



Southern  
Ontario  
Collegiate

# SOC Update

School Newsletter

Educating Students from Around the Globe for Over 40 Years

April 2023

## From the Principal, Alison Currie



Credit: DeGroote School of Business, McMaster University

Everyone is welcoming spring here; trees are budding, daffodils are in full bloom, and we're thrilled to be getting ready to cut grass in the garden rather than shovel snow.

At SOC, students have just begun Semester 3, the final semester of our academic year. Graduating students, in particular, are focused on ensuring they do well in these final courses.

Report cards for semester 2 were issued to all students last week. If you have any questions, please let me know.

### **Breaking News**

Southern Ontario is very pleased to announce that one of our graduating students has been awarded the **University of Ottawa's Excellence Scholarship for African Students in the amount of \$70,000**. Many congratulations to *Wuraoluwa Olatunde*, the recipient of this very prestigious scholarship, which is the result of focused academic work, and participation and achievement across a range of activities and spheres. We are very proud of Wuraoluwa's accomplishments and wish her every success.

### **Graduation Requirements**

From their first day, we ensure that all students understand the requirements for graduation. To receive the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD), students must achieve/complete:

- ✓ A total of 30 credits in secondary school (selected credits from other schools accepted)
- ✓ A minimum of 6 grade 12 (4U/4M) credits in Ontario (within the 30 above)
- ✓ Successful completion of Ontario Literacy testing: OSSLT or Ontario Literacy Course
- ✓ Successful completion of volunteer hours: (10 hours per academic year)

If you have any questions about your child's preparations for graduation, please contact me.

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## University Application and Acceptance

Universities have been sending offers of admission to students since early March. Admission offers continue to be issued until May 29, 2023. As soon as students share their offers with us, we work with them to understand the conditions of the offer (**all** offers are conditional), take next steps and establish a time frame. We remind students not to accept offers until they have considered all their options.

Most universities in Ontario expect students to accept an offer by June 1, 2023 and to pay a down payment at that time. Please speak with students about keeping clear communication with universities. They need to check their emails and university accounts daily.

## Upcoming Dates

May 9	SOC School Trip to Niagara Falls
May 18	Mid-term Exams
May 22	Federal Holiday (Victoria Day)
June 2	SOC School Trip to Canada's Wonderland
June 23/26	Final Exams
June 30	Graduation – watch your email for details and updates

## School Life

All of us remember our school life with varying degrees of happiness and clarity. For some of us it was a *long* time ago, and as someone recently noted "Memories may vary". I want to give you a snapshot of life at SOC.

Breakfast is served from 7:30 – 8:20 at the school; offerings include fruit, yogurt, muffins, eggs, pancakes, waffles, and toast. Lunch at the school is a hot meal, although fruit and salad or coleslaw is also available. Recent lunches include: chicken with rice and vegetables or potato, shawarma, beef stew, pasta, burgers; regional dishes like noodles with vegetables and seafood, spicy beef and jollof rice are also on the menu. They are well-made by our food services personnel; all the school staff eat the same food and enjoy it – the food is plentiful, nutritious and delicious.

Dinners are served at the residence; again, there is a rotating menu; fresh fruit and vegetables are plentiful. On weekends, breakfast and lunch are served in residences; food is always available – the cupboards are never empty.

It has to be said that many young people love fast food and indulge in it; we see Uber Eats deliveries to students regularly, and students often meet at McDonalds. Some students seem to opt for fast food rather than meals in the residence because they like fast food; but be assured, there is *always* good food in the residence.

## Residence Life

SOC's residences are designed on a smaller home-style scale rather than an institutional one; by sharing a space with kitchen, laundry and common living spaces, students are able to develop systems for self-regulation: tidying up after themselves, clearing dishes after meals, managing their laundry and bedrooms. They learn to live with others and to manage their own needs/preferences, which will be crucial as they enter university or college; skills for life are important.

Curfews are in place; external security cameras monitor who enters/exits and when; students are not allowed in residences for the opposite gender. We work hard to maintain safe, secure, positive environments. As in every school, there are students who test these boundaries; some students have caused real damage, and they are held responsible. This behaviour is disappointing and is dealt with quickly and firmly.

Please speak with your children about respect for others, for their property, and for the school/residence environment. If you have questions or suggestions, we welcome them.

## Academic Life

Semester 3 is a crucial one. We hope you will talk to students about their classes, their work and their homework. Every academic area has its own challenges. Math and sciences require hours of review and practice nightly. English requires reading, research and multiple drafts for essays. Social sciences require research skills and systemic thought. IT demands real attention to detail and programming language and practice. For all of these disciplines, just attending classes is not enough; homework, review, completing assignments have to be priorities and will result in high achievement. We encourage students to set and meet goals for their behaviour and learning, and ask you to do the same.

Each student and their parents have access to Edsembli which shows student results as well as attendance. Please check your child's progress regularly. We're happy to respond to your questions.

In April we said good-bye to Molly Mignault, our wonderful guidance counsellor. Molly is an exceptional counsellor who has made a huge difference to the wellbeing of every student. We are very grateful to have worked with her and wish her every success in her new endeavours. The search is underway for a new guidance counsellor; until that is completed, please feel free to contact me with concerns or questions.

Thank you for being part of Southern Ontario Collegiate. We share common goals for young people: academic success, confidence, good character, creativity and consideration. You can reach us easily at:

## Contact us at SOC:

Academics and Student Welfare	<a href="mailto:alison.currie@mysoc.ca">alison.currie@mysoc.ca</a>
Guidance	<a href="mailto:alison.currie@mysoc.ca">alison.currie@mysoc.ca</a> <i>until new appointment is finalized</i>
Edsembli/student results	<a href="mailto:catherine.mcfarland@mysoc.ca">catherine.mcfarland@mysoc.ca</a>
Residence and Travel	<a href="mailto:nabil.alkilabi@mysoc.ca">nabil.alkilabi@mysoc.ca</a>
Immigration/Study Permits	<a href="mailto:admin@mysoc.ca">admin@mysoc.ca</a>
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