

SPARK NOTES

MAY 2026

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear SESS Families,

May already—how did that happen? We are on the home stretch, with less than two months remaining in the school year. Secondary report cards have been sent home (Gr. 8 & 9 comments are available on Spaces), and we will continue to support any students with outstanding coursework. We are also looking ahead and building the 2026–27 timetable, and we look forward to welcoming 35 Grade 7 students into the high school next year. Their transition will be celebrated at our final elementary assembly in June.

For our grads, this is an exciting season. District Dogwood Authority presentations will take place on Monday, May 11, and many scholarship applications have been submitted. We are deeply grateful to our community sponsors for their ongoing generosity. Please see the Grad Update section later in the newsletter for more details.

This spring has been full of rich, real-world learning experiences. Thank you to our staff for the many opportunities they've created for students, including salmon release, Penticton Courthouse visits, French cultural experiences, Jill of All Trades, hikes, fishing trips, band trips, Skills Canada, and more. These experiences truly bring learning to life.

A special thank you to Ms. Bidoka for her leadership in organizing the Wilderness Career Fair happening tomorrow. This event represents a great deal of planning and provides an incredible opportunity for students interested in careers connected to the outdoors.

A reminder to families that regular attendance is one of the strongest indicators of student success. Thank you for your continued support in helping students be present, engaged, and ready to learn each day.

Spring athletics are in full swing. Elementary track and field and ultimate frisbee are underway, and our Senior Girls Soccer team is wrapping up their season—thank you to Coach Pillipow for his leadership and commitment.

There are also many community events happening at SESS. Please see the attached flyers for more information. We are proud to be working with LSCSS to provide meaningful opportunities for families to learn and connect together.

As we head into these final weeks, students and staff are focused on finishing the year strong. Let's make the most of this time together. Let's enjoy these last two months, SPARKS!
Stacey Smith

MAY EVENTS

- 1 Jump Rope for Heart
- 4 Grad Scholarship packages due
- 4 Law 12 to Penticton Courthouse
- 5 Red Dress Day
- 5 One Sky Presentation Gr. 5/6
- 5 Youth & Family Wellness Fair 5-7PM
- 6 One Sky Presentation Gr. 10
- 6 Grad Parent Meeting 5PM
- 6-8 Junior Band Trip
- 7-8 Wilderness Career Fair
- 7 1-Woman Play Day & Evening Performance
- 8 Gr 5-7 Professor Wow @ Venables
- 11 District Authority Scholarship Presentations
- 12 PAC Meeting 5:30 in Library
- 12 Socials 10 to Military Museum
- 13 Mad Hatter Presentations Gr 5-8
- 14 Elem Ultimate Frisbee Event
- 14 Come Count with Me Family Night 5-7PM
- 14-15 Grad Trip to Vancouver
- 15 Moosehide Campaign
- 18 Victoria Day (Statutory Holiday)
- 21 Elem Badminton Tournament OES
- 21 French 11/12 to Penticton
- 23 SESS Elem. Track Meet
- 25 Elementary Month End Assembly
- 27 Gr 7 Entrepreneur Sale
- 27 Inquiry Day (Dismissal @ 12:00)
- 28 Fishing Club to Twin Lakes

CONTACT INFO

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Vice Principal: Katie Anderson
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GRAD UPDATES



ON THE LAND

Our grads had an amazing opportunity lately to go and support our community with yard work. What a great volunteer opportunity! Well done, Grads!



SCHOLARSHIPS

The Grad class of 2026 has been busy getting ready to submit their Bursary and Scholarship application packages on Monday, May 4th. Information and application packages can be found on the Grad SPACES or on our website. District Authority Scholarship presentations will take place on May 11th. Bursary and Scholarship winners will be announced at the graduation ceremony.

GRAD WALK

On June 24th, the Grads of 2026 will travel by bus to ntámłqən and Cawston Primary School to participate in a celebration of their journey from primary school to graduation. Students will meet in the library at 8:30 Wednesday morning prior to getting on the bus.

GRAD REHEARSAL

Following the Grad Walk on Wednesday, June 24th, Grads will be participating in the Grad Ceremony rehearsal. This practice will begin promptly at 1:00. All Grads must be in attendance.

