



Columneetza Junior Secondary School

June 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](#) – Materials available (Next online session is in the Fall).
2. Establishing Family Practices for Safeguarding Against Bullying 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.*

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](#)

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.

One more fire drill and one more lockdown drill will occur in June. The school will communicate with families when these are to occur.

Important Dates

June is National Indigenous History Month; Pride Month; as well as Filipino, Italian, and Portuguese Heritage Month!

May 30 – June 5 - Spring Go By Bike Week [GoByBike BC – Bike it. You'll Love it.](#)

May 31 – June 6 - [National Accessibility Week: May 31 to June 6, 2026 - Canada.ca](#)

June 1 – Manveer's class field trip to Gavin Lake.

T&F Grades 4-7 1000M Run beginning at 3:35pm (gr.4 runs first up to gr.7 last)

June 2 - T&F Grades 4-7 All Events. (Back field will be very busy throughout the day.)

June 3 – Esk'et Sweat Field Trip (McCartney & Billyboy leads) full day. Nesika & MSE Grade 6 Tours.

June 4 – Lahal Tournament at Marie Sharpe Elementary (Arnouse & Haines leads) full day.

Spring BAND Concert, 7:00pm.

June 5 – Grade 9 BBQ lunch, free for all grade 9 students CAFETERIA.

Jump Rope for Heart (All Grade 7 classes participating).

June 8 (- 24th) – Gym Closed for Renovations. Will continue through Summer Break.

June 8 – 150 Mile Grade 6 Tour.

June 9 – Chilcotin Road Grade 6 Tour.

June 10 – Cataline Grade 6 Tour.

June 11 – Mountview Grade 6 Tour.

June 9/10/11 – Pitch Medicine Workshops (Grade 7s).

June 9-12 – McCoubrey and Gahalyan Grade 7 classes, Vancouver Field Trip.



Important Dates (Cont.)

June is National Indigenous History Month; Pride Month; as well as Filipino, Italian, and Portuguese Heritage Month!

June 15 – June PAC Meeting, 5:30 Library

Byer, Haberstock, Custance classes to Barkerville

June 18 – Welcome to Gr. 10 BBQ at LCS, 5:30-7:00pm.

June 19 – Indigenous Day Parade - Walk down @ 9am and bus back at 11:35am. Billyboy, McCartney, Uppal, Haines and Arnouse and Grade 7 classes.

June 21 Sunday – National Indigenous Peoples Day

June 22-24 – Grade 7 Educo Field Trip (Byer, Haberstock, Custance).

June 24 – Year-End Awards Celebration, 10:15am in the Gym.

Final Learning Reports posted in MyEd by 4:00pm.

June 25 – Final Day for Students. FUN DAY on the field. Inflatables, hot dogs, and fire truck spray-down.

June 26 – Administrative/Staff Only Day.
Front Office is open on June 29, 30, and July 2, 3.

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, Treasurer, and Barbara Hooker, Secretary. The meetings are usually held on the third Monday of each Month starting at 5:30pm in the Library. **FINAL MEETING: June 15th @ Columneetza Library – 5:30pm.**

Playground Fundraiser:

We are still looking to raise around \$300,000 for a parkour /playground for Columneetza as we don't have a playground on our school grounds. As part of a larger fundraiser that started last year, we are asking any families and/or businesses that can, to donate to our fundraiser. If you are interested in making a donation, please E-transfer the Columneetza PAC at cjsspac@gmail.com and type "playground" in the comments. Thank you for your support in "play!"



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.

During **National AccessAbility Week from May 31 to June 6, 2026** we celebrate the achievements of persons with disabilities in Canada. This year's theme is "Building a Strong, Accessible Canada," reminding us that we all benefit when everyone has an equal opportunity to reach their full potential. Our country is stronger when everyone has an equal opportunity to contribute to our communities and workplaces. In the spirit of "Nothing without us," the Government of Canada continues to collaborate with partners from the disability community, Indigenous representatives, intersectional groups, and all levels of government to ensure that persons with disabilities can participate fully in all aspects of life.

