SPARK NOTES

NOVEMBER 2026

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear SESS Families,

Thank you to the many families who connected with us during Family Conferences and for the ongoing support you provide at home. Working together is one of the most important ways we help our students learn, grow, and thrive.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our incredible PAC, community partners, volunteers, muffins makers, fruit givers, and supporters who continue to make a difference in the lives of our students. Special thanks to our coaches in both the elementary and secondary divisions for investing their time, energy, and expertise in developing not only athletes, but also confident, resilient young people.

October was full of school spirit and memorable experiences. Under Ms. Fotheringham's guidance, our Leadership students did an outstanding job creating a fun and engaging Spirit Week for students and staff across both divisions. Their Haunted House was a huge success and showcased an incredible amount of creativity, planning, and hard work. Thank you to the many community members and families who came out to support the event and help make it such a memorable experience.

We're excited to see students enjoying our newly opened playground. It has quickly become a favourite gathering place, offering wonderful opportunities to climb, play, explore, build friendships, and take safe risks while developing confidence and independence through active outdoor play.

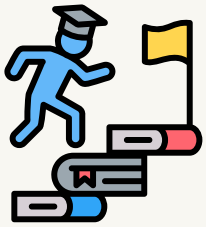
Together, with the support of our families and community, we continue to create opportunities that help every student feel connected, supported, and inspired to succeed.

Sincerely,
Stacey Smith

NOVEMBER EVENTS

- **06** Elementary Assembly
- **08** Indigenous Veteran's Day
- **10** End of Term 1 (High School)
- **10** Remembrance Day Assembly
- **11** Remembrance Day-No School
- **18** Fireweed Collective Field Trip
- **25** Inquiry Day - Early Dismissal
- **26** Grade 6 Immunizations

AFTER SCHOOL ACADEMIC SUPPORT



We know that students are under pressure to keep up with their classes, and sometimes students need extra time, space, or help to stay on top of their studies. We are offering after school academic support each Monday & Wednesday from 3:00-4:00 to help support students and reduce stress. This support is available for any student in grade 8-12. If you have any questions about these sessions, please contact the school at 250-499-2727.

DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

Winter weather has arrived! Please make sure elementary students are coming to school with warm clothes so they can spend recess and lunch hour outside. During the winter a good coat, mitts or gloves, a toque, and winter boots are needed. Snow pants are also beneficial.

CONTACT INFO

Principal: Stacey Smith
Email: ssmith@sd53.bc.ca

Vice Principal: Katie Anderson
Email: kanderso@sd53.bc.ca

CULTURE, CONNECTION & CONVERSATION IN THE GARDEN

The first Culture, Cooking, and Conversation event of the year took place in our garden on Thursday, October 15th. Organized by Jenny Martin, our District Coordinator of Health & Wellbeing, and supported by Brianna Whitney, our Elementary Indigenous Education Advocate, this special day had our classes dropping into the garden to take part in tea, soup and portraits with our chickens, who will be going to their winter home. Our students were full of smiles, jumping in and helping prepare, cook, and serve food. Students could be overheard sharing their food connections and shared experiences, laughing and connecting. It was a beautiful day! Our next Culture, Connection & Conversation is November 13.















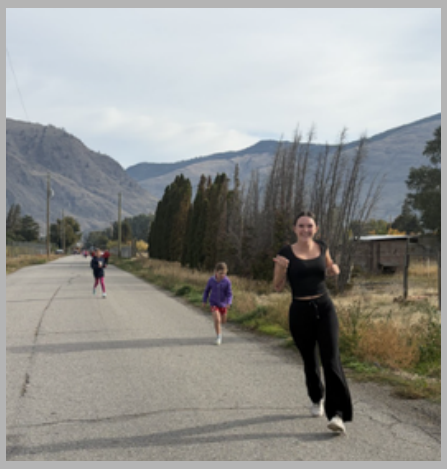



ELEMENTARY X-COUNTRY

On October 8th, the SESS Elementary Cross Country Team competed in the district Cross Country Meet. Our students did very well and we eve had some grads out to help and support our students. Well done everyone! Thank you to our coach, Ms. DJ!







