



**Southern
Ontario
Collegiate**

SOC Update

School Newsletter

Educating Students from Around the Globe for Over 40 Years

December 2023

From the Principal, Alison Currie



Dundurn Castle in Winter, Hamilton, Ontario Photo Credit: Tourism Hamilton

How quickly the year progresses! Semester 1 is now complete, and students have begun Semester 2.

Congratulations to our December 2023 graduates and award winners. Valedictorians Ibrahim Al-Faki and Cindy Okonkwo represented their cohort very well at the graduation ceremony. All graduates have received post-secondary admission. We wish them much success in the coming year.

Education – always changing – always a priority.

“Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence.”

Abigail Adams

It has been said over and over again that a good education is the gift that parents can give to their children that can never be lost, stolen or broken. We live in a competitive, often confusing world. The industries and professions we have relied on are no longer as secure or familiar as they once may have been. The economies of nations can change at any time.

Encourage your children to develop a *love of learning*. Being a student can be hard but when students enjoy the process of learning and take pride and joy in their work, it makes a tremendous difference to the outcome. Look for schools and teachers that encourage your children to learn; good teachers know that every student is unique, that we all learn in different styles and at different paces.

As Abigail Adams has said, learning doesn't happen by chance – it needs diligent attention. Help your child put aside time for study, for review, for reading. Encourage them to see this time as valuable, an investment, a time to focus for their own sake.

Accept the ups and downs of education. Sometimes results may drop momentarily; this isn't cause for punishment but for questions and support and encouragement.

Try to keep an open mind and open options. Consider your child's strengths, interests and passions; consider their dreams as well as your own. Medicine, for example, is a fine career, but is not suited for everyone. Help your child learn about themselves and about the career options available.

Ontario's curriculum includes emphasis on practical finance, career planning, literacy, and community service. All of these attributes enhance young people's skills, giving depth to their application of learning. They are going to live in a complicated, changing environment – an environment that offers opportunity, diversity and incredible potential. We wish each one of you success, happiness and fulfilment.

"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."

Malcolm X

I am leaving Southern Ontario Collegiate in December 2023. I'm very grateful to parents and students for choosing SOC as a critical part of their education journey. I have been touched and honoured to know and work with you all. Working with young people is always exciting and inspiring, and all of us at SOC recognize our good fortune in encountering our students and alumnae at this particular point in their lives.

Thank you too, to the school's academic team. SOC's teachers take such great care in supporting, guiding and nurturing students. Our teachers and guidance counsellor make individual student success and happiness a priority. I am honoured to work with them.

In today's fast-changing world, students need skills that will enable them to reach their potential – to succeed now and in the next stages of their education. Southern Ontario Collegiate ensures that students are well-prepared to find meaning and success in careers, family and community. The school's mission is a strong one, and I hope you will continue to support this unique school.

I look forward to hearing many more success stories in the years ahead. May God bless each of you.

Ms Alison Currie

Congratulations to Ms Catherine McFarland.

Special thanks and congratulations to SOC's Administrator of many years, Ms Catherine McFarland. Catherine is retiring in December 2023. She has been a friendly face and a knowledgeable resource for students, ensuring they have all the information and support they need. Catherine's mastery of technology, Ministry of Education requirements and management of student services and records keeps SOC running smoothly. Her kindness, compassion, good humour and steady presence will be greatly missed. We wish Catherine joy as she takes time to focus on family and travel.

Important Dates

December 11 – 15	Week 1 of Semester 2
December 21 - January 7	SOC closed for Christmas holidays*
January 8, 2024	Semester 2 resumes

**While the office will be closed during the Christmas break, staff are always easily reachable. Email and emergency phone contacts are noted at the end of this newsletter.*

Upcoming Events

University of Waterloo Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing

Euclid Contest – April 3, 2024

We recommend that all students considering university programs in math, engineering, and computer science take part in this international contest.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test - March 20 – April 24, 2024

This mandatory government test is a requirement for graduation; students who haven't yet passed the OSSLT will write this test. Contact abeer.ghorieb@mysoc.ca for information.

From SOC's Policy for Use of Cellphones

During school hours cell phones are banned in all classrooms, the gymnasium and auditorium. Under specific teacher direction/permission a cell phone may be used to enhance classroom instruction. Please make sure your friends and parents know the times that you are in class. Phone calls are not permitted.

In an emergency the school office can be reached by telephone at 905 546 1500 or by email at office@mysoc.ca. Cell phones and other electronic devices cannot be used to download movies, games, television shows.

Headphones and earphones are banned in classrooms and hallways. They may be used in the cafeteria or gym.

Schools, academic studies, teachers and parents worldwide have all identified the risks of distraction and interruptions to learning caused by cellphones, whether via social media apps or phone calls. This has been flagged internationally, and more and more school systems are taking positive action to protect young people and ensure that they are able to fully focus on learning.

Accordingly, cell phones are banned in SOC's classrooms and must be on silent **and** in the student's bag. Students using cell phones in class will have their phones collected by the principal and returned at the appropriate time. Students may use their phones in the cafeteria at lunch and before/after school. If you need to reach your child urgently, please call the school at 905 546 1500 or email office@mysoc.ca.

Congratulations Graduates



Merry Christmas!



Contact us at SOC:

Guidance	abeer.ghorieb@mysoc.ca
Edsembli/student results	nancy.ugorji@mysoc.ca
Residence and Travel	nabil.alkilabi@mysoc.ca
Immigration/Study Permits	admin@mysoc.ca
Invoicing	andrea.toledo@mysoc.ca
Admissions/applications	admission@mysoc.ca

For arrivals during the holidays or other emergencies,
contact Nabil Alkilabi at 905 869 7795

Visit our website at www.southernontariocollegiate.ca