**National
AccessAbility
Week 2026**

Building a Strong, Accessible Canada



May 31 to June 6, 2026

Canada



Gr. 7 Track & Field: Next week on Monday, June 1st, the top Grade 7 students in the 1000m will compete after school. Tuesday, June 2nd, the top Grade 7 students in long jump, triple jump, 100m, 400m and shot put will have the opportunity to participate in the District Elementary Track 7 Field. There will be concession items, but students may wish to bring their own lunches. **Parents/caregivers cannot sign students out of classes to watch a friend or a sibling UNLESS supervised by parents/caregivers who are at the school watching the event.**

Student Dress Code: As the SUN begins to shine and the weather gets warmer, a gentle reminder to all students about the dress code - the key word for Columneetza's dress code is **APPROPRIATE**. Beachwear or anything similar is not permitted, tops and footwear must be worn at all times. Students dressed inappropriately or wearing clothing citing any reference to alcohol, drugs, derogatory or racialized comments or referencing sex will be asked to change. Open toe shoes are not permitted in shop classes or the gymnasium.

Student Schedules: For students entering Grades 8 & 9 next school year, schedules will be available in the MyEd portal on June 15th. If students/families have queries, please contact school counsellors— tara.burtenshaw@sd27.bc.ca or jonathan.harding@sd27.bc.ca. For students entering Grade 7 next year, student schedules will be available in MyEd at the end of August after MyEd updates with students new to Columneetza, and classes are set.

Final Assembly June 24th @ 10:15am: There will be a final assembly on the last day of school for students. We will begin with subject-based awards and then move onto overall school awards ending with some year-end presentations by staff. If your child is receiving an award, you will receive a call from the office to attend (space in the gym is limited).

Final Learning Updates (Report Cards): Learning Updates will be available in the Parent Portal on MyEducation on June 24th. If you need a printed copy, please call the office and we will print one for you. Please note that MyEd requires parents to reset their Portal password every 90 days. Learning Updates will be available online for 30 days. School Office is open June 29, 30, July 2, 3 if you need to pick up a printed copy of your child's learning update. Please email css.secretary@sd27.bc.ca for all inquiries.

School Bus Registration for the 2026-2027 School Year (Students must register EVERY school year): 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: On May 28th, the Indigenous Education Council hosted the 23rd annual role model celebration. It was a wonderful celebration to honor Indigenous youth of the district. We are so proud of all the candidates and their accomplishments. *(Pictured left) Congratulations to this year's winners Anaiya Hink and Landen Williams.*

Columneetza congratulates the 13 finalist candidates from our school who ran for the Indigenous Role Model Contest: Megan Johns, Aiya Cooper, Alice Drift, Sophie Johnson, Emma Lebel, Jacob Lebel, Hikaru McAfee-Setah, Brettly Bowers, Violet Quon, Wade Hansen, Zach Dillabough, Brayden Taylor, and Trent Edwards.

**Upcoming Events & Learning Opportunities Happening at Columneetza during National Indigenous History Month:**

June 1st, 3rd, 8th and 10th – Ribbon Skirts at Lunch in Ms. Billyboy's classroom.

June 2nd – Lahal Learning with Bruce.

June 3rd – Esk'et Cultural Sweat (All day)

June 4th – Lahal Tournament @ Marie Sharpe with Marcella and Charlotte.

June 9-11 – Pitch Salve Learning with Dancing Water and Freda.

June 15th – Morning Smudge

June 16th – Courtyard treats and tea at lunch.

June 17th – Dreamcatchers at lunch.

June 18th – Bracelets or pins at lunch.

June 19th – Bannock available at Breakfast. Indigenous Day Parade - Walk down @ 9am and bus back at 11:35am.

Billyboy, McCartney, Uppal, Haines and Arnouse and Grade 7 classes.

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