



Columneetza Junior Secondary School

April 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.

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 **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)

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.*

Enhancing School Safety

- **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.
- **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](#)

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>

Important Dates

April is Sikh Heritage month

- April 3 Good Friday and Easter
Monday April 6
- April 7 Jersey Day (or Wear Green)
- April 7 Grade 9 Immunizations
- April 14 & 15 Early Dismissal Days (2:16pm)
- April 16 **NEW DATE!** Parent-Teacher Interviews, 5-7:00pm
- April 20 – PAC - 5pm Library
- April 22 – Earth Day
- April 22 – Q3 ends / Last day of Expo 6
- April 23 Expo 7 starts
- April 24 Pro-D Day



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](#)

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](#)

"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.

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.



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 (lcsspac@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: April 20 @ Columneetza Library – 5:30pm. Mark your calendars** for upcoming 2025/2026 MEETINGS: May 25th, and June TBD.

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