



**Southern  
Ontario  
Collegiate**

# SOC Update

School Newsletter

Educating Students from Around the Globe for Over 40 Years

## From the Principal

**Alison Currie**

We hope you are well. We are now one month into the 2022/23 school year. Classes are well underway, and students are happy to be back in the swing of academic life after a long summer.

### Student Handbook

We've recently sent parents an updated copy of our Student Handbook. We hope you'll take some time to become familiar with some of the key policies and procedures – especially those around attendance and punctuality, academic honesty, assessment, uniforms and use of phones in school. SOC's policies are designed to protect students, support optimum academic achievement, and provide a safe, enriching social experience. Please contact me at [alison.currie@mysoc.ca](mailto:alison.currie@mysoc.ca) if you have any questions or feedback, or if you didn't receive a copy of the handbook.

### Hot off the Press!

### SOC is in Lagos in October!

Join SOC team members, Maryam Yusuf and Molly Mignault in Lagos on October 10 (9:00 am to 5:00 pm) at the Eko Hotel and Suites. Contact via WhatsApp 1 905 869 0991 and +234 701 121 2000; [admin@mysoc.ca](mailto:admin@mysoc.ca) and [info@mysoc.ca](mailto:info@mysoc.ca)



### SOC Counsellor wins UNB Award!

Congratulations to Southern Ontario Collegiate's Guidance Counsellor, Molly Mignault, who recently received the University of New Brunswick's Outstanding Guidance Counsellor Award. UNB's Jie Jiang presented Molly with the award at a celebration dinner in Hamilton.

Thank you, Molly, for all you do to support student success and well-being at SOC.

## Mid-term Exams

Time is moving quickly; mid-term exams will be held October 13 and 14; report cards will follow. You should be receiving log-in information regarding your access to Edsembli, which will allow you **access to student academic results**. Please read the instructions carefully regarding establishing passwords etc. For information on Edsembli access, please contact [catherine.mcfarland@mysoc.ca](mailto:catherine.mcfarland@mysoc.ca)

## Covid and Travel Update

It will be a relief to many travellers to know that restrictions on travel to Canada will be lifted in October.

Effective October 1, 2022, all travellers, regardless of citizenship, **will no longer have to:**

- submit public health information through the ArriveCAN app or website:
- provide proof of vaccination
- undergo pre- or on-arrival testing
- carry out COVID-19-related quarantine or isolation
- monitor and report if they develop signs or symptoms of COVID-19 upon arriving to Canada

Accordingly, we are amending our documentation for travellers to indicate:

- quarantine is no longer required
- ArriveCAN app is no longer required
- Proof of vaccination is no longer required for travel
- While masks will no longer be required on planes, some individuals may wish to wear a mask in crowded situations.

SOC still requires all students and teachers to be vaccinated against COVID. The school will assist students to receive their Covid vaccinations which are provided at no cost.

## Community Service and Volunteer Activities – Walk this Way

As you know, 40 hours of community service is a requirement for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). This autumn, our students are participating in a program that benefits the United Way, an international charity that works to build communities where everyone can thrive. The United Way works with partners in the fields of health, education, mobility and food security. We are very pleased to be working with them to support community development and wellbeing.

SOC is one of many partners in Hamilton taking part in the UW's '**Walk This Way**' project. The whole school will be joining thousands of others in counting our steps and measuring our activities to support the power of the United Way between September 23 and October 3. As students input their daily activity into the 'count',

we're amazed at the tens of thousands of steps they are quickly accumulating. There is some friendly competition between residences and with the school staff. Keep your eyes open for the results!

## University Visits

September 27	University of New Brunswick
October 3	Trent University
October 12	McMaster University
October 27	University of Alberta

## Upcoming Events

September 30	National Day of Truth and Reconciliation
October 1	Nigerian Independence Day
October 4	Field Trip
October 7	Thanksgiving Feast
October 10	Thanksgiving Holiday (school closed)
October 13, 14	Mid-term Exams

## Highlight on SOC Policies:

Each month we'll highlight some of the important policy aspects from the Student Handbook

## This month - Uniform Policy

SOC's uniform includes:

- the school polo shirt
  - the school's navy fleece jacket (worn as needed, for warmth)
  - school approved uniform trousers
  - students receive a full supply of shirts, trousers and a fleece.
  - no sweaters, sweatshirt or jacket apart from the school fleece should be worn over the polo shirt.
  - outdoor jackets should not be worn in class
  - religious head-coverings, as well as those for medical purposes, are permitted
  - otherwise no hats, hoodies or other headgear are permitted inside the school
- Students not wearing a school shirt will be given detention for the first offence and fined \$20.00 for any subsequent offence and will be provided with a shirt dispensed from the clean supply in the office.

- Students not wearing approved trousers will be given detention for the first offence and fined \$20.00 for any subsequent offence and may be sent home to change into appropriate attire.

If you have any questions about SOC's uniform policy, please contact [alison.currie@mysoc.ca](mailto:alison.currie@mysoc.ca)

## Getting to know a new city as the school year begins



Please don't hesitate to contact any SOC staff member at any time.

## How to reach us at SOC

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