



Columneetza Junior Secondary School

November 2024 Newsletter



Columneetza Junior Secondary (Gr.7-9)
1045 Western Ave, Williams Lake, BC
V2G 2J8
Ph: 250-392-4158



Midway through Semester 1:

The middle of semester 1 (Term 1) is Wednesday, November 13th. All students need to ensure that their work is up to date so their Term 1 proficiencies reflect their full learning.

Any parents with concerns please call the school immediately to arrange a teacher meeting if necessary.

Parent Advisory Council: PAC Executive: Don Firth: President, (Vacant)Vice-President, Melanie Engelbrecht: Treasurer for both campuses, Barbara Hooker: Secretary (for both campuses), and Juanita Keener: DPAC. Parents with students at Columneetza are invited to attend PAC meetings. The meetings are usually held on the third Monday of each Month starting at 5:30pm in the Library. **NEXT MEETING: November 18th @ Columneetza Campus Library – 5:30pm**

Safe & Caring School Culture Meeting: Parents and guardians of students that attend Columneetza Junior Secondary School are invited to a conversation about Safe and Caring School Culture with school and district leadership.

Monday, November 18, 2024 at 7:00 - 8:30 pm in the Cafeteria (new location for more space).

Agenda:

- Welcome and Meeting Norms
- Introductions
- District Update
- School Update
- Parent Feedback and Concerns
- Avenues for Communication



Please note that this is not a forum for the discussion of individual issues, school personnel, parents, or other individual members of the school community. It is an opportunity to be part of the conversation about enhancing safety and a culture of care at our school.

Important Dates

- Nov 5 Learning Update Workshop
- Nov 6 P/VP Meeting
- Nov 8 Indigenous Veterans Day & Remembrance Day Ceremony
- Nov 11 Remembrance Day Stat (no school)
- Nov 12 Staff Meeting
- Nov 13 Term 1 Ends; Early Dismissal School Ends at 2:16pm
- Nov 14 Term 2 & Expo 3 Begin; Early Dismissal School Ends at 2:16pm
- Nov 18 PAC Meeting 5:30pm; Safe & Caring School Culture Meeting 7pm
- Nov 20 "Smash for Cash" Playground Fundraiser
- Nov 21 Gr. 8/9 Learning Updates in MyEd Parent Portal; CB IEPs sent home
- Nov 25 Pro D Day, (No school)

"Smash for Cash" Parkour Playground Fundraiser: November 20th at 11:35am-3:16pm--this is an initiative brought about by the Williams Lake Minor Hockey Association U 15 Integrated Rep Team, led by coach Brad McKinnon (all Columneetza students). People will get to pay to smash cars in our parking lot, supervised by the RCMP and the Fire Dept. by making a cash donation towards a playground. Coach McKinnon has asked his team to give back to the school community. Parkour Playground equipment has been something the school

has talked about since the creation of the middle school many years ago. Our PAC has also jumped on board and really wants to support fundraising for Parkour Playground equipment as a healthy option for students, and has a dedicated fundraising lead looking into grants and other events. This equipment is expensive, upwards of \$150,000 plus landscaping and installation, but everyone seems very apt to fundraise. The school district has put aside \$10,000 towards this initiative as well, to help us get started. See attached poster (created by our students) and please share in the community as we'd love to get some big donors! We can do this together!!



School Updates: Our cellphone guidelines seem to be working well and teachers are reporting that students are definitely getting more work completed in classes. We want to thank our parents for supporting these guidelines as well. Mr. MacDonald has been 3D Printing Hall Passes for students to use when leaving classes and our teachers are making this system work; hallway traffic runs more smoothly these days! Students and staff are navigating the locked exit doors well and we soon hope to have an automatic locking system in place. Having 10 noon hour supervisors at lunch is fantastic and a big thank you to staff and community members who have joined our support team! The sign in/out system at the office is in support of Columneetza's closed campus in an effort to keep students at school where they can be supervised. If your child needs to leave at lunch, please call in at the office to give them permission. A shout out to the Nesika school for letting our students use your playground at lunch.



School Messenger - Columneetza is using 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>

Student Information: If your child has any information that needs to be updated (medical concerns, address changes, emergency contacts and phone numbers, or custody documentation), please call the office and provide us with the updates and/or documentation.

New Teacher: We'd like to officially welcome Ms. Gilpin to our school as the Tsilhqot'in Language Teacher for Grade 7-12!

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.