GRADUATION CEREMONY

The Graduation Ceremony will take place at 5:00 on Thursday, June 25th. Grads must be in the Cafeteria at 4:00pm. Doors to the gymnasium open to families at 4:00.



INDIGENOUS GRAD

The School District 53 Indigenous Graduation will take place at 5:00 on June 3rd at the Ashnola Pow Wow Grounds.

SKILLS CANADA

A HUGE congratulations to Carson Whelpton and Luka Manazza for winning GOLD at the Skills BC Provincials for Gravity Cars! AMAZING!! And...we had not one gold medal, but two! Kai Rivest and his helper Matteo Monazza also won GOLD for Sumo Bots. Well done team. **We are so happy for you and proud of all your hard work.**



A few courageous SESS students attended the Jill of All Trades Day in Kelowna this week. It was a very early start and fulfilling day of learning. Thank you, Mr. Toth, for chaperoning!



SCHOOL FEES

Please make sure that your child's school fees are paid. There are so many events and student trips that count on these funds in order to happen. We appreciate it! Please see our website for a link to [pay online](#) or come in and see Mr. Boultif in person.



ATTENDANCE



Regular attendance plays an important role in student learning and overall well-being. Students build academic skills, confidence, and meaningful connections with peers and teachers through daily classroom experiences. As students move into higher grades, courses become more fast-paced, and being present consistently helps them stay on track and feel a stronger sense of belonging. We understand that absences are sometimes unavoidable, but attending regularly, whenever possible, helps students stay connected, supported, and ready for future success.

THANK YOU

The Senior Boy's Basketball Provincial champions, their families, community members, and SESS teachers and staff were all invited and hosted by the Penticton Sikh Temple. There were some wonderful traditions, delicious food, and a lot of amazing community. Thank you so much for having us!



Gaga Pit!

The elementary playground got an addition this week and so much fun is being had!



Grade 7 Buddies

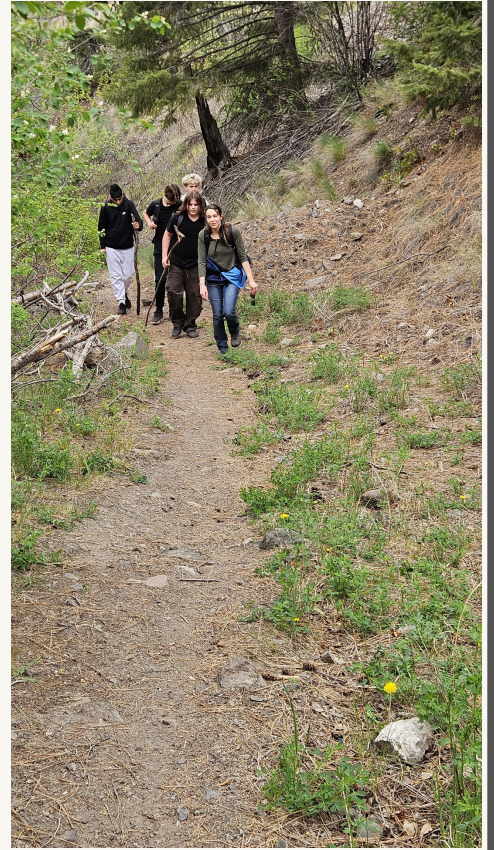
Ms. Jensen's Grade 7 class has been working with some pretty cute buddies from Cawston Primary School.



