



**Southern
Ontario
Collegiate**

SOC Update

School Newsletter

Educating Students from Around the Globe for Over 40 Years

SOC Newsletter – October 2022

From the Principal, Alison Currie

We are having a wonderful autumn in Hamilton. The weather has been warm, the trees are brilliant red and orange. We've all been taking this opportunity to get out and enjoy the natural world around us – before the weather starts to cool and winter arrives!

Mid-term exams are over and report cards have been distributed. Parents and students should be able to see student results on the Edsebli site. If you have technical issues, please contact catherine.mcfarland@mysoc.ca. Mid-term results give students and teachers a sense of what action is needed to succeed for finals; this may be a wake-up call for students to make sure that they are: handing in assignments, completing homework, reviewing and studying in the evenings (this is crucial for math and science courses). Teachers will provide support and assistance and will work with students to ensure they are on track. Please speak with your children to discuss their mid-term results.

Many thanks to all of you in Nigeria and here in Hamilton who helped organize and support SOC's recent trip to Lagos. Your support and enthusiasm mean a lot to us. Our team reports that they were able to meet lots of new potential students and families while also taking the time to meet with old friends, graduates and families of current students. Please keep in touch with us to share your news, questions and concerns.

OSSLT – The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test has returned.

This Ministry of Education standardized test is a mandatory requirement for graduation; to earn the OSSD you must:

- ✓ achieve a mark of 75% on the OSSLT
- ✓ complete your community service volunteer hours
- ✓ successfully complete at least 6 grade 12 courses.

While the OSSLT had been waived during and after the Covid lockdown, it is now required that all students write the test. What do you need to know?

- ✓ The test is now taken online only; there is no pen/paper version
- ✓ There are now more opportunities to write the OSSLT; it's not just one day of the school year
- ✓ the test is available between November 2 and December 7
- ✓ students can only write once in that time frame
- ✓ a four-week period to take the test will also be available in the spring.

SOC is providing prep for the OSSLT to December graduates. For more information and to see practice tests, go to <https://d1c1qqn86e6v14.cloudfront.net/#/en/student/osslt-assessment>

IMPORTANT Notice of Time Change for Remote Students

On November 6 at 2:00 a.m (that is early Sunday morning this week), Daylight Savings Time ends, and all clocks in most of Canada are set back one (1) hour.

Therefore, for SOC classes, beginning Monday November 7, there will be a six (6) hour time difference between SOC in Hamilton and remote students in Nigeria.

Class times will be as follows:

Period 1	8:30 – 10:05 am in Ontario	2:30 - 4:05 pm in Nigeria
Period 2	10:10 – 11:45 am in Ontario	4:10 – 5:45 pm in Nigeria
Lunch	11:50 am – 12:40 pm in Ontario	5:50 - 6:40 pm in Nigeria
Period 3	12:40 – 2:15 pm in Ontario	6:40 - 8:15 pm in Nigeria
Period 4	2:20 – 3:55 pm in Ontario	8:20 – 9:55 pm in Nigeria

Report Cards

Mid-term report cards have been issued and were distributed to students in the week of October 24th. Many students achieved strong results. For those students whose results reflect the need for improvement, support and more focus, mid-terms are a time to re-organize your study plans and seek help. SOC's strong team of teachers will be working with all students who seek to improve.

Flu Shots

The Ontario government is making flu shots available at no cost to all residents of Ontario, including students. We will be inviting students to take advantage of this opportunity in November and December. FLU SHOTS ARE NOT REQUIRED; they are completely optional. If you wish to let us know about your child possibly getting the flu shot, please contact us.

Looking at SOC Policies – Academic Integrity Policy

SOC's policies and code of conduct can be found in the SOC Student Handbook 2022/23. All students have a copy of the handbook and it is available online, on our learning platform and in all classrooms. If you would like a copy, please contact catherine.mcfarland@mysoc.ca. If you have questions about our policies please contact alison.currie@mysoc.ca.