SOCCER





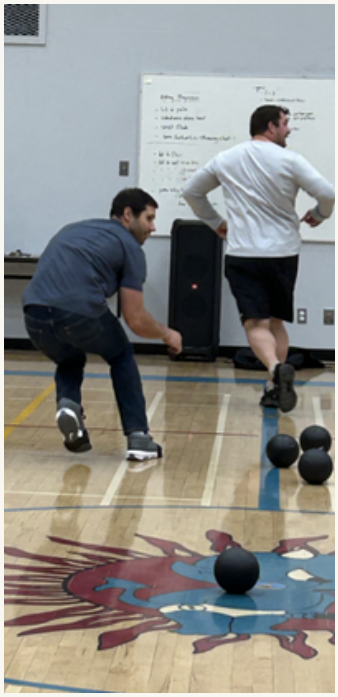




GRAD VS. STAFF DODGEBALL!
















Grad 2027



In October, the Graduates of 2027 volunteered for several community events and met to select this year's Grad Committee.

A few reminders for the graduates:

- Monitor the deadlines for applications for post-secondary institutions
- Continue with CLC tasks and Capstone project progress
- The next Grad vs. Staff event will take place in November. Stay tuned for the exact date.
- Join the Grad 2027 SPACES group for updates on all things Grad!
- There will be opportunities to volunteer for the community Remembrance Day on Nov. 11

Congratulations!



sparks

OF THE MONTH



TERM 1 SECONDARY REPORT CARDS

By mid November, Term 1 Reports for secondary students will be available for parents. All student reports will be found on MyEducation BC.

If you are struggling to access this platforms, please stop by the school and speak to Ms. Rooney or Ms. Bidoka.



FAMILY CONFERENCES

Thank you to all of our families who came out on October 21st to meet their child(ren)'s teachers. It was so lovely to see everyone!













