



Columneetza Junior Secondary School

February 2025 Newsletter

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

Valentine's Dance:

For Columneetza students in Grades 7-9!! Photo booth, door prizes, and concession! Located in the Cafeteria.



Learning Updates (Report Cards): 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. Learning Updates will be available online for 60 days.

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.

Semester 2: The new semester begins on Feb. 3rd and class changes will only be for exceptional circumstances. If students have questions regarding their course load, they can make an appointment with either of the school counsellors Ms. Burtenshaw or Mr. Harding.

2025-2026 Student Course Selection

Students and parents please take note that have started the process of student course selection for the next school year. Course selection handbooks will be posted online to the school website for viewing shortly. Counsellors will be making classroom visits to discuss course options.

Vape Detectors in Washrooms: Coming soon – the school will have vape detectors in the student washrooms. More information to come.

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.*

Safer Schools Online Family Sessions (Feb-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](#)

Important Dates

- Feb 3 Semester 2 begins, Expo #5 begins
- Feb 10 French Immersion author Alexandra Larochelle visits French Immersion Gr.7-8-9 Students
- Feb 11 Staff Meeting
- Feb 12 Gr. 8 & 9 Learning Updates available on the Parent Portal, CBIEPs sent home
- Feb 13 Valentine's Dance, 6-9pm
- Feb 14 Pro D Day/No School
- Feb 17 Family Day STAT
- Feb 26 **Pink Shirt Day – Anti-Bullying Awareness**

New Parent-Teacher Night for Columneetza – April 9th 5-7pm

Safer Schools Student Sessions:

Students in Grades 7-9 have completed, "Establishing Safe, Caring & Respectful Digital Communities." In February, students will complete, "Establishing Respectful Relationships and Consent in Our Communities." There is a session for grades 7/8 and a session for grade 9s. Topics in this session include: consent, gender-based violence, worrisome content, managing exposure on social media and gaming platforms, types of bullying/cyberbullying relationships, the consequences of sending/receiving intimate images or videos, sextortion and important signs to look for, checking in on your mental health and strategies for success and using the anonymous reporting tool to stay safe online.

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, Feb. 24th in the Columneetza Campus Library at 5:30pm. This is a Spring Funding Meeting.**

School Community Culture and Climate Questionnaire: Later this month from Feb. 17-28th, parents, students, and staff will have the opportunity to complete a questionnaire that focuses on student safety, culture and climate, anti-racism as well as other school safety measures. This questionnaire will take an estimated 15 minutes to complete. Please watch your emails for a link and paper copies will also be made available.



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): Cancelled (no coach)

LaCrosse Open Gym: Cancelled until further notice

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



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		

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 Thursdays 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”

