



Columneetza Junior Secondary School

January 2025 Newsletter



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

Wear Winter Clothing – Be Prepared!

Students, Parents & Guardians, as we are now in the **Winter season**, we are asking our middle schoolers to wear weather appropriate clothing to school so that they can be outside during some classes and scheduled breaks. *If you need financial assistance, please contact the school.*



Thomas-Dueck Pow Wow at Columneetza:

This year we are hosting the 6th Thomas-Dueck Traditional/Educational Pow Wow on Friday, January 31st in the gym. The purpose of this significant cultural event is to decolonize and indigenize the school culture and curricula at Columneetza. It is also a crucial step in reconciliation for our school community. We want to thank the First Nations Education Council and SD27 for supporting our Pow Wow financially! This holistic experience learning from Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Drummers and Dancers is grounded in experiential learning, making this an inclusive and welcoming event for all students and community members, indigenous and non-indigenous. Schools and communities have been invited and community members are welcome from 9am -2pm.

Safer Schools Online Family Sessions (Jan-May):

These sessions are designed to support families and caregivers in navigating the digital world. Click [HERE](#) to register. There is a family session on Jan 14th at 6:30pm on Zoom. SST: [Parent/Caregiver Resources](#)

Safer Schools Student Sessions (Jan-Feb):

Over the course of the next few months, we will host workshops for Gr. 7 & 8 students, “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 hosted a session before the break for 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

Important Dates

Jan 6	First Day Back to School
Jan 14	Staff Meeting
Jan 15	Ribbon Shirt Workshop with Tania Jeff (A & B Blocks)
Jan 20	PAC Mtg 5:30pm
Jan 21& 22	Ribbon Skirt Workshop with Tania Jeff (A & B Blocks)
Jan 31	Pow Wow 9am -2pm!
	End of Semester 1 (Gr. 8/9 Courses & Gr. 7 Language Courses End)
Feb 12	Learning Updates (Report Cards) Available on the MyEd Parent Portal for Gr. 8/9

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, Jan. 20th 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 – Mondays & Wednesdays 3:30-4:30pm

League of Legends (E Sport/Club – Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:30-5pm)

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

Games with Mr. O’Keefe -Wednesdays and alternating Fridays

GSA Club – Room 2 at Lunch on Tuesdays

Wrestling (Winter Sport): Ms. Bromitt and coach, days/times TBD in Jan 2025

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 Boys – Mr. McIntosh & Ms. Campbell

Gr. 8 Boys – Ms. Morency & coach



Time	WINTER GYM				
	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		

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 Liz Crosina, Office Front Desk Tassie Giroday, Office Records & Registration Ann Bailey, 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”

