisory Council (PAC) once again for the 2025-26 school year. YouLearn applied for and received funds which will go to supporting existing programs for students as well as encouraging new ideas. If you are interested in joining the PAC, please reach out to our secretary Jessica Matthews, and we will be in touch.

Student photos for our YouLearn students are upcoming. Please see the Important Dates section in the newsletter for more information as well as upcoming days where the schools will be closed.

The first of our informal learning updates will be completed by October 20. This will be a great time to connect with teachers and support staff about any questions you may have about student programming. We will also be taking time to set up meetings to go over Individual Education Plans and our Inclusion Support Teachers will be reaching out.

As the leaves start to change colour, I hope everyone has an opportunity to take in the beauty of the place we get to call home. Happy Thanksgiving!

Important Dates

October 13th

Thanksgiving Day Schools Closed

October 14th

Photo Day (YouLearn Gr. K-7) at TEN

October 16th

Photo Re-take Day (YouLearn Gr. 8-12) at SOSS

October 20th

Informal Learning Updates Completed

October 23rd

Photo Re-take Day (YouLearn Gr. 5-12) at SESS

October 24th

Professional Development Day Schools Closed

October 29th

Inquiry Day
Schools Closed

October 31st

YouLearn's Halloween Extravaganza!

Brad Burns

Early Years Program (Grades K-6)

Welcome to October!

All K-6 students should be well on their way working on their subjects. Guardians have been invited to Spaces for all subject areas.

Informal reports (academic reviews) are to be completed on or before October 20. Please note that if we have met to discuss your child's progress, then this was the informal report.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your grade teacher, Shelley.

Great start to the school year, everyone!

All 7-9 students should be well on their way working through their English, Math, PE and Careers courses.

Middle Years Program (Grades 7-9)

Guardians have been invited to Spaces to view their student's Personalized Learning Plans, Core Competencies, and Goal Settings.

Informal reports (academic reviews) are to be completed on or before October 20. Grade teachers, Cody and Shelley, have shared with guardians their student's marksheets and Google drive folders, which contain the student's work for all subjects that they have begun for this school year.

Science and Social Studies courses will be added to student schedules shortly.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your grade teacher Cody or Shelley.

Secondary Program (Grades 10-12)

Great work on getting courses started!

Keep up the diligent learning and don't forget to connect with your teachers if you need help.

There is still room in the dual credit carpentry program at the Okanagan College Penticton Campus, starting January 26, 2026, and going to August 20, 2026. This program will provide students with the technical training and certification for their Level 1 Carpentry Red Seal, as well as earn students 8 courses (32 credits) towards their high school diploma requirements. Anyone interested is encouraged to see our Career Education teacher, Steve, to complete a district dual credit application as soon as possible if they wish to have the district consider supporting their tuition for this program.

PHOTO DAYS!

Photo Re-take Day for Grades 8-12 is taking place at Southern Okanagan Secondary School on October 16th and October 23rd at Similkameen Elementary Secondary School for Grades 5-12.

Photo Day for Grades K-7 is taking place at Tuc-el-Nuit Elementary School on October 14th. (Re-takes are on October 30th if you miss this session).

YouLearn students are welcome to attend either session if they would like to have school photos taken.

