



# Columneetza Junior Secondary School

## October 2025 Newsletter

Newsletters are posted to the school website at the beginning of each month.  
Please bookmark our website for this, 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 will host staff from ERASE to provide information sessions for three groups: Columneetza Gr. 7/8 Students, SD27 K-12 Staff, and SD27 K-12 Caregivers. There will also be a session at LCS for older students.

We invite you to join us for the caregiver session from 6-8pm in the Columneetza gym. The topic is *"Social Media Awareness, Digital Citizenship, and Cyber-Bullying"*. Your attendance and participation is highly encouraged due to the current landscape of youth social media use/awareness.

**Early Dismissal Days:** October 21 and 22 are district-wide early dismissal days. Columneetza will dismiss at 2:16 (one hour early) and buses will run as usual, one hour earlier, across the district.

**Parent Teacher Night:** Each Fall and Spring Columneetza will host a Parent-Teacher night to schedule an opportunity for parents to discuss their child's progress with individual teachers as needed. (Further, you can arrange with your child's teacher a meeting at any time of the year).

This year the Fall Parent-Teacher night is **October 29<sup>th</sup> 5-7pm**. Come to the school and meet your child's teachers and connect to support their learning. Many of the community agencies from the Wellness Fair on this date will stay for the P-T Night so parents can interact with the booths as well.

**Practice Lock Down Drill:** In October 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.*

**Noon Hour Supervision:** Thank you to our Noon Hour Supervisors: Carmen Funes, Leanne Pigeon, Brooke Grisdale, Courtney Mailhot, George Fraser, Katrina Wilde and Jordy Moise. Supervisors have radios and high vis vests on during their shift. Students are encouraged to seek out the support of a supervisor when needed.

### Important Dates

Oct 4	Jr. VB team to Quesnel
Oct 9	Fire Drill
TBD	Practice Lock Down Drill with RCMP
Oct 9	Expo 2 begins for Grade 8's
Oct 10	Elementary Cross Country Run at Boitano Park (Signed up Gr. 7s only) 11:00-12:30pm
Oct 13	Thanksgiving STAT (no school)
Oct 15	TRU – Open House
Oct 17	Jr. VB team to Merritt
Oct 20	PAC Meeting 5:30pm
Oct 21	Photo Retakes  ERASE Assembly for Gr. 7/8 during B Block (10:00-11:05)  Early Dismissal, 2:16pm  ERASE Staff Session 3:30-5:30pm  ERASE Caregiver Session 6:00-8:00pm
Oct 24	Jr. VB team to Merritt  Pro-D Day (no school)
Oct 29	Wellness Fair for Grade 7s  Parent Teacher Night 5:00-7:00pm
Oct 31	Halloween Dance @ Lunch



**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, Melanie Engelbrecht (lcsspac@gmail.com), Treasurer, Barbara Hooker, Secretary, (Vacant) DPAC. The meetings are usually held on the third Monday of each Month starting at 5:30pm in the Library. The next meeting is a funding meeting and is important for parents to attend!

**NEXT MEETING: October 20th @ Columneetza Campus Library – 5:30pm. Mark your calendars for 2025/2026**

**MEETINGS:** Oct 20<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**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.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring:** If your Grade 8 or 9 child is interested in becoming an In-School Mentor with an elementary student, please contact BBBS at 250-267-7361 to get more information. The commitment is 1 hour/week and students will need to walk from Columneetza to either Nesika or Cataline.

**Foundational Skills Assessment (FSA) Administration Dates:** The administration of the FSA begins October 6 and runs until November 10, 2025. These dates for administration will provide schools, the school district and the Ministry of Education with information about student academic progress and allow the school system to better respond to the learning needs of the students in their class.

**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.

**Halloween Costumes:** If your child(ren) participates in dressing up for Halloween on October 31<sup>st</sup>, please make sure they don't bring fake weapons of any kind to accompany their costumes. We also ask that students avoid dressing up as a stereotype of an entire culture of people as this is cultural appropriation. Instead, encourage them to be imaginative and creative and to wear a school-appropriate costume. **On Halloween there will be a dance at lunch in the gym!**



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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