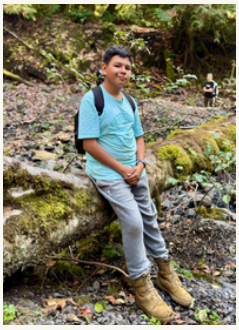


BAND CAMP @ TULAHEAD

OUTDOOR ED – CAMP LINLEY



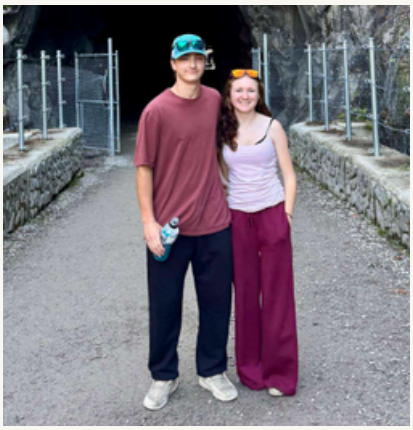


























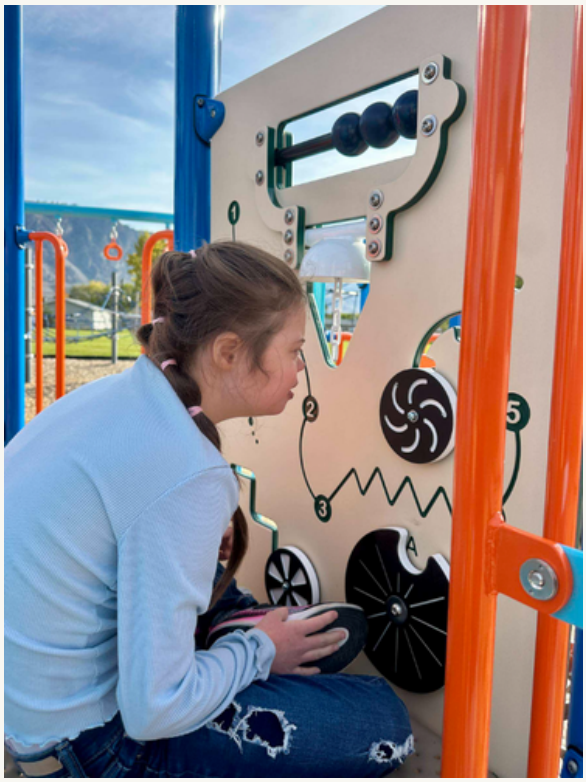




NEW PLAYGROUND!





