



Columneetza Junior Secondary School

March 2025 Newsletter

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



Columneetza’s Kindness Campaign: We are thrilled to announce the launch of our Kindness Campaign that began on Pink Shirt Day and was spearheaded by our dedicated Student Council. This initiative aims to foster a spirit of generosity and compassion within our school community while also supporting those in need in our local area with donations of non-perishable food items. To further promote our message, we have created a "Be Kind" bulletin board in the main hallway, allowing students to share cheerful notes, uplifting quotes, and personal stories of kindness they have witnessed or experienced. Student Council is encouraging everyone to participate, as it is through these shared moments that we can inspire one another to act with kindness daily and stand up against bullying. **If your family can, please send non-perishable food items to school by March 13th. On March 14th, the Student Council will make sure that all non-perishable food items are donated to the Salvation Army!!**

Grade 7 Learning Updates (Report Cards): Grade 7 Learning Updates will be available in the Parent Portal on MyEducation on March 12th at 4pm. *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. Learning Updates will be available online for 60 days.

Safer Schools Online Family Sessions (Mar-May):

These sessions are designed to support families and caregivers in navigating the digital world. Click [HERE](#) to register, sessions are on Zoom March 12, April 8, and May 7. SST: [Parent/Caregiver Resources](#)

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, Melissa Coates: 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, Apr. 28th 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>

Important Dates

- Mar 3 Kindness Campaign Assemblies for Gr. 8/9
- Mar 11 Chief Willie Sellars visits Gr. 7 to present his book *Dipnetting with Dad* from 1-1:45pm
- Mar 12 Gr. 7 Learning Updates in the Parent Portal on My Education; CB-IEPs sent home for students with IEPs
- Mar 13 Last day to bring non-perishable food items
- Mar 14 Last Day of School before Spring Break
- Mar 31 First Day Back to School after Spring Break
- Apr 9 Parent-Teacher Night from 5-7pm
- Apr 11 Pro D Day

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: (Permission Forms were sent home)

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



SPORTS: Spring Season

CJSS Jr. Boys Rugby - Braden McCallum

CJSS Jr. Girls Soccer - Keaton Smith

Gr. 7 Boys Basketball – Mr. Mcintosh (until Spring Break)

CJSS & LCSS Track & Field -Mr. Sheppard and Ms. Menard (Mon & Tues @ LCSS; Thurs @ CJSS 3:30-4:30pm) Begins March 31st!!

Time	SPRING GYM					SPRING FIELD				
	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
7:00-8:00										
Lunch 11:40-12:15										
3:30-5:00	Boys Rugby	Girls Soccer	Boys Rugby	Girls Soccer		Boys Rugby	Girls Soccer	Boys Rugby	Girls Soccer	Boys Rugby
5:05-6:25		Boys 7 Bball			Boys 7 Bball					

Community Lacrosse:

Is your child interested in Lacrosse? Here are some options in the community:

1. Lacrosse Club – Contact Keitha @ bighornslacrosse@gmail.com. The season