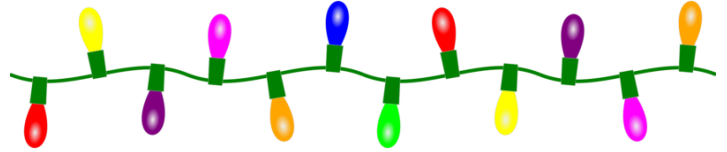




Columneetza Junior Secondary School

December 2024 Newsletter



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



Toy Drive: It's that special time of year again at Columneetza. We're collecting toys for children aged 5 to 8 and looking forward to spreading joy in our community. Last year, Columneetza students came together to donate 300 gifts, which were shared with children

at Nesika School, Cataline, and Marie Sharpe. It was an incredible experience for our students, and we're excited to make this season of giving just as amazing. Thank you for supporting us in making a difference! We are looking for new and gently used toys: trucks/monster jam trucks, superhero action figures, dolls, board games, puzzles, Lego, hot wheels, plush stuffies, and books (in good condition).

Columneetza – Holiday Fun: Starting on Dec. 2nd and ending on Dec. 20th, one student's name will be drawn each morning to win a wrapped gift. Students must be in attendance to have a chance at winning. This gift will align with one of our spirit days!!

Band Concert: On Tuesday, Dec. 10th, Ms. Baumann will be hosting a band concert featuring Grades 7, 8 & 9. Donations will be accepted at the door and can be "tossed in the Tuba." All donations will go towards new instruments. *Band students need to arrive at 6:15pm.*

Indigenous Role Model Program: If your child(ren) is/are interested in becoming next year's SD27 Indigenous Role Model, please see Indigenous Support Workers George, Jordy or Kat for more information. Last week, we had Grace Anderson and Finley Testawich at Columneetza promoting the program to students at lunch.

Safer Schools Together (SST) Parent Session:

On Dec. 12th at 5:30-6:30pm administration will host a pre-recorded parent session on "Social Media Awareness, Digital Citizenship And Cyberbullying" created by Safer Schools for parents and caregivers. Vice-Principal, Ms. Cameron and some Student Council members will be available to entertain any

Important Dates

- Dec 2 Toy Drive Begins
- Holiday Fun Begins
- Dec 4 P/VP Mtg
- Dec 5 Gr. 7 Learning Updates on MyEd Parent Portal
- Dec 10 Band Concert 7-8:30pm
- Staff Mtg 3:35pm
- Dec 12 Safer Schools Parent Session @ 5:30pm
- Dec 16 Ugly or Not Holiday Sweater Day
- Dec 17 Dress Up as your favourite Holiday Movie Character
- Dec 18 Expo #4 Begins
- Winter Socks & Sandals Day
- Toy Drive Ends
- Dec 19 Festive Dress Up Day
- Dec 20 Columneetza Cares & Holiday Assembly
- PJ Dress Up Day
- Tree Evaluations (for classes participating)
- Last day before Winter Break
- Dec 23 Winter Break Begins
- Jan 6 School Back in Session

younger children in a classroom close by the parent session. Please RSVP to hattie.darney@sd27.bc.ca if you plan to attend so that we can have some dinner and snacks available.

SST: [Parent/Caregiver Resources](#)

Safer Schools Student Sessions (Dec-Feb):

Over the course of the next few months, we will be holding student assemblies on “Establishing Safe, Caring & Respectful Digital Communities.” This module 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, cyber/bullying, a serious but important conversation, and protecting yourself and those around you. We hope to host a few sessions during the day before the holidays beginning with Gr. 9s.

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.

Parent Advisory Council: PAC Executive→Don Firth: President, (Vacant)Vice-President, Melanie Engelbrecht: Treasurer (for both campuses), Barbara Hooker: Secretary (for both campuses), and Melissa Coates: 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: Monday, Dec. 16th in the Columneetza Campus Library at 5:30pm.**



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.

School Sports & Clubs:

Fit Club – Mon & We 3:30-4:30pm

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 -Wednesday and alternating Fridays

GSA Club – Room 2 at Lunch on Tuesdays

Floor Hockey: Columneetza Christmas Cup Floor Hockey tourney begins today and goes until the last week of school! All ages welcome during lunch in the gym with Mr. Smith.

Wrestling (Winter Sport): Ms. Bromitt and coach, days/times TBD

LaCrosse Open Gym: “Open LAX” with Mr.McCallum (bring your own gear)

Winter Season Sports Started Nov. 25th

Basketball:

Gr. 8/9 Girls – Ms. Billyboy and coach
Gr. 9 Boys – Ms. Meyrick and coach
Gr. 7 Girls – Ms. McCoubrey & Mr. Hett
Gr. 7/8 Boys – Mr. McIntosh & Ms. Campbell



WINTER GYM					
Time	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
7:00-8:00				Girls 9/8 Bball	Girls 7 Bball
3:30-4:50	Girls 9/8 Bball	Boys 7 Bball	Girls 7 Bball	Boys 9 Bball	Boys 7 Bball
5:00-6:20	Boys 9 Bball	Boys 8 Bball	Girls 9/8 Bball	Boys 8 Bball	
6:30-7:50	Open LAX		Boys 9 Bball		

Learning Updates (Report Cards): Gr. 8/9 Learning Updates (Report Cards) are available in the MyEd Parent Portal. Gr. 7 Learning Updates (Report Cards) will be available in the MyEd Parent Portal Dec. 5th at 4pm.

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. Students will be recognized at school for Work Ethic and Honour Roll/Honour Roll with Distinction even though we cannot stamp the digital record. 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 collected over 600 winter items this year! Ms. Custance and Mr. McIntosh got to take our donations to the Women's Contact Society and experience the warmth of giving back as their classes brought in the most items. Thanks to parents and caregivers for all of your generosity.

Wear Winter Clothing – Be Prepared!

Students, Parents & Guardians, as the cooler weather begins to make an appearance, we are asking for middle schoolers 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, \$2.00/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.

SORA - 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.

Tutoring: DROP-IN Middle School Homework Support Group (Gr. 7-8-9) at TRU in the Library on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30pm. No cost, no registration required. Email tutoring@caribooliteracy.com or call 250-398-0349.

Suicide Crisis Helpline: 988 Call or text for a safe place to talk, 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

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

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

[Columneetza Code of Conduct](#)

UPDATED Facebook Page: “Columneetza Junior Secondary School”

