



# Columneetza Junior Secondary School

## January 2026 Newsletter

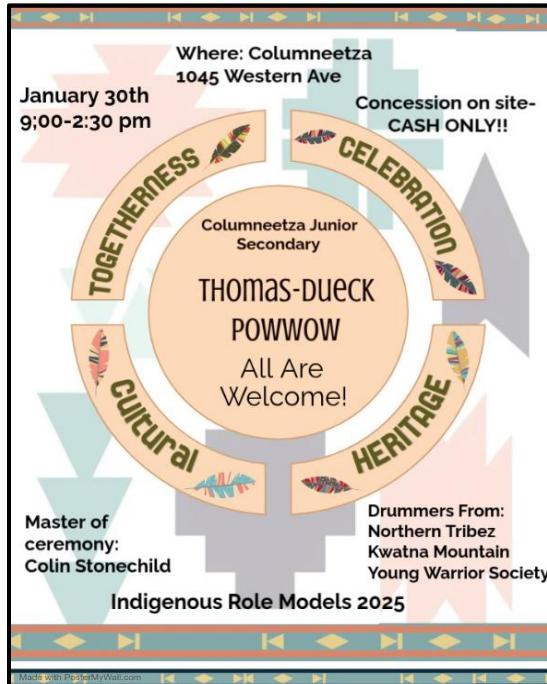
Newsletters are posted to the school website at the beginning of each month. Please bookmark our website for this, focus area posts, news and more! [www.cjs.sd27.bc.ca](http://www.cjs.sd27.bc.ca)

**ERASE Information for Caregivers:** Caregiver resources can be found at: [erase for Adults - Province of British Columbia](http://eraseforadults.ca). 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 **January 21, 2026** at 6:30pm.
2. Establishing Family Practices for Safeguarding Against Cyberbullying and Sextortion, [FREE Upcoming Remote Sessions](#) – Next session is **February 18, 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.*



### Important Dates

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Jan. 5  | Back to School / Start of Expo 4  |
| Jan. 6  | Back to School Assembly; Code of Conduct, Review of Safety Expectations |
| Jan. 13 | Gr. 7 classes walk to WL Mustangs Game 10:15-1:45                       |
| Jan. 19 | PAC Meeting, 5:30pm   |
| Jan. 30 | Semester 1 Ends (Gr. 8/9)   |
| Jan. 30 | Annual Thomas Dueck Pow Wow – all day                                   |

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



**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!

**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. **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 winter clothing for your child(ren), please contact the school.*

**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):** All Learning Updates are 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.

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

**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.

| <b>Team Directory</b>   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Leadership Team</b><br>Holly Zurak, Principal<br>Matt Cullum, Vice-Principal<br>Alina Cameron, Vice-Principal                                  | <b>Clerical Team</b><br>Liz Crosina, Office Front Desk<br>Dorothy Mundy, Office Records & Registration<br>Ann Bailey, Office Finance |
| <b>Columneetza Indigenous Support Workers</b><br>George Fraser<br>Jordy Moise<br>Katrina Wilde<br><b>Youth Engagement Worker</b> Courtney Mailhot | <b>Counselling Team</b><br>Jon Harding<br>Tara Burtenshaw  |