



**Southern  
Ontario  
Collegiate**

# SOC Update

School Newsletter

Educating Students from Around the Globe for Over 40 Years

June 2023

## From the Principal, Ms. Alison Currie

*If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy,  
don't hesitate... Joy is not made to be a crumb.*

Mary Oliver

### Graduation – June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Congratulations to all our 2023 June graduates. We had a stellar day on Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup> celebrating with students, families, friends, and the school staff as 49 graduates began the next stage of their academic journeys.



Many thanks to our two valedictorians, Wuraoluwa Olatunde and Favour Uzowuru, for their inspired and inspiring speeches, reminding us of our responsibilities to ourselves and our communities, of what we present to the world and what we create.



Congratulations to all the award winners who demonstrated excellence throughout the year. All of the graduating class have received offers for post secondary education at colleges and universities across Canada.



For many students, secondary school graduation is the first major milestone as they identify expertise, career, and life goals and even the cities, countries, and continents where they plan to build their lives.

Our graduates have achieved great things academically. Their hard work and intelligence are reflected in their results. As they continue on to success in university, grad school, and their chosen careers, we hope that they fully appreciate all that life has to offer - the journey as much as the destination.



They have the ability to take what they've learned, recognizing all the different angles and facets around it, and then re-fashion it to enrich the lives of those around them. Transforming achievement to attaining a life of

purpose and direction is the success we wish for all our students. We are certain that SOC's graduates will utilize their academic success to empower change and growth, and that they will build lives and communities with purpose, meaning, and direction.

Although graduation is a time to celebrate students, it is also an opportunity to acknowledge the work and dedication of SOC's teachers. We are fortunate to work with a staff of professionals whose subject knowledge and expertise in curriculum planning, classroom practice and academic support is second to none.



Mr. Brandon Wilkin

Ms. Marina Knigavko

Mr. Bilal Abuzaitoon

Ms. Prabhati Prabhati

Mr. Ken Sieffert

Ms. Jennifer Spleit-Landry

Teachers are masters of the art of balancing rigour with understanding, of nurturing curiosity, and scaffolding the ways and means of research and discovery. Many thanks to our entire academic team – they are the heart of the school.



Mayor Andrea Horwath

MP Matthew Green

MPP Sarah Jama

Thanks too, to Mayor Andrea Horwath, MP Matthew Green, and MPP Sara Jama for their thoughtful contributions to our graduation ceremony.

And I also wish to thank each parent and family who has chosen Southern Ontario Collegiate as the destination for their children. The strength of our graduates reflects your trust in us to shape and foster their potential:

- ✓ Academic success and personal wellbeing
- ✓ Communication and critical thinking aptitudes
- ✓ Motivation and initiative to achieve excellence
- ✓ Commitment to integrity and personal responsibility





### **Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) Requirements**

There are 3 basic elements towards achieving the OSSD:

1. Completion of a minimum of 30 secondary school credits, at least 6 of which must be grade 12 (4U or 4M) completed in Ontario
2. Success in the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test
3. Completion of 10 hours of volunteer/community service per academic year

Today we want to highlight Section 3, Community Service.

We are particularly proud of the volunteer work/community service completed by students in this academic year. Among other projects, SOC students have:

- ✓ Walked and raised funds for the United Way's 'Walk This Way' program, benefitting social service agencies across the city
- ✓ Collected food and clothing and hygiene supplies for: the Living Rock, YWCA and two Community Fridges in the City
- ✓ Teamed up with the City of Hamilton as a partner to clean up two parks in our neighbourhood
- ✓ Provided peer tutoring services
- ✓ Supported work and activities in their place of worship

We are grateful that our students play an active part in helping those in need, and that they choose to make a difference by building a better community. Congratulations Class of '23!

Students collected food and clothing and donated it to The Living Rock, a Ministry that provides support and help to youth at risk.



Students cleaned up two parks in our neighbourhood, making them cleaner and safer for the families who use them.



### Looking toward the new academic year 2023/24

- Monday August 28, 2023 Professional Activity Day for teachers and staff – no students
- Tuesday August 29, 2023 Registration and Orientation for all students
- Wednesday August 30, 2023 Classes begin

### Returning Students and New Students

Course selection has been completed for all returning students. Students who have questions should contact Ms Currie or Ms Abeer.

New students will receive information regarding placement tests by email over the summer.

### Planning your travel to Canada

Many of you are waiting to hear from Immigration Canada about your visa approval. Once you receive it, don't forget:

- ✓ To contact us so that we can provide you with the necessary documentation for travel.
- ✓ To provide us with **a minimum of 2 weeks** notice before you travel; this is necessary to arrange airport transportation and residence. This is the minimal notice required – please provide more notice of your plans if possible.
- ✓ To forward a copy of your itinerary, also at least 2 weeks in advance

### What should you bring with you?

- ✓ If you take regular medication, bring a copy of your prescriptions with you
- ✓ You will need a laptop or electronic notebook; bring a mobile phone for your use
- ✓ You'll need to supply your own toiletries: soap, shampoo, lotion, toothpaste etc.
- ✓ For winter, you'll need a heavy, winter-ready coat and water-proof winter boots, scarf, hat, mittens/gloves; you'll need sweaters, long-sleeved tops, warm trousers
- ✓ For spring, you'll need a lightweight water-proof coat
- ✓ Blankets, sheets, pillows are not provided. You can purchase your own upon arrival.

## School Office hours during the summer

During the summer, the school office is generally open 8:30am – 3:00pm Monday to Friday, however this may change due to staff vacations and other events. We recommend you call the school, 905 546 1500 in advance so we can ensure arrangements for your visit.

### 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>
Invoicing	<a href="mailto:admin@mysoc.ca">admin@mysoc.ca</a>
Admissions/applications	<a href="mailto:admission@mysoc.ca">admission@mysoc.ca</a>

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