TRIP TO THE LEGISLATURE @ VICTORIA

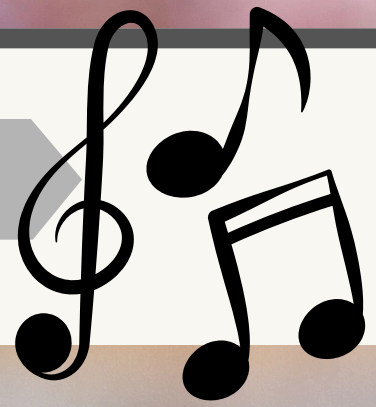


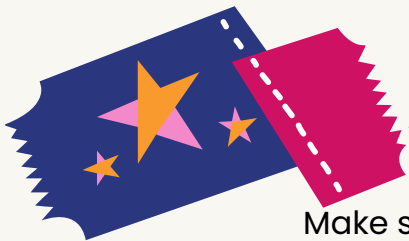
BARCELO FALLS HIKE





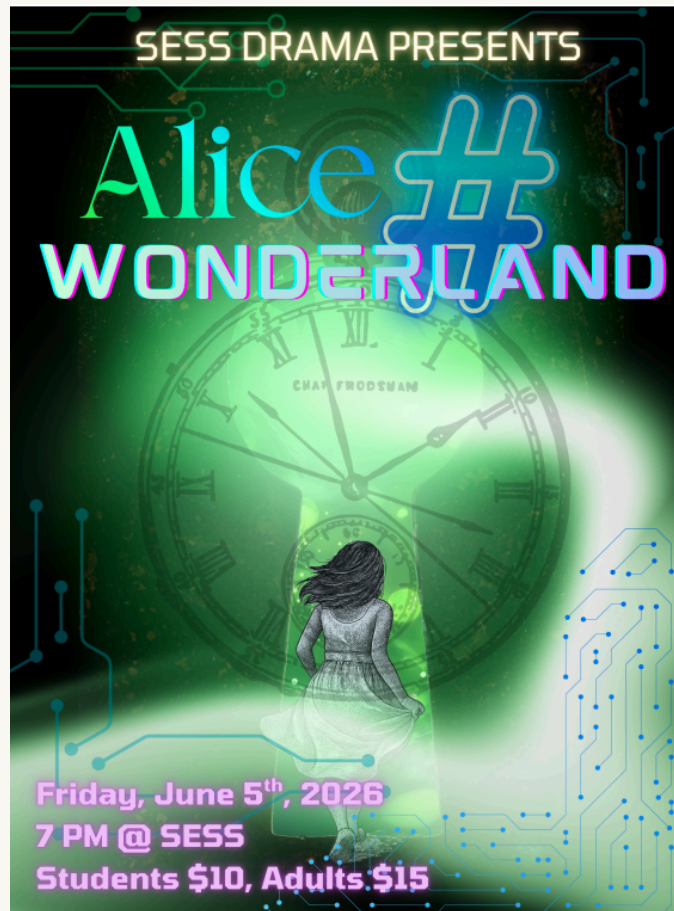
SENIOR BAND TRIP

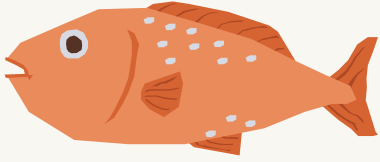




DRAMA PRODUCTION

Make sure you purchase your tickets for our upcoming drama production of Alice # Wonderland! Tickets are available on our website or click [here](#). Students are working hard rehearsing and creating amazing props. We can't wait!





SALMON RELEASE



Our Grade 7s went to Skaha Lake to release salmon fry this month. It was an amazing day on the land!



WILDERNESS CAREER FAIR

Event 11-3pm

May 7th

Grade 9-12

Career choices with limited or no college requirements

Learn about careers in:

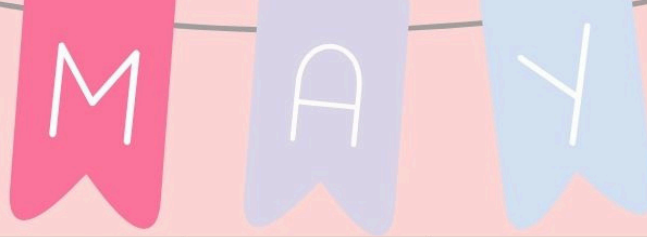
- Trades
- Environmental work
- Tourism and outdoor industries

Event Information:

- Outdoor event at Camp Boyle
- Students visit presenters
- Bring your own lunch

Hosted by Outdoor Ed Club SESS





MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
27	28	29 Early Dismissal	30 Pizza	1 Chef Special
4 Chow Mein	5 Beef Dip	6 Chicken Burgers	7 Chili on Rice	8 Chef Special
11 Pita Plates	12 Chicken Dinner	13 Penne Alfredo	14 Pizza	15 Chef Special
18 No School	19 Butter Chicken	20 Fried Rice	21 Mac n Cheese	22 Chef Special
25 Deli Subs	26 Hot Chicken Sandwich	27 Early Dismissal	28 Pizza	29 Chef Special

Cafeteria



**Families and Students in
Grades 5-7**

You're invited to... family game and pizza night!

