



# Columneetza Junior Secondary School

## November 2025 Newsletter

Newsletters are posted to the school website at the beginning of each month. Please bookmark our website for this, focus area posts, news and more!  
[www.cjs.sd27.bc.ca](http://www.cjs.sd27.bc.ca)

**ERASE Info Session for Caregivers:** On October 21<sup>st</sup> Columneetza hosted staff from ERASE to provide information sessions for three groups: Columneetza Gr. 7/8 Students, SD27 K-12 Staff, and SD27 K-12 Caregivers. We want to thank caregivers who attended. More caregiver resources can be found at: [erase for Adults - Province of British Columbia](#)

**Practice Lock Down Drill:** In November we will have a practice lock down drill with the RCMP. Students will be asked to group quietly in a safe place in the classroom/space they are in until the drill is over. Further communication will come out once this date is set with RCMP. Schools hold two practice lockdown drills every school year.

**Closed Campus – Columneetza is a closed campus.** If students need to leave the school, they must sign out at the office with the school secretary so that the school knows where they are or be on an approved list (parent permission) for the day or year. We have lunch food available daily, a healthy vending machine that accepts debit and drinks sold at the Falcon's Nest. Clubs are beginning at lunch time as well. *Reminder: There is **no supervision** once students leave school grounds. We have firm expectations that if parents agree their youth can be in the community they are upholding the Code of conduct and displaying community citizenship.*

**School Messenger:** Columneetza uses School Messenger automatic callout module. The program is linked to MyEd BC and sends out emails, phone calls and messages to parents whose children did not go to class for that morning or afternoon (unexcused absence). Parents can respond in kind to the message indicating that the child is away. The system also allows parents to indicate that their child will be away for the day by calling 1 (833) 582-6944, using the phone app, website login or calling the school. <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>

**Parent Advisory Council:** Thank you to the parents that attended the last meeting. **2025-2026 PAC Executive:** Don Firth, President, Mariana Hobi, Vice-President & DPAC, Melanie Engelbrecht (lcspac@gmail.com), and Treasurer, Barbara Hooker. The meetings are usually held on the third Monday of each Month starting at 5:30pm in the Library. **NEXT MEETING: November 17th @ Columneetza Campus Library – 5:30pm.** Mark your calendars for upcoming 2025/2026 MEETINGS: Nov 17<sup>th</sup>, none in December, Jan 19<sup>th</sup>, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 30<sup>th</sup>, April 20<sup>th</sup>, May 25<sup>th</sup>, none in June.

**School Clothing Order:** Columneetza has partnered with Lionheart Sports to create exclusive, premium spirit wear for our 2025-2026 school year. Don't miss out on the opportunity to get your custom apparel. Place your orders by **December 12th, 2025.** (Flyer and order form on our website and attached to this email).

### Important Dates

Nov 10 Indigenous Veterans Day & Remembrance Day Ceremony (B Block)

Nov 11 Remembrance Day Stat (no school)



Nov 14 Quarter 1 Ends for Gr. 8/9

Nov 17 Quarter 2 & Expo 3 Begin

Nov 17 Gr.7/8 Volleyball trip to PSO (100 Mile)

Nov 17 Leadership Assembly (B Block)

Nov 17 PAC Meeting 5:30pm

Nov 24 Pro D Day, (No school)

Nov 27 Gr. 8/9 Learning Updates in MyEd Parent Portal; CB IEPs sent home

Dec 5 Leadership Assembly (B Block)

Dec 10 Grade 7 Learning Updates in MyEd Parent Portal; CB IEPs sent home

Dec 17 CJS Tour Band Holiday Performance, 7:00pm in the gym

Dec 18 Leadership Assembly (B Block)



**Wear Winter Clothing – Be Prepared!** Students and caregivers: as the cooler weather begins to make an appearance, we are asking for students to ensure they are wearing weather appropriate clothing to school so that they can be outside during classes and scheduled breaks. If you need help with purchasing winter clothing for your child(ren), please contact the school.



**Toques, Mittens & Winter Boots Campaign:** We are collecting new and gently used toques, mittens and winter boots in an effort to donate these items back to the Women's Contact Society and to help those in our community in need of some extra warmth this winter. B Block classes are having a competition to see which class can bring in the most gear. The winning class will get to take all of the donations to the Women's Contact Society and experience what it feels like to generously give back!