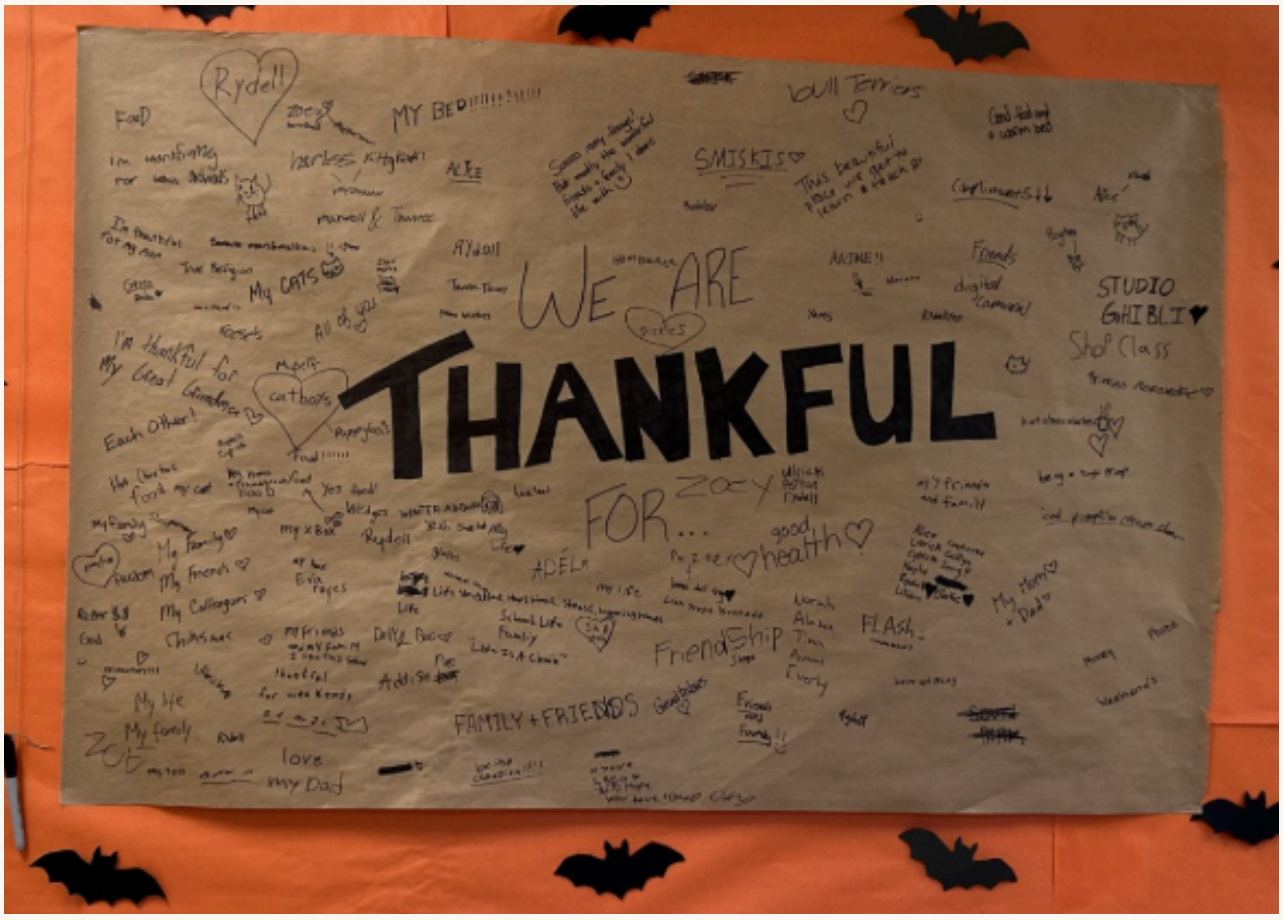












GIVING THANKS

Grade 5/6 Learns all about Broodstock

As part of the kɬ cp̓əl̓ḱ stiḿ initiative, ONA has been successfully beach seining and collecting eggs and milt from adult Sockeye in the Okanagan River for rearing and release into various tributaries within the Syilx Okanagan territory since 2004.












SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT
BE LOUD BE PROUD BE POSITIVE

VOLLEY BALL






04; 09 2009 to 10, 07 2026
fly high
Camille♡


SCHEDULE





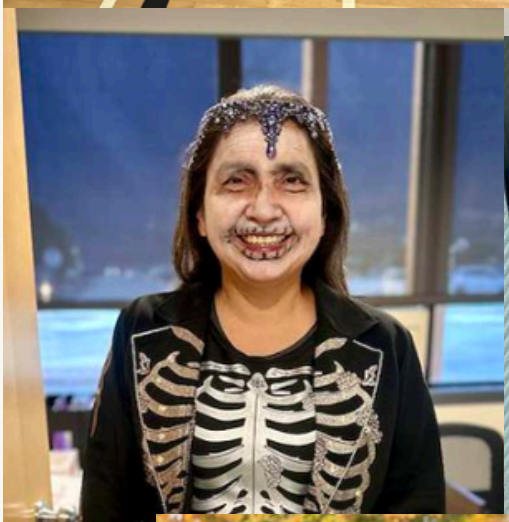
SPIRIT WEEK AT SESS

Staff



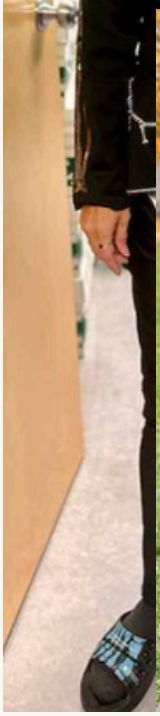


















SPIRIT WEEK AT SESS





Students









Students

SPIRIT WEEK AT SESS












November Events

NOV 6
Elementary Assembly

NOV 8
Indigenous Veteran's Day

NOV 10
10:15-11:15
Remembrance Day Assembly

NOV 10
End of Term 1 - Highschool

NOV 11
Remembrance Day - NO SCHOOL

NOV 18
Fireweed Collective Meeting

NOV 25
12:00
Staff Inquiry EARLY DISMISSAL

NOV 26
Grade 6 Immunizations



PAC fundraiser!

SESS - Similkameen Secondary-Elementary School

Winter Plant Fundraiser

We are selling **beautiful** plants to raise money for our programs. Plants are a great way to encourage our friends to get out into the garden while choosing to support a healthy fundraiser!
Click the button below To Place an Order!

ORDER NOW ↓

SHARE

Share with friends and family to spread more smiles.
Bring home beautiful plants, support a great cause and get a chance to win a surprise gift hamper!



Who can operate an ELECTRIC KICK SCOOTER?