Academic integrity is at the heart of SOC's work. Our policies not only reflect our own expectations for learners, but also prepare students for the stringent requirements of academic integrity at post secondary institutions. Here are some key elements of our standards and policies.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

All assessment of student learning is based on the premise that the work is an honest reflection of the student's achievement.

- a) Copying or other forms of cheating on assignments, test, exams will disqualify the student from the assessment.
- b) Electronic devices may not be used during class, tests or exams, apart from a calculator approved by the teacher. Use of an electronic device such as telephone, android, or computer, unless requested or required by the teacher, will disqualify the student from the assessment.
- c) Assignments that are purchased or copied from any source will not be evaluated. This includes work that was submitted for a separate subject or course.
- d) An SOC student who shares, sells, or fraudulently presents work claiming to be that of another student, will be disqualified from final assessment in that course or other course of that semester.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is the use of words, ideas or images without giving appropriate credit to the original creator, and is a form of cheating.

Each teacher will ensure that students have been taught the protocol and standards for the citation of sources for the subject area.

- a) **First Offence:** The teacher will review the process of citing work to ensure the student understands of what is academically required.
- b) **Second Offence:** The student will be given an alternative assignment.
- c) **Third Offence:** The student will be disqualified from the assessment.

OUAC and University Application

The Ontario University Application Centre (OUAC) is now open, and students are able to apply. Ms. Molly will be sending out more information about university applications shortly. We urge all students to research programs before applying, to ensure that you are aware of the prerequisites, grade requirements and supplementary program requirements. Our goal is to have all students to complete their applications **by December 9, 2022**. Please use this website for information: <https://www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca/>. If you are looking to apply to institutions outside of Ontario, please use the institution's own website for the most accurate information. Please speak with the guidance counsellor for more information. **If you are a December graduate and you have not yet applied, or wish to apply to additional schools please see Ms. Molly ASAP.**

Celebrating Thanksgiving and Nigerian National Day

October 7 saw SOC hosting another multicultural event – Thanksgiving plus a belated celebration of Nigerian Independence Day (which fell on a weekend this year). In addition to a feast that mixed Canadian Thanksgiving favourites with Nigerian and Asian foods, many students wore traditional dress. A rousing version of the Nigerian national anthem was sung.

Thanks to everyone who helped put this event together; it was a great success. Photos are available on our facebook page.

SOC Students Volunteer with the United Way

This month, SOC students and staff participated in Walk this Way, a fundraising event by United Way. United Way is a non-for-profit organization that brings together essential programs and services to achieve lasting, positive change in the community. From September 23rd to October 3rd, community members were encouraged to walk, run, or stroll to help reach the community wide goal of 205,311 minutes of activity. Additionally, participants were encouraged to donate money for the fundraising event via sponsorships or personal donations. SOC had the honour of being a supporting sponsor of Walk this Way. Our students strode many kilometers and encouraged one another to participate. In total, SOC students walked 2,477,878 steps! That is a total distance of 1695 km! Thank you to everyone for participating in this wonderful event either through walking, donating, or both. We look forward to rekindling this competitive and enthusiastic spirit once again in future events! Special thanks to Abeer Ghoreib for organizing this event.

Treetops Trekking

In October SOC students took part in leadership and adventure events, including some team building, discovery and aerial events at Binbrook Treetops Trekking. Thanks to all the staff and teachers who helped to organize this terrific day. We've attached some photos; more photos can be found on SOC's facebook page.

Upcoming Events

- 27 October University of Alberta visits SOC
- 31 October Halloween Pumpkin Party
- 2 November – 7 December Ontario Secondary School Literary Test for December grads
- 7 November University of Guelph visits SOC
- 10 November University of Ottawa visits SOC
- 11 November Remembrance Day Assembly
- 14 November Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson) visits SOC
- 21 November University of New Brunswick event at SOC
- 1 December Final Exams begin
- 9 December Graduation

How to reach us at SOC

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