### Food Available at School:

**Breakfast for Learning** – breakfast food is available 5 days a week from 8:10-8:40am.

### Lunch Schedule:

Monday – wrap/sandwiches, \$2.00/half

Tuesday - PB & J, fruit, yogurt, granola bars, hard boiled eggs

Wednesday - pizza, \$2.00/slice

Thursday - PB & J, fruit, yogurt, granola bars, hard boiled eggs

Friday – wraps/sandwiches, \$2/half

Financial assistance for lunches is available. Students or parents can ask any staff member or the office how to access support. Every day of the week, additional snack food will be available in the Cultural Room (Room 144) for students to access if needed.

**Learning Updates! Grade 8/9's are midway through Semester 1:** The middle of semester 1 (Quarter 1 completion) is Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. All students need to ensure that their work is up to date so their learning update proficiencies reflect their full learning. Any parents with concerns please call the school immediately to arrange a teacher meeting if necessary (or email you child's teacher).

**The Provincial Proficiency Scale for K-9:** For students in grades K-9, there will not be letter grades on their report cards/learning updates. Instead, you will see information on where your child is on the Provincial Proficiency Scale. The scale uses the terms "Emerging," "Developing," "Proficient," and "Extending" to describe student learning. The scale maintains high standards for student learning.

Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Extending
Emerging means your child is beginning to understand something in an area of learning. They are still learning but may need more support to move ahead. Emerging doesn't mean your child is unsuccessful in this area.	Developing means your child understands some things in an area of learning but still has other areas to work on. Like Emerging, it doesn't mean your child is unsuccessful in this area.	<b>Proficient is the goal for your child.</b> It's also the goal for all students. When your child is Proficient, it means they fully understand the required learning. But it doesn't mean their learning stops.	Extending is when students show a deeper understanding. It's when your child is able to apply their learning in new and different ways. Extending is not the goal for all students in every area of learning.

### What will my child's report card look like?

#### Each written update will include:

- information on how your child is doing in each area of learning
- written comments (descriptive feedback) on your child's strengths and areas they need to work on, as well as their work habits and behaviour
- information on the communication, thinking, and social skills that your child needs to be successful (Core Competencies) and your child's goal setting
- information about your child's attendance

### How often will I get updates from my child's teacher?

During the school year, you should expect to see 5 learning updates about your child. This will include 3 written learning updates (that could look like report cards), and 2 informal learning updates (could include conferences with a teacher, and phone calls or e-mails from a teacher).

Schools set the schedule for when learning updates happen. However, your child's teacher may connect with you at any point.

If your child has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), you will receive learning updates in the same way as all the other parents and caregivers do. But your child may also get additional updates based on their IEP.



**Parking:** Please use the drop-off and pick-up loop that is located in between the dorm(daycare) and shop buildings. Please do not block the bus lanes at the front of the school or the small bus turnaround at the back of the school. Thank you for your understanding.

**Free e-library for Columneetza students:** Students can access this e-library from school or home, on their computer, Apple/Android phone, or tablet. There are hundreds of audiobooks, fiction & non-fiction books, and magazines. Just download the free Sora app, find our library (British Columbia Interior/North K-12 Shared Digital Collection), select “Columneetza”, and sign in using your school username and password. If you can’t find the audiobooks/books you were hoping for, just drop by the Columneetza library – we may be able to add them to the collection. Please call the Teacher-Librarian Ms. Vachon at 250-392-4158 if you have any questions.

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**Code of Conduct:** Our School Code of Conduct is a living document that we continually amend and adapt to ensure our school is safe and student expectations are clear. We encourage feedback from parents to ensure our Code of Conduct is clear and helps guide student behaviour. Please become familiar with our Code of Conduct and contact school administration with any questions or comments. You can find our COC on the website: [Columneetza-Code of Conduct](#).

**Steps to Resolve Concerns:** If you have concerns with a situation at the school there are steps to follow to ensure your concern is dealt with efficiently and properly. Please refer to [Steps to Resolve Concerns](#) for more information.

**[ERASE = Expect Respect & A Safe Education](#):** Students can report a problem or find help; parents can explore resources and access training, and school staff can find resources for their classrooms and the school. **ERASE posters are in classrooms and posted around the school.**

**Columneetza School Website:** [Home - Columneetza Junior Secondary](#)



Facebook Page: “Columneetza Junior Secondary School”

Please follow us on Facebook for celebrations of learning, student of the week, and reminders.

Team Directory	
<b>Leadership Team</b> Holly Zurak, Principal Matt Cullum, Vice-Principal Alina Cameron, Vice-Principal	<b>Clerical Team</b> Liz Crosina, Office Front Desk Dorothy Mundy, Office Records & Registration Ann Bailey, Office Finance
<b>Columneetza Indigenous Support Workers</b> George Fraser Jordy Moise Katrina Wilde <b>Youth Engagement Worker</b> Courtney Mailhot	<b>Counselling Team</b> Jon Harding Tara Burtenshaw