



Columneetza Junior Secondary School

March 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



Congratulations to the Grade 8 Boys Basketball team for finishing their season at Provincial Championships! Well done Falcons!

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.

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 **March 11, 2026** at 6:30pm.
2. Establishing Family Practices for Safeguarding Against Cyberbullying and Sextortion, [FREE Upcoming Remote Sessions](#) – Next session is **April 8, 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)

Important Dates

March is Irish Heritage month, and March 8 is International Women’s Day!

March 6 – EXPO 6 Starts (Gr. 8)

March 11 – Grade 7 Learning Updates posted online

March 11 – Free ERASE Family Session Online ([see link](#))

March 12 – Parent-Teacher Night, 5:00-7:00pm. End of Food Drive.

March 30 – PAC Meeting, 5:30pm in the Library

March 31 – Grade Group Assemblies, Code of Conduct and Positive Expectations

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>

Learning Updates (Report Cards): All Term 2 (grade 7) Learning Updates will be available on March 12th in the Parent Portal on MyEducation. If you need a printed copy, please call the office and we will print one for you. Click [HERE](#) for instructions on accessing the Learning Updates. Please note that MyEd requires parents to reset their Portal password every 90 days, click [HERE](#) to reset.

Respiratory Illness and Influenza: We have had many students and some staff members off sick. Please use best judgement and encourage students to stay home when they’re sick. [5 tips to stay healthy during flu season](#)

Columneetza CARES: Student Leadership is running a Food Drive until March 12th students can bring in items to their A block class.



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.

Please join MCS for a webinar presentation of the results: [Tuesday, March 10th | 10am-11am PST](#). For copy of the report when it is released, please email mccreary@mcs.bc.ca. The report will also be available on their website at mcs.bc.ca.

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](#)

"PreVenture" - PreVenture is a mental health promotion and substance use prevention program aimed at students in grades 7 or 8. The program is strengths based, personality focused, and evidence informed. PreVenture has demonstrated positive outcomes in mental wellness, self management and decision-making, as well as reductions in bullying and substance use behaviours. Interior Health offers support to school districts interested in delivering the PreVenture program in two or more of their schools, and is also partnering with interested Independent and First Nations schools. Columneetza staff are updating our training to bring the program. If you would like more information about PreVenture and how to become involved, please email healthyschools@interiorhealth.ca. To learn more about the developers of the program and read published research, visit [PreVenture](#).

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

Wear Seasonal Clothing – Be Prepared! As winter/spring weather changes its 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. We want to get outside for learning! **It is also important students using the gymnasium and weight room have a pair of clean, indoor shoes at school.** *If you need help with purchasing outdoor clothing for your child(ren), please contact the school.*

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





Student Learning Survey 2025/2026: The Provincial Student Learning Survey is unique in its scope, size and usefulness to schools. We encourage caregivers to participate in this survey, as the results are important in identifying and celebrating current strengths, as well as determining where the school needs to focus improvement. The survey can be completed electronically and can be accessed on the Internet at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/student-learning-survey>. On the login page, click on the Parents icon, and then select the school district and school name where your child attends school. The e-survey site will be open until May 1, 2026. If you have any questions, please contact the school.

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: March 30 @ Columneetza Library – 5:30pm. Mark your calendars** for upcoming 2025/2026 MEETINGS: March 30th, April 20th, May 25th, none in June.

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 Youth Engagement Worker Courtney Mailhot	Counselling Team Jon Harding Tara Burtenshaw