IT'S THE LAW

Police can issue you a **VIOLATION TICKET** and **$109 FINE** if you break the rules

Your parent or guardian can also get a ticket and fine if you are underage

YOU MUST BE AT LEAST 16 YEARS OLD TO OPERATE AN ELECTRIC KICK SCOOTER

It's illegal to ride as a passenger on an electric kick scooter

Scan for the Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Project rules and participating communities

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Transportation and Transit

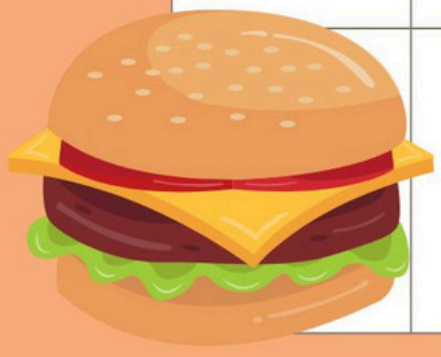
November



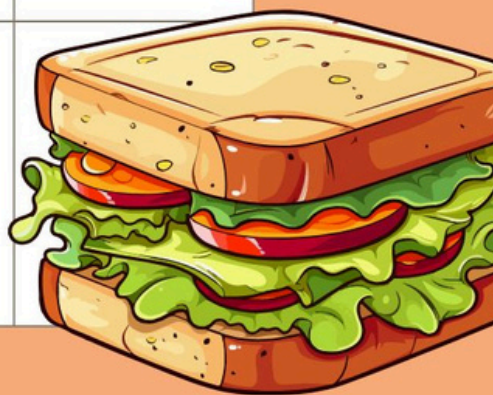


MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
2 Burritos	3 Butter Chicken	4 Chicken Burgers	5 Beef & Rice Bowls	6 Chef Special
9 Chicken Pita Plates	10 Beef Strogonoff	11 No School	12 Ham Melts	13 Chef Special
16 Deli Subs	17 Tacos	18 Chicken Burgers	19 Meatball Subs	20 Chef Special
23 Perogie Piles	24 Chicken Dinner	25 Early Dismissal	26 Pizza	27 Chef Special





Cafeteria





Career Ed. Newsletter - November 2026

Career Ed Report

October 1 started with Dual credit applications for the 27/28 year.School District 53 has a record number of students registering for the fallstarts. School District 53 hosted the Post Secondary Institution Day where we had 17 post-secondary schools tour the district. Secondary students from all three secondary schools had a chance to learn about post-secondary opportunities available to them. It started at OSS as career fair with SESS attending, and moved to SOSS with a mini fair, and transitioned to break out sessions for grade 10, 11, and 12 students.

First Nation Teacher Education Program is under development. School District 53 has created three unique pathways for students to meet graduation requirements. School District 53 continues to work with the local bands to build local support networks for our students. School District 53 has teacher education pathways built into current agreements with our post secondary providers but School District 53 continues to look to provide new opportunities for our students.

Dual Credit numbers are still strong and continue to grow with 18 students currently accessing academic and trades programs. Youth Work in Trades scholarships are now available and students have been notified to check their eligibility. School District 53 continues to monitor 26 Youth Work in Trades Apprentices.

District Careers Staff will be meeting with the Career Educators Society next week and will be learning about the new realities and parameters that will impact Skilled Trades and Dual Credit Programs. November is Career month and Career Educators Society will provide initiative and programs to enhance Career Programs.

School District 53 careers teams finished October with presentations to the CLE 10 classes on opportunities students have as they move into grade 11 and 12. The volume of students looking to access dual credit programs has required the career education teachers to be proactive and inform students of the opportunities so we can plan and provide our students with the necessary seats required. Early applications will ensure seats.



Check out this link for more on our Healthcare Sampler

Sd53- Healthcare Sampler

Current Offerings:

2026-2027

Auto Service Tech Foundations
Plumber Foundations Carpenter Foundations
DC Course/Programs Healthcare Sampler Technology Sampler Trades Sampler
Engineering Sampler Healthcare Aid

2027-2028

Professional Cook 1
ECE Assistant Certificate

Upcoming Events

November 1-3CareerEducation Society
November 23-27 CareerEducation Week(Career Bus)
December2 Dual CreditApplications for 27/28Programs
January 29 Professional Cook 1 Starts
Feb. 1 OC Applications for Winter 28 Programs Due
Feb. 9 Trades Sampler Starts