



COLUMNEETZA JUNIOR SECONDARY

1045 Western Avenue Williams Lake, BC V2G 2J8

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August 31, 2026

Welcome Back Columneetza Families!

I hope you and your family have enjoyed a restful summer filled with opportunities to relax, reconnect, and make lasting memories. As we prepare to begin another exciting school year at Columneetza next week, I would like to extend a warm welcome to both our returning students and families and those who are joining our school community for the first time. You're part of the Falcon Family now.



Our gym got a big renovation this summer! New floors, new paint!



At Columneetza, we are committed to creating an environment where every student feels welcome, safe, connected, and capable. This year, we will continue to focus on supporting student success through encouraged attendance, engaging learning environments, student voice opportunities, and meaningful connections to culture, land, and community. We remain committed to working alongside families, local nations, community partners, and support agencies to ensure every learner has opportunities to thrive. The adolescent years are a time of tremendous growth and change. Strong partnerships between home and school are essential during this time. We encourage families to stay connected through school communications, reach out to teachers first when questions arise, and participate in school events throughout the year.

First Day Procedures: We look forward to welcoming new and returning students on Wednesday September 9th at 8:45am. This is an early dismissal day and students will be dismissed at 11:30am. Buses will run on this early dismissal schedule. *Students must be registered for the bus annually.* [Register HERE](#).

- **Schedules and Class Placements for Grade 7s are still being finalized as registration continues this week. An email will be sent out when class schedules have been finalized. You can check them in MyEd Parent Portal.** Our grade 7 classes are full, and space for movement is therefore limited.
- **Students in grades 8 & 9** can make appointments with the counselors regarding their schedule beginning September 2-4, and then again once school is underway. Students need to attend classes they're placed in for accurate attendance info. Please be patient; not all requested changes can or will be granted. Thanks!

- **Grade 7's** – All Grade 7 students will go to the gym and take a seat in the bleachers and the principal and vice-principals will conduct a 'Welcome Assembly'. After the assembly, class lists will be called out and Grade 7 teachers will then take their students to their classrooms for the remainder of the day to get organized.
- **Grade 8's and 9's** – All Grade 8 and 9 students will need to find their homerooms (A-BLOCK) and then go to their homerooms for the remainder of the morning. Alphabetical homeroom lists will be posted inside the main foyer and in front of the library. Once students are in their homeroom classrooms, they will be given their schedules and all other necessary information to start the year. Grade 8's and Grade 9's will be called to the gym for grade specific 'Welcome Back' assemblies. *Note A-BLOCK Hockey and Aquatics are located at the school this week. *Can't find your name? Head to the Library.*

School Supplies – ALL students in a Health & Physical Education course (including all grade 7s) need CLEAN indoor running shoes and gym strip to participate. Especially with our gorgeous new floor! [School supply lists can be found on our website.](#) If your family needs support with school supplies, please contact the school office and support will be provided.

Upcoming Important Dates:

- Tuesday September 8: No School for Students, District and School Planning Day
- Wednesday September 9: First Half Day for Students **Early Dismissal 11:30am**
- Thursday September 10: First Full day for Students **Regular dismissal 3:16pm**
- Monday September 14: First day of school food support program (more info in the September newsletter)
- Thursday September 17: School Photo Day
- Monday September 21: **No School** for Students, Pro-D Day
- Monday September 28: Terry Fox Run & Sept. PAC Meeting (5:30pm Library)
- Tuesday September 29: Orange Shirt Day at school
- Wednesday September 30: **School Closed**, National Truth and Reconciliation Day

A few reminders as we begin the school year:

- Regular attendance is one of the strongest predictors of student success.
- Families are encouraged to ensure that contact information is current with the school office.
- [The school website](#) will provide important information about upcoming events, athletic opportunities, student learning, and celebrations. **Bookmark it now!**
- Students should come prepared each day with their learning supplies and a positive attitude, ready for learning.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children's education. We are honoured to work alongside you and look forward to a successful year filled with learning, growth, and achievement. Together, let's make the 2026-2027 school year a great one!

Warm regards,

Holly Zurak, Principal

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Holly Zurak, Matt Cullum and Alina Cameron
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