



**Southern
Ontario
Collegiate**

SOC Update

School Newsletter

Educating Students from Around the Globe for Over 40 Years

From the Principal June 2022

Graduation Approaches

Southern Ontario Collegiate is buzzing with excitement as graduation is just weeks away for many of our students. Our guidance counsellor Molly Mignault has done an amazing job in supporting students' applications as well as advising them through the acceptance processes. Well done, everyone!

Please encourage students to continue to check their emails and university/college accounts regularly. Institutions will continue to communicate with students regarding payment, study permits, residence, follow up documents, course selection, start-up dates. All correspondence from universities and colleges is directly through their accounts and it's crucial that students stay up to date.

Graduation is set for June 28th. After the trials of Covid lockdown, we're so happy to be able to hold graduation at the school with students, their family members, and staff all on site. We'll also be streaming the graduation for those of you outside Canada. Information on the link will be released soon. Grad photos will take place June 6 – 8th.

Graduation is as much a beginning as an end: it marks the culmination of students' work in secondary school, years of studying in order to attain a place in university and college; simultaneously it's a door to a new world of post-secondary academic studies – the first steps toward their careers and a place in the larger world. Graduation is saying good-bye to friends, looking forward to a new city and residence and preparing to take your place in a larger, even more diverse community. Fast-paced, academically-demanding, with high expectations, this next stage of students' lives also brings great excitement and rewards.

As much as we've focused on academic success, Southern Ontario Collegiate also supports students in building practical approaches to life through our Skills for Life program. Personal safety, protecting privacy online, how to communicate clearly with professors and

administrators, financial integrity and acumen – students are given practical advice on best practice in these important interpersonal and practical matters.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at alison.currie@mysoc.ca

Final Exams June 21 – 23

Before we can celebrate graduation, all students at SOC will be writing final exams. For some courses, they'll also be completing a culminating activity such as a major research essay or project. This final portion of the semester is worth 30% of the student's final mark; it's important that students do well. A poor result on a final exam or essay can affect not only a student's final result, but also their admission to university; all offers are contingent on achieving a specific level of achievement and some universities do revoke offers if students' final results are too low.

Please join us in encouraging students to devote time and energy to these final, important academic requirements. Teachers are focusing on preparing students, and every student knows what is expected in terms of assignments and exams. We all need to remind students that these next four weeks are all about focused studying and preparation; this isn't the time for lost hours to TV, Instagram and video games – which can all be put on hold until June is over. All students who would like advice on optimizing their study habits should speak to me, Molly Mignault or their teachers.

Uniforms – Part of the SOC philosophy

This semester has seen a lot of discussion around uniforms in school life. It is not unexpected for some young people to test boundaries, however like most other private schools SOC maintains a uniform policy as part of its day-to-day operation. The uniform ensures safety, fairness and immediately recognizable identity as students of the school.

The uniform policy includes: dark trousers, the school polo shirt (in various colours) and the school's fleece jacket/sweater for additional warmth when needed. The policy is very clear that religious head coverings are allowed, as are those required for medical reasons. Other than those, no hats, hoodies or other headgear, including durags, should be worn within the school. Durags have been a subject of extensive discussion within the school lately, and we thank all of you who have shared your ideas with us.

Community Volunteer Service

A reminder that 10 hours of volunteer service for each academic year is required as part of the Ministry of Education's graduation requirements. Please check with Molly Mignault if you have any questions if this is still outstanding.

Niagara Falls

The school's trip to Niagara Falls at the end of May proved to be a highlight for many students. It was a beautiful, hot summer day, perfect for adventures. While the Falls themselves are pretty amazing, the day was filled with activities: go-carts, ferris wheel, games, mini-golf, all the games and experiences that we could fit in. Many thanks to the teachers and staff who accompanied the students and ensured that everyone came home well-fed, happy and safe.





More photos are available on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

Important Dates

- June 6, 7, 8: Grad photos taken
- June 21, 22, 23: Final Exams
- June 28: Graduation Ceremony and Lunch
- June 29: Trip to Canada's Wonderland

How to reach us at SOC

- Principal, Alison Currie: alison.currie@mysoc.ca
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