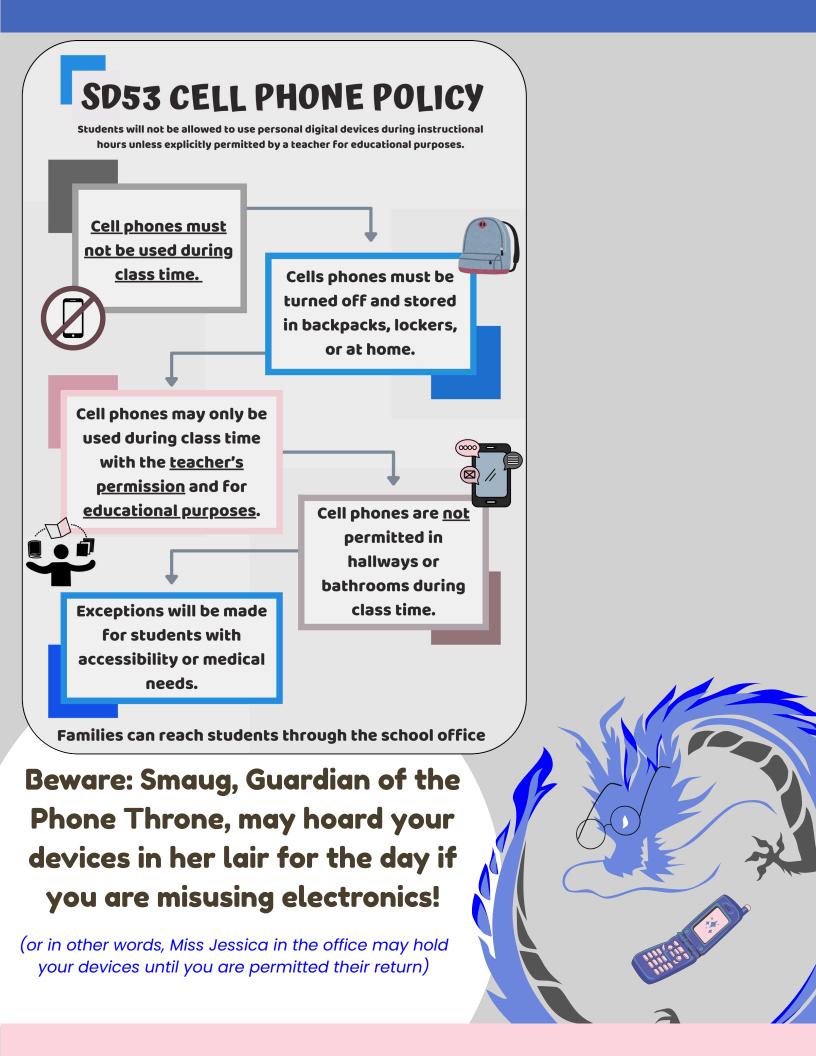
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Registration for the 2025-26 school year is open!

Please fill out **THIS FORM** to register.

If you have any questions, please call our office at (250) 498-4597 or email y!registrations@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 <u>Provincial Online Learning School</u>.





Join us Friday, October 31st for some fun Halloween-based activities!

The office staff is thrilled to host a small gettogether during Friday afternoon for our students.



February 4th 2026 at Penticton's Cleland Theatre

SYMPHONY FIELD TRIP

Join YouLearn for the 2026 School Show 'The Symphony Tells a Story', where we will explore well-known music for full symphony orchestra (like Beethoven, John Williams, and Tchaikovsky) and see how composers and musicians tell a story through music. The Program also includes the work The Hockey Sweater, a vibrant orchestral work composed by Abigail Richardson-Schulte, based on the beloved Canadian children's story by Roch Carrier and narrated on stage by local music educator and storyteller Joe Berarducci.

- Seats are limited to those who pre-register.
 - Pre-registration closes November 24th.
- The school can provide Meals and Transportation.

REGISTER HERE:

HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.COM/R/KYD 6NPDDBT

or come into the office and register in-person with Miss Jessica



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

ALL INCLUDED PER PERSON

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

Contact us:

Mrs. Goncalves

Mrs. Stopa



goncalv@sd53.bc.ca

hstopa@sd53.bc.ca



Q 250-488-7195



250-498-7691

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. Deadline to apply is in early January. Recommended participants are grade 12 students.	
May	Inclusive Trades Sampler	l 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.	



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

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

14 15 16 17 18 19 20

21 (22)(23)(24)(25)(26) 27

10 11 12 13

9

1 2 3 4 5 6

28 (29)(30)(31)

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 Second Semester Begins January 28 February 16 Family Day Spring Break Begins March 16 March 30 School Re-Open April 3 Good Friday April 6 Easter Monday May 18 Victoria Day Secondary Exam Days June 22 to 24 Last Day of Classes June 25 June 26 Administrative Day

(School Closed for Students)