Safer School Together (SST) Student/Parent Modules: We will soon be offering pre-recorded student sessions on "Establishing Safe, Caring & Respectful Digital Communities" that will cover the following topics: social media companies and their persuasive designs, how social media platforms operate, the importance of the digital tattoo, protecting your digital reputation, a serious but important conversation, and online protection from Safer Schools. Stay tuned for more information on a "Parent Night" where we will host an online, pre-recorded session called "Social Media Awareness, Digital Citizenship And Cyberbullying" created by Safer Schools for parents and caregivers.

SST: [Parent/Caregiver Resources](#)

School Sports & Clubs:

Fall Season Sports (end Nov. 24th) : **Volleyball** (all times are 3:30-5:00) Mondays - grade 7 kids only; Tuesdays - grade 8 kids only; Wednesdays - grade 9 kids only; Thursdays - all kids

Rugby (all times 3:30-5:00) Monday - Boys Grade 7-12 @ Col. Wednesday - Boys Grade 7-12 @ Col. Thursday - Girls Rugby 3:30-4:45 @ Lake City

X-Country - Mon @ Lake City and Wed @ Col. 3:30 - 4:30 both days.

Clubs:

Starting Oct. 2nd Fit Club – Mon & We 3:30-4:30pm

Starting Oct. 2nd League of Legends (E Sport/Club – Tues & Thurs 3:30-5pm)

Junior Tour Band (Gr. 8/9) – Tues or Wed from 3:30-4:45pm, just attend 1 day

Games with Mr. O’Keefe -Next one is Friday Nov. 8th, the next week (alternating Wed)

GSA Club – Room 2, Lunch on Tuesdays

Winter Season Sports Starting Nov. 25th

Basketball:

Gr. 9 Girls – Ms. Billyboy and coach

Gr. 9 Boys – Ms. Meyrick and coach

Gr. 7/8 Girls – Ms. McCoubrey & Mr. Hett

Gr. 7 Boys – Mr. McIntosh & Ms. Campbell

**We're still hoping for a Gr. 8 Boys Team as well. Practice times are still to be determined.

Wrestling: Ms. Bromitt and coach, days/times TBD

Learning Updates (Report Cards): **NEW**→This year we are moving to digital learning updates. 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. For students in grades K-9, teachers will use the Provincial Proficiency Scale. The scale uses the terms “Emerging,” “Developing,” “Proficient,” and “Extending” to describe student learning. The scale maintains high standards for student learning. 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.

Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Extending
Emerging means your child is beginning to understand something in an area of learning. They are still learning but may need more support to move ahead. Emerging doesn't mean your child is unsuccessful in this area.	Developing means your child understands some things in an area of learning but still has other areas to work on. Like Emerging, it doesn't mean your child is unsuccessful in this area.	Proficient is the goal for your child. It's also the goal for all students. When your child is Proficient, it means they fully understand the required learning. But it doesn't mean their learning stops.	Extending is when students show a deeper understanding. It's when your child is able to apply their learning in new and different ways. Extending is not the goal for all students in every area of learning.



Toques, Mittens & Winter Boots Campaign: We are collecting new and gently used toques, mittens and winter boots in an effort to donate these items back to the Women’s Contact Society and to help those in our community in need of some extra warmth this winter. B Block classes are having a competition to see which class can bring in the most gear. The winning class will get to take all of the donations to the Women’s Contact Society and experience what it feels like to generously give back!

Wear Winter Clothing – Be Prepared!

Students, Parents & Guardians, 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.



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

Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring

If your Grade 9 child is interested in becoming an In-School Mentor with an elementary student, please contact Paris Masters with BBBS at 250-267-7361 to get more information. The commitment is 1 hour/week and students will need to walk from Columneetza to either Nesika or Cataline.

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.



Denisiqi At Columneetza: On Wednesdays at Columneetza, staff from Denisiqi will be setting up a booth with activities and snacks to offer programming to students and spread the word on current programs available.

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.

Administration Team Hattie Darney, Principal Matt Cullum, Vice-Principal Alina Cameron, Vice-Principal	Clerical Team Marilyn Hale, Office Front Desk Tassie Giroday, Office Records & Registration Ildiko Deboer, Office Finance
Columneetza Indigenous Support Workers George Fraser Jordy Moise Katrina Wilde Youth Engagement Worker Courtney Mailhot	Counselling Team Jon Harding Tara Burtenshaw

Columneetza School Website: <https://www.sd27.bc.ca/lcsscolum>

[Columneetza Code of Conduct](#)

Facebook Page: “Lake City Secondary – School Page”



Lake City Secondary - School Page

High School · 3.0 out of 5 · 0.8 mi · 2.1K followers



LCS-Grades 10 to 12 Ph: 250-392-6284 Columneetza Junior Secondary-Grades 7 to 9 Ph: 250-392-4158