



Columneetza Junior Secondary School

May 2026 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

ERASE Information for Caregivers: Caregiver resources can be found at: [erase for Adults - Province of British Columbia](#). ERASE posters are in classrooms and posted around the school. A guide to student concern reporting [can be found here](#).

Please bookmark and check out these FREE sessions/information from ERASE:

1. Establishing Safe, Caring & Respectful Digital Communities, [FREE Upcoming Remote Sessions](#) – Next session is **May 13, 2026** at 6:30pm.
2. Establishing Family Practices for Safeguarding Against Cyberbullying and Sextortion, [FREE Upcoming Remote Sessions](#) – Next session is **June 10, 2026** at 6:30pm.
3. Raising Digitally Responsible Youth: A Guide for Parents and Caregivers, [FREE Digital Download](#) (this guide will be continually updated by Safer Schools Together)

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. Some clubs run 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.*

Enhancing School Safety

- **A new enhanced communications system and P.A.** will be installed this month.
- **Sign in at the office** - All visitors to our school must check in at the office upon arrival. This includes all parents, community members, district staff and students who do not attend CJS. Enhanced signage directs visitors, and all visitors wear badges. Thanks for doing so!
- **Locked doors** – All doors are locked during instructional time except for our front doors at the main entrance. Some doors are unlocked during breaks and lunch when supervision is present.
- **Worrisome behavior training** – All district staff are undertaking additional training in identifying and reporting worrisome behaviour to support risky behaviour early on. All staff and students can report worrisome behaviour using the ERASE Report-it tool.

The Inclusive Calendar is a great resource to see the different holidays and observances happening in BC and Canada so check out the School District’s Inclusive calendar at: [Inclusive School Calendar](#)

Important Dates

- May is Polish Heritage, Canadian Jewish Heritage, and Asian Heritage Month!
- May 1 Bannock and Tea- in the Foyer @ Lunch
- May 4 Morning Smudge
Foundry Visit for Youth Week
- May 5 **Wear RED** National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit People.
Red handprint facepainting in the Foyer at Lunch
- May 5-7 Pitch Salve Medicine Workshops (Grade 7)
- May 6 Kenthen Thomas Presentation (Grade 7)
- May 8 Gr. 8 & 9 Learning Updates available on My Education
- May 11-22 READATHON! New fundraiser for grade 7s
- May 13 Children of the Street Assemblies, Gr. 9 in A block, Gr. 6-8 in B block
Children of the Street Parent/Community Night – 6:00pm in the LCS Commons – All parents invited
- May 14 Moose Hide Campaign Day
- May 18 Victoria Day STAT -No School
- May 25 PAC Meeting, 5:30 Library
- May 27 Expo 8 starts
Welcome to Grade 7! Open House (Gym) and BBQ from 5:30-7:00pm
- May 28 Indigenous Role Model Celebration at LCSS
- May 29 Spring Dance! Doors open at 6:00pm. Please pick up by 8:00



Fire Drill & Emergency Evacuation: In the event of a practiced fire drill or real emergency, the school must be cleared quickly. The safety of students and staff and the safeguarding of public property are all considerations thus orderly conduct is essential. We practice having students follow teacher directions to designated safe areas (generally on the field) and stay with their class. Six (6) fire drills are conducted each school year. In the event that it is not safe to remain outside of Columneetza, the school population may be re-routed to Nesika Elementary (beside Columneetza) or the TRU Campus on Western Avenue. (See Student Handbook). A guide to [Emergency Response Procedures for Schools](#) can be found here.

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>

Beyond the likes: Social media use among BC youth – Report & Webinar McCreary Centre Society (MCS) is excited to share that a new report, Beyond the likes: Social media use among BC youth, will be released on Wednesday, March 4th. This report takes an in-depth look at the role of social media in the lives of male, female, and non-binary youth in BC. Using data from the 2023 BC Adolescent Health Survey completed by around 38,500 students in Grades 7-12, Beyond the likes explores BC youth's experiences using social media, links between its use and their health and well-being, and what may support young people needing help for their social media use.

New Resource: Honest, Youth-Friendly Info About Drugs - Interior Health has launched a new online hub designed to help young people access reliable, easy-to-understand information about substances. The site offers practical guidance and connects youth with supports available in their communities. **Explore the resource:** <https://www.interiorhealth.ca/information-for/youth/get-to-know-more-about-drugs>



ADHD for Parents and Caregivers: Webinar Series - BC Children's Hospital ADHD Clinic and the Kelty Centre hosted a learning event designed to support parents of children with ADHD, covering topics like ADHD basics, self-regulation, behaviour at school, and medication. If you missed it, the speaker sessions available now: [ADHD for Parents and Caregivers: Webinar Series | Kelty Mental Health](#)

[Suicide Crisis Helpline: 988](#) Call or text for a safe place to talk, 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

Please DONATE! Shoe Lending Shelf: We are actively seeking donations of good quality used or new shoes in all adult sizes, men's or women's, to have students borrow from our lending shelf in the gym. For several reasons students sometimes don't have a pair of indoor CLEAN shoes to participate. This helps! We sanitize them just like the bowling alley. Please bring donations to the office or directly to Mr. Gainer. Questions? Tanner.gainer@sd27.bc.ca



Attendance & Success: There is a direct correlation between student attendance and success. Please talk to your child about attending regularly and staying caught up with homework and assignments. If your child is struggling with attendance and/or falling behind, please contact their teacher directly at any time. CJS is actively working to improve attendance and engagement for all learners.



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, Treasurer, and Barbara Hooker, Secretary. The meetings are usually held on the third Monday of each Month starting at 5:30pm in the Library. **NEXT MEETING: May 25th @ Columneetza Library – 5:30pm. Mark your calendars** for upcoming 2025/2026 MEETINGS: June 15th.

School Bus Registration for the 2026-2027 School Year (Students must register EVERY school year)

Cariboo Chilcotin School District provides transportation services to all students defined as eligible riders in AP 770 with key requirements being that the student resides outside of the walk limits and attends their catchment school. We are happy to inform you that the first student bus registration for the 2026-2027 school year is open and can be completed online. The first window is for all students eligible for bus transportation based on catchment and walk limits. Registration for courtesy riders will be completed later in the school year. For Immediate access to the bus registration for the 2026-2027 school year from please click on the following link for eligible riders as listed AP770: [Bus Registration Form](#). All parents and caregivers will be required to review and agree to the ridership agreement and bus protocols as part of the registration process: [Transportation Protocols](#)

Role Model Celebration! This year we are pleased to be supporting 13 candidates for the Indigenous Role Model Contest. Good luck to all applicants! The Celebration event will be on May 28th at LCS.

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