Fun • Laughter • Teamwork

**May 14th
5:00-6:30 pm
SESS Library**

What's This All About?

- Learn games to support your child at home
- Friendly Competitions
- Meet school and district staff

**Great for students and
families!**

Admission: FREE!

**Please register
by May 10th**



**Brought to you by:
School District #53**

Game night at SESS



SESS DRAMA PRESENTS

Alice # WONDERLAND



Friday, June 5th, 2026

7 PM @ SESS

Students \$10. Adults \$15

Digital Safety Workshops

YES Program (Youth Empowered Strong)

a Victims and Survivors of Crime week long event

For School Staff, Parents & Caregivers
Victims & Survivors of Crime Week

Join LSCSS and the You Empowered Strong (YES) Program (Okanagan Nation Alliance) for interactive digital safety workshops focused on protecting children and youth online.

Date: May 13, 2026

Time: Starting at 3:00 pm

Location: SESS Library
830 – 2nd Avenue, Keremeos

Workshop Topics:

3pm - Digital risk, consent & online permanence (ages 12+)

4pm - Online safety for children (ages 5–11)

5pm - Practical digital safety guidance for parents & caregivers

Train-the-trainer format

Food & refreshments provided



Presented by:
You Empowered Strong (YES) – Okanagan Nation Alliance

Hosted by:
Lower Similkameen Community Services Society



Career Ed. Newsletter- May 2026

With report cards approaching, Career Coordinators have been gathering input from dual credit instructors, who report that School District 53 students are performing well. Supervising these students has kept me traveling throughout April.

School District 53 continues to excel at Skills Canada. On April 15, 20 students attended the Provincial Skills Canada competition at Tradex in Abbotsford, competing in Senior Electronics, Senior Carpentry, Junior Sumo Bot, and Junior Gravity Cars. SESS students won gold in both Junior Sumo Bot and Junior Gravity Cars. OSS students earned silver in Junior Sumo Bot and gold in Senior Electronics. Emmett Madsen from OSS will be heading to Toronto to compete in the Skills Canada National Competition from May 26–30. The District is actively seeking sponsors to support Emmett's opportunity to compete on the national stage.

On April 22, SOSS textile students explored careers in fashion design. They toured Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Richmond and attended the graduating students' fashion show. On April 28, 15 students from OSS and SOSS attended the Jill of Trades event at Okanagan College in Kelowna. This event promoted the trades as a viable career choice for female students.

The first week of May will continue with multiple career events across School District 53, including ongoing planning for the SD53 Female Trades event.

School District 53 continues to make progress in establishing Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with post-secondary institutions. New MOUs have been signed with Okanagan College and MC College. To expand opportunities, the district is also developing MOUs with the College of the Rockies and the En'owkin Centre.

Students continue to access a wide range of career exploration opportunities, and planning for 2026/27 programs is already underway.

Boyd Turnbull



Current Offerings

SEATS ARE AVAILABLE FOR 26/27

Early Childhood Educator,
Refrigeration & Air Conditioning,
Welding,
Automotive Service Technician,
Heavy Duty Mechanics,
Health Care Aid,
Business Administration,
Technology Sampler,
Carpentry
Plumbing
Aircraft Maintenance Engineering
Structures,
Professional Cook,
Trades Sampler,
Health Sampler,
Engineering Sampler,
Academic Dual Credit,
Office Administration,
Nail Technician,
Hairdressing,
Leadership in Action,

Up Coming Events :

Experience Okanagan College Penticton May 4th

Work BC's -Find Your Fit
at Osoyoos Elementary May 5th

SD53 Wilderness Career Fair
Camp Boyle May 7th

Please use the link to view information on the: [ECE Dual Credit Program](#)

LSCSS presents



THE WHITE HATTER

a Victims and Survivors of Crime
week long event

FREE admission to livestream interactive presentation with the White Hatter;

INTERNET SAFETY & CYBERBULLYING

Wednesday May 13th - 1030 - 12:00

SESS LIBRARY

Each event attendance is an entry in the week long prize draw!

DIGITAL LITERACY

INTERNET SAFETY

ONLINE PRIVACY