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

11 12 13 14 15 16 17

18 19 20 21 22 23 24

5 6 7

1 (2) 3

9 10

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

Number of Days in Session 192 Number of Days of Instruction 184

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

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

DISTRICT NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS

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

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

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

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

Stat/School Holidays

Non-Instructional Days

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

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

DISTRICT CONTACTS - 250-498-3481

Cawston Primary School	Phone: 250-485-4434	Marcus Toneatto	Superintendent of Schools
Principal: Amanda Palmer	Fax: 250-499-5288	Subra Paliappa	Secretary Treasurer
	Hours: 8:38am-2:30pm	Naryn Searcy	Director of Learning & Inquiry
		Debby Sansome	Director of Facilities
Okanagan Falls Elem. School	Phone: 250-497-5414	Susan Trower	Manager of Human Resources
Principal: Katie Poole	Fax: 250-497-8279	Heather Rose	Director of Student Services
	Hours: 8:30am-2:27pm	Melia Dirk	District Vice Principal, Early
			Learning & Childcare

Oliver Elementary School Phone: 250-498-3468 Principal: Scott Tremblay 250-498-0339 Fax:

Hours: 8:30am-2:23pm

Osoyoos Elementary School	Phone:	250-485-4444	Rob Zandee
Principal: Jason McAllister	Fax:	250-495-2855	Debbie Marten
	Hours:	8:30am-2:30pm	Casey Brouwer
			Sholeh Pickell
Osoyoos Secondary School	Phone:	250-485-4433	Christine Watson
Principal: Dave Foster	Fax:	250-495-2669	Karen Clayton
	Hours:	8:35am-2:45pm	Brenda Dorosz

Similkameen Elem, Sec. School Phone: 250-499-2727 Principal: Stacey Smith Fax: 250-499-2411

Elem Hours: 8:30am-2:35pm Sec Hours: 8:30am-2:40pm

Southern Okanagan Sec. School	Phone:	250-498-4931
Principal: Bev Young	Fax:	250-498-6957
	Hours:	8:30am-2:45p

Tuc-el-Nuit Elementary School Phone: 250-498-3415 Principal: Shannon Miller Fax: 250-498-0388 Hours: 8:30am-2:27pm

YouLearn.ca - Online Learning & Continuing Education

Principal: Brad Burns Phone: 250-498-4597

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

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.

ELEMENTARY PROGRESS REPORTS ISSUED:

Mid-Year Reports: Date to be determined

by each school

Final Report: Thursday, June 25, 2026

Guidelines for Positive Communication



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

In the Okanagan Similkameen School District, we want schools to be safe, supportive, and welcoming places for students to learn and for staff to work. A key part of creating this environment is how we communicate and work together as a community.

We deeply value the partnership between home and school and ask for your support in the following areas:

Communication

- Please follow our process when concerns arise: Begin by making an appointment to speak with your child's teacher, and if more follow-up is needed, contact the school administration. Additional information can be found in Board Policy F-10 Dispute Resolution Policy
- Use respectful language in all communication, whether in person, on the phone, or through
- email.
- Please understand that responses may not always be immediate. Staff will do their best to
- communicate with you as soon as possible.
 - Clarify your child's perspective with staff to better understand the full picture, and work toward calm, reasonable solutions.
 - Avoid using social media to air complaints. It does not resolve concerns and often makes situations harder for everyone involved.

Partnership

- Support your child's regular attendance at school and reach out if you need help with this.
- Work with staff to find solutions when issues come up.
- Review and discuss the Student Code of Conduct with your child so they understand expectations.

Conduct

• When visiting the school, please remain calm and respectful. Swearing, inappropriate language, threats, or verbal abuse are not acceptable.

School Culture

• Please join us in treating all members of our school community with dignity and respect. This includes respecting diversity in identity, race, culture, beliefs, family status, abilities, gender, and age, as outlined by the BC Human Rights Code.

Together, we can build a school environment where all students and adults feel safe, respected, and supported in their learning. Thank you for your partnership in this important work. Warm regards,

Marcus Toneatto Superintendent of Schools Okanagan Similkameen School District No. 53



Wiggle & Flow Yoga

This program includes games, imaginative movement, and creative challenges. Teaches balance, flexibility, strength, and breath awareness. Promotes emotional regulation, focus, and confidence. Mats will be provided

