



# Columneetza Junior Secondary School

## December 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 Information for Caregivers:** Caregiver resources can be found at: [erase for Adults - Province of British Columbia](#)

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

1. Establishing Safe, Caring & Respectful Digital Communities, [FREE Upcoming Remote Sessions](#)
2. Establishing Family Practices for Safeguarding Against Cyberbullying and Sextortion, [FREE Upcoming Remote Sessions](#)
3. Raising Digitally Responsible Youth: A Guide for Parents and Caregivers, [FREE Digital Download](#) (this guide will be continually updated by Safer Schools Together)

**BC Lung Foundation:** Tobacco, Vaping & Cannabis resources. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

**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: January 19th @ Columneetza Campus Library – 5:30pm.** Mark your calendars for upcoming 2025/2026 MEETINGS: 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.

### Important Dates

Dec 5	Leadership Assembly (B Block)
	Toy Drive Starts
Dec 10	Grade 7 Learning Updates in MyEd Parent Portal
Dec. 12	School Clothing Order is due
Dec 15	Ugly or Not Holiday Sweater Day
Dec 16	Dress Up as your favourite Holiday Movie Character
	Toy Drive Ends
Dec 17	Winter Socks & Sandals Day
	CJS Band Holiday Performance, 7:00pm in the gym
Dec 18	Festive Dress Up Day
	Leadership Holiday Assembly (B Block)
	Leadership presents: <i>Movie Night</i> in the Caf – 5pm start
Dec 19	PJ Dress Up Day
	Last day before Winter Break
Dec. 22	Winter Break Starts
Jan. 5	Back to School
Jan. 5	Start of Expo 4
Jan. 6	Assembly; Code of Conduct, Review of Safety Expectations
Jan. 19	PAC Meeting, 5:30pm



**Student Council:** Our *student council* has organized a series of bake sales for Tuesdays in December, each lunch hour. All profits will go directly to the Columneetza Playground Fundraiser. Thanks for supporting!

**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 – or contact [Alina.Cameron@sd27.bc.ca](mailto:Alina.Cameron@sd27.bc.ca)).**

**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.*

**Leadership Class - Toy Drive:** It's that special time of year again at Columneetza. We're collecting toys for children aged 5 to 8 and looking forward to spreading joy in our community. Last year, Columneetza students came together to donate 300 gifts, which were shared with children at Nesika School, Cataline, and Marie Sharpe. This year we hope to expand the schools involved. It was an incredible experience for our students, and we're excited to make this season of giving just as amazing. Thank you for supporting us in making a difference! We are looking for new and gently used toys: trucks/monster jam trucks, superhero action figures, dolls, board games, puzzles, Lego, hot wheels, plush stuffies, and books (in good condition). C Block classes will collect items.

**Band Concert:** On Wednesday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Baumann will be hosting a band concert featuring Grades 7, 8 & 9. Donations will be accepted at the door and can be "tossed in the Tuba." All donations will go towards new instruments. *Band students need to arrive at 6:15pm.*

**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 (Report Cards):** Gr. 8/9 Learning Updates (Report Cards) are available as of Nov. 27 in the MyEd Parent Portal. Gr. 7 Learning Updates (Report Cards) will be available in the MyEd Parent Portal Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Learning Updates will be available 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.

**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.**

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

**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