



From the Principal, Alison Currie



We've had a very easy, mild winter so far, and we hope it continues. Monday, March 20 is officially the first day of spring, but calendars aren't always reliable weather indicators – March can carry a lot of snow. We're optimistic that spring is just a month away.

Students have completed **mid-term exams and report cards** should be distributed Monday, February 27. If you can't access student marks on Edsmbli, please contact SOC's Administrator, Ms. Catherine McFarland at catherine.mcfarland@mysoc.ca.

In many cases, OUAC (Ontario Universities Application Centre) will use mid-term marks in offering university admission. Congratulations to students who have already received offers of admission.

SOC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Over this year, we've been using this newsletter to keep you up to date with not only school activities, but also our policies and procedures. It is important that you, as parents, agents and friends of SOC have a strong working knowledge of our policies and the principles on which they are based.

Today, I want to share **SOC's policy on marijuana use**. We understand that many people have strong feelings about the use of drugs and that marijuana is illegal in many of our students' home countries.

Although use of marijuana in Canada was made legal in 2018, SOC does not support or encourage its use by our students. We believe it is not beneficial to the health and well being of young people.

The facts:

- Current Canadian law requires an individual must be **19 and older** to buy, use, or possess cannabis. This is the same as the minimum age for the sale of tobacco and alcohol in Ontario.
- Ontario has a regulated private retail model for cannabis, and it may only be purchased at a government-regulated source; the amount permitted is small. Marijuana bought on the street is illegal.
- Although marijuana is legal under these specific circumstances, **use of marijuana is absolutely not permitted in SOC residences (inside or out) or inside or near the school**. Students who are found to be smoking marijuana in or near school property will be subject to an immediate fine of \$500. (five hundred dollars), suspension and potential expulsion if it is repeated. **Cigarettes and alcohol are also similarly forbidden.**
- The government of Ontario's information on health states that "health harms and risk of addiction from using cannabis are especially high for youth under 25 years of age, including: confusion, dizziness, lowered

ability to concentrate or react quickly, drowsiness, higher heart rate, and paranoia. Long term effects include risk of addiction, difficulty concentrating, cough, and lung infection.

We encourage you to discuss this policy with your children.

USE OF TELEPHONES IN SCHOOLS

As you may know, in 2018 the **Ontario Ministry of Education restricted the use of personal cellphones in classrooms during instructional time.** Phones must be on silent in students' bags or given to a teacher during class time.

We ask that you don't contact students by phone during class times. Messages can always be left with the school office (905 546 1500) or with any of the senior administrative staff and will be: catherine.mcfarland@mysoc.ca, alison.currie@mysoc.ca, molly.mignault@mysoc.ca. If you have any questions, please contact me.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Students recently attended a hockey game; unfortunately, the local Hamilton Bulldogs team lost, but we had a great time.



The school will be closed for **MARCH BREAK between March 13 and March 17.**

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In addition to a minimum of 30 credits and at least 6 grade 12 credits, all students must

- a. Complete 10 hours of community volunteer service per year at SOC
- b. Complete the OSSLT (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test) with a mark of at least 75% or pass the OLC (Ontario Literacy Course) with a mark of at least 50%

Questions? Please contact molly.mignault@mysoc.ca.

If you would like us to address any specific subjects in the newsletter, please let me know. Until then, thank you for your support of Southern Ontario Collegiate and our students.

CONTACT US AT SOC:

Academics and Student Welfare	alison.currie@mysoc.ca
Guidance	molly.mignault@mysoc.ca
Edsembli/student results	catherine.mcfarland@mysoc.ca
Residence and Travel	nabil.alkilabi@mysoc.ca
Immigration/Study Permits	admin@mysoc.ca
Invoicing	admin@mysoc.ca
Admissions/applications	admission@mysoc.ca

Visit our website at www.southernontariocollegiate.ca

