



NIGHTHAWK NEWS

“Everything that you do today will make a difference in our world tomorrow.”

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Principal’s Message

Welcome Back Nighthawk families! We are excited to be starting a new school year at Osoyoos Elementary.



Friday we will have our Welcome Back Assembly, and I will be encouraging all students to get involved with the various clubs and teams we have at the school. We have two great opportunities for all of our students to get involved with the Terry Fox Run on September 22 and our Cross-Country Team (Grade 1-7), which will be starting practice on Friday at lunch. For our grade 6/7 students, they also can join soccer and practices will begin shortly. Throughout the year we will also have opportunities for parents to volunteer - please look for these opportunities as a connected family community only makes our school better.

We ask that families take the time to review two attached documents around supporting student attendance and guidelines for positive communication that have been created by School District 53.

We look forward to hosting our Nighthawk families at our Welcome Back BBQ on Wednesday, September 17. Additionally, our first PAC meeting will take place on Monday, September 8 in the OSE Learning Commons and encourage our parents to join in and partner in making OSE a great place to learn.

Jason McAllister
Principal

Important Dates



September

- 2 First Day of School
- 5 Opening Assembly
- 8 PAC Meeting at 6:30 pm, Learning Commons
- 15 Lunch Program Begins
- 17 Welcome Back BBQ, 4:30—6:00 pm
- 22 Terry Fox Run
- 23 Individual and Class Photo Day
- 24 Early Dismissal (TIM) at 12:00 pm
- 29 Orange Shirt Day
- 30 National Day for Truth & Reconciliation Day,
NO SCHOOL

October

- 2 Cross Country Meet, Cawston Elementary
- 13 Thanksgiving—School Closed
- 16 District Soccer Tournaments
- 20-23 Scholastic Book Fair
- 22 Early Dismissal at 12:00 pm
Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 23 Early Dismissal at 12:00 pm
- 24 Non-Instructional Day
- 29 Early Dismissal (TIM) at 12:00 pm
- 30 Photo Retakes
- 31 Halloween Events



Open House and BBQ

The PAC BBQ and School Open House will take place on **Wednesday, September 17, from 4:30-6:00 pm**. It is designed to provide parents with an opportunity to socialize with other parents, meet the teachers and administrators and enjoy a visit to their child’s classroom. Food will be available from **4:30-6:00 pm** outside by the upper playground.



NIGHTHAWK Daily Schedule

8:25	Meet Teacher
8:30	Classes Start
10:20 – 10:35	Recess
11:35 – 11:50	Eating Time
11:50 – 12:30	Outside Play time
2:33	Dismissal



Supporting Emotional Transitions Back to School

The start of a new school year brings excitement—but it can also stir up big feelings for kids (and parents too!). Whether your child is returning to familiar faces or starting somewhere new, emotional transitions are a normal part of back-to-school season.



You might notice:

- Morning meltdowns or clinginess
- Fatigue after school
- Increased irritability or quietness
- Difficulty separating at drop off

These behaviours aren't signs that something is “wrong”—they're signs your child is adjusting. As their nervous system adapts to new routines, environments, and social expectations, co-regulation from you at home is key.



How Parents Can Help:

- Create Predictable Routines for morning and bedtime
- Practice “connection first” with hugs, a shared joke, or a few minutes of play before school
- Name the Feeling: “It’s okay to feel nervous,” “lots of kids feel this way,” “you’re not alone.”
- Plan After-School Downtime: Kids often need time to decompress with quiet play, snacks, or movement before homework or conversation.
- Be Gentle With Behaviour: Dysregulation is not disrespect. It’s a nervous system asking for support.

Transitions take time. With patience, predictability, and connection, your child will begin to settle into the rhythm of school life.

You've got this—and so do they!



Osyoos Elementary PAC

Our first PAC meeting for the 2025-26 school year will be September 8, 2025 at 6:30 pm in our Learning Commons. New members are always welcome Please join us!

Planners or Folders

This is a great tool to facilitate communication between home and school (e.g. homework, notes to teacher or parent, special days, holder for consent forms, etc.). These are included in the school supplies/start-up fees.



OSE Website

You will find a wealth of information on our school website at [click here](#), including the school calendar, student/parent handbook, newsletters, PAC information, etc.

Please note that we are switching to a new website and updates will be ongoing.

There are links to helpful sites, and you will be able to access our school library catalog as well. Please use this site, and advise the school of additions you'd like to see to the website to help keep the OSE Community as informed as possible.

Team Inquiry Model and Early Dismissals

The Team Inquiry Model (TIM) is time for teachers and principals to study and learn together in order to improve their teaching practice, learn new ways to meet student needs and increase student success. Students will be dismissed at 12:00 noon on the last Wednesday once a month (September, October, November, January, February, April & May). The first early dismissal is on **Wednesday, September 24**. Please see our school calendar on the fridge magnet (given out the first week of school) or on our website for the other early dismissal dates. Busses will run at 12:05 pm.



Kindergarten Students will go through a transition process which includes a classroom session on Wednesday, Sept. 3. One half of the students will be in the morning and the other half in the afternoon.

A separate letter with these new times and dates have been emailed to Kindergarten parents.

Declaration of Indigenous Ancestry

Are your children descendants of First Nations, Metis or Inuit peoples? If yes, they qualify for additional service through funding from the Ministry of Education. This funding is used by the school district to provide additional academic support and cultural programs for these students. Parents/guardians only need to self-identify to qualify for his funding, status is not a requirement. If your child is of Indigenous Ancestry, please contact our school and complete the required forms.

Staffing Changes

Welcome new staff – Kathleen Johnson (Grades 4), Jorie Martin (Grade 6) and Kim Dragseth (Education Assistant).

School Daily Routines and Information:

- In the morning, teachers will greet their students at 8:25 am, at their designated spot and then take them into the school. Students are welcome to play on the red playground prior to 8:25am. A supervisor will be there starting at 8:00 am.
- Students who arrive after their class has gone in the building will enter through their designated door until 8:40 am, then the front door after 8:40 am to get a late slip from the office.
- Students will be dismissed from their designated meeting spot at the end of the day.
- Students will be required to bring snacks, a lunch, and a water bottle each day. Please label your child's name on all their items.

School Fees 2025-2026

Kindergarten: **\$80** — Includes school supplies, t-shirt, activity fee, planner and magnet

Grades 1, 2, and 3: **\$70** — Includes school supplies, activity fee, planner and magnet

Grades 4 and 5: **\$70** — Includes school supplies, activity fee, planner and magnet

Grades 6 and 7: **\$55**— Includes school supplies, planner and magnet

Cash, cheques or e-transfers. Cheques can be made out to Osoyoos Elementary School.

E-transfer to oseaccounting@sd53.bc.ca. Password: nighthawk Ensure that student(s)' name is in the message. If you are unable to pay fees due to financial hardship, please contact Mr. McAllister at:

jmcallis@sd53.bc.ca or 250-485-4444, and a payment plan can be arranged.

Student Transportation Register Students for 2025-2026 School Year

If you are wishing your child to take the bus this year and have not previously registered them, please register through the following link.

[Click here](#)



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National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is coming up on Sept. 30. This day honours First Nations, Inuit and Métis Survivors and their families and communities and ensures that public commemoration of the tragic and painful history of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process. A key component for reconciliation is achieved through education.

Students and staff are invited to wear Orange on Sept. 29 & 30. Please click on the following link for more information about Orange Shirt Day and Truth and Reconciliation. [WELCOME \(orangeshirtday.org\)](https://www.welcomeschools.org/orangeshirtday.org). Please note the school will be closed on Monday, September 30.



Dress Code

The home and the school need to cooperate in the matter of dress. School is the child's place of business, and children who are dressed in appropriate school clothing (warm, comfortable clothes) seem to have an easier time with schooling. Tank tops, short shorts, halter tops, clothing with obscene suggestions, defamatory remarks, violent sayings, messages or pictures are not allowed. Please be reminded that students should have appropriate footwear that will allow them to run and play.

Just B4 Preschool Program

Registration for this program for the 2025-2026 school year is currently full. We are accepting application forms if you wish your child to be put on a waiting list. Please pick up forms from the office.

This is a free program open to children that are turning 4 by December 31, 2025, born in 2021, and are starting kindergarten in September 2026. Please note that this program will begin the week of September 8th. Miss Cindy will be contacting families that have registered during the week of September 2nd.

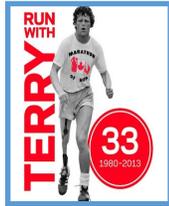
Osoyoos StrongStart

This is a free drop-in, early learning centre, for children 0-5 years of age. It is located in our school next to the Office, and is open from 8:30 - 11:30 am during school days. Please drop-by to pick up a calendar of events and to meet our facilitator, Cindy Garnham. StrongStart will begin on Wednesday, September 3rd.



Terry Fox Run

Terry's Marathon of Hope has continued to raise cancer awareness and money for cancer research. All students and staff will be participating in the Terry Fox Run on Monday, September 22. All students are encouraged to donate loonies or toonies to support Terry's dream of finding a cure for cancer.



District Cross Country Meet

Many of our best Nighthawk runners will be taking to the streets of Cawston near Cawston Primary School for the 2025 District Cross Country Meet. This takes place on Thursday, October 2, 2025. Please come out to cheer on our athletes.



Soccer

Our soccer players will soon start practicing and getting ready for our District Tournaments on Thursday, October 16. Thank you to our coaches for their time and efforts sponsoring our soccer players.



Hockey Academy

We look forward to running our Hockey Canada Skills Academy Program again this year. This program is currently full so we are unable to take any further registrations for this school year. The program is open to Grades 3-5 (Nights) and Grades 5-7 (Hawks). This year, Nights will skate on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1:00-2:00pm with Coach Palmer and the Hawks will skate on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00-2:00pm with Coach Miller. Hockey Academy will begin the week of September 8th, 2025. Fees are due by September 15, 2025.

A separate email will be sent to Hockey Academy families by the end of the week.



Phones and Electronic Devices

In an effort to clarify school policy in this regard, students may not use cell phones, hand-held electronic games, etc., at school during school hours unless used in the classroom for educational purposes – approved by the teacher. If students are found using these devices for any other purposes, they will be asked to put them away and then potentially confiscated and kept at the office until the end of the school day for repeat offences. Further offences may require calling parents to collect the device from the office. Teaching digital citizenship, when it is appropriate to use phones and devices is ultimately our goal at school.



Osoyoos Elementary Lunch Program

The lunch program will be starting up again September 15, 2025.

Mondays with Boston Pizza

Tuesdays with Subway

Wednesday is Pizza Day with Mami's Pizza

Thursdays with Smitty's Family Restaurant

Fridays with Tim Horton's

All lunches must be ordered online on the Hot Lunches website, osoyooselementary.hotlunches.net. As in the past, you may place an order for any or all of the lunch dates. Please be aware of the deadline dates for ordering. Once classes are finalized and you know the class that your child(ren) are placed in, you may create a new account and place orders. **The deadline for ordering for the week will be the Monday before the week you are ordering for. The deadline for the week of Sept. 15-19 is Monday Sept. 8.**

We will not be giving refunds for students that are away from school. This lunch will be donated to feeding one of our needy children on that day. Menus can be found on the Hot Lunches website, as well as our school website.

****All children must bring their own cutlery****



Osoyoos Elementary School

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Hot Lunch Program at Osoyoos Elementary School - YEAR END and START UP NOTES -

Just prior to the end of the school year, all the student accounts on the Osoyoos Elementary Hot Lunches Program are deleted. This is a necessary step that must be completed in accordance with privacy laws regarding collecting and retaining data, and guidelines set out with the Hot Lunches Program.

Ordering for the new school year will not begin until the first week back in September when your child(ren) have been assigned to classes. Everyone will have to create an account for the new school year. To register:

1. Go to **osoyooselementary.hotlunches.net**
2. Click the "**REGISTER**" menu at the top right-hand corner to sign up. Our school code is **OEHL**.
3. Enter your name, email address and phone, then a user id that you will use for access to the Hot Lunches application. Enter a password and then enter it again to verify that it is correct.
4. Once registered, you will be logged into the website.
5. Please add your children by clicking on the "**STUDENTS**" button below or the "**PROFILE**" menu tab in order to proceed. ***You will need to know the name of your child's teacher.*** Once your children have been added to the system, you will be able to place lunch orders immediately by clicking the "Order" button below each child's name. You will see the menu items for each day.
6. **All orders must be placed online and paid for through Bambora.** Bambora is a Canadian company, similar to PayPal. We will no longer be able to accept cash or cheques as payment or process any orders. If you are needing a computer to help with that, please come and see us.
7. *****The deadline for ordering for the week will be the Monday before the week you are ordering for. Please note that any orders that are not paid for after ordering, will be deleted.*** We will not be giving refunds for students that are away sick from school.**

The Hot Lunch Program will begin on **Monday, September 15, 2025**, with the last day to order for that week being **Monday, September 8, 2025**.

If you have any questions regarding this, please give us a call.

LUNCH MENU September 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Labour Day No School	2	NO HOT LUNCHES SERVED THIS WEEK		
8	9	10	11	12
NO HOT LUNCHES SERVED THIS WEEK				
15 Boston Pizza \$5.00 Fettucini Alfredo	16 Subway \$5.00 6" White Sub w/ Ham & White Cheddar	17 Mami's Pizza 1 slice \$3 2 slices \$5	18 Smitty's \$5.00 Chicken Nuggets & Cubed Potatoes	19 Tim Horton's \$5.00 Turkey Bacon Club on a White Bun
22 Boston Pizza \$5.00 Spaghetti with Meat Sauce	23 Subway \$5.00 6" White Sub w/ Turkey & White Cheddar	24 No Lunch EARLY DISMISSAL	25 Smitty's \$5.00 Hamburger & Cubed Potatoes	26 Tim Horton's \$5.00 Chicken Strips and Potato Wedges
29 Boston Pizza \$5.00 Chicken Caesar Wrap	30 National Day for Truth & Reconciliation No School	1 Mami's Pizza 1 slice \$3 2 slices \$5	2 Smitty's \$5.00 Macaroni & Cheese	3 Tim Horton's \$5.00 Grilled Cheese and Chicken Noodle Soup

LUNCH MENU October 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6 Boston Pizza \$5.00 Bugs & Cheese Pasta	7 Subway \$5.00 6" White Sub w/ Cold Cuts & White Cheddar	8 Mami's Pizza 1 slice \$3 2 slices \$5	9 Smitty's \$5.00 Turkey Dinner	10 Tim Horton's \$5.00 Chili and Bun with Butter
13 Thanksgiving No School	14 Subway \$5.00 6" White Sub w/ Pepperoni & White Cheddar	15 Mami's Pizza 1 slice \$3 2 slices \$5	16 Smitty's \$5.00 French Toast Sticks	17 Tim Horton's \$5.00 Crispy Chicken Sandwich on a White Bun
20 Boston Pizza \$5.00 Fettucini Alfredo w/ Chicken	21 Subway \$5.00 6" White Sub w/ Ham & White Cheddar	22 No Lunch EARLY DISMISSAL	23 No Lunch EARLY DISMISSAL	24 Non-Instructional Day No School
27 Boston Pizza \$5.00 Lasagne with Meat Sauce	28 Subway \$5.00 6" White Sub w/ Turkey & White Cheddar	29 No Lunch EARLY DISMISSAL	30 Smitty's \$5.00 Chicken Nuggets & Cubed Potatoes	31 Tim Horton's \$5.00 Chili and Bun with Butter



Why Student Attendance Matters



Okanagan
Similkameen
SD53

In the Okanagan Similkameen School District, we all share the responsibility - educators, families, and community members - to help every student not only succeed but thrive. A key part of that success is **being at school every day.**

When students miss school they:

- Miss valuable learning that cannot be replaced with homework
- Fall behind in reading, especially by Grade 3
- Struggle more in later grades
- Are less likely to graduate from high school
- Absences also affect classmates and teachers. Group work, hands-on activities, and daily social experiences can't be recreated. Teachers must adjust plans and spend time helping absent students catch up, which impacts the whole class. Every missed day affects learning.

What is Chronic Absence?

- Missing **20% of the school year** (about 3-4 days per month)
- Includes **excused absences, unexcused absences, late arrivals, early pick-ups, and suspensions**

What Parents Can Do

You play a key role in building strong attendance habits. Here's how you can help:

- **Communicate** with the school about any lateness, early pick-ups, or absences
- **Schedule appointments** after school or on non-school days
- **Plan vacations** during school breaks
- **Have a backup plan** for getting your child to school if something unexpected happens
- **Build healthy routines:**
 - Create regular bedtimes to ensure enough sleep. Cell phone & electronic usage should end before bedtime.
 - Have clothes & backpacks ready the night before.
- **Address anxiety early**—if your child is worried about school, talk to their teacher or school counsellor

SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S SUCCESS

- Students are expected to **arrive on time and stay for the entire school day**
- If your child is absent, you **must notify the school office**
- Review school calendars as days off & breaks are posted on each school's website

🌟 **Every Day Matters – Together, we can help all students learn, grow, and succeed!** 🌟

Guidelines for Positive Communication



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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





Hello Skating Families,

Our ice skating season starts next week and we could not be more excited. This is a reminder to sign up now. Some programs do have limited spots. If you chose not to skate last year and are considering registering, don't wait, we would love to welcome you back. Please visit our website for more information on registration.

<http://www.sunbowlskating.com/registration/>

As well this year we have an exciting new program for STAR Skaters. 'The SunBowl Skating Academy' will begin along with the regular season next week. Please see the attached information sheet or visit our website.

<http://www.sunbowlskating.com/programs/skating-academy/>

If you have any questions about our programs please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,

SunBowl Skating Club

sunbowl.skating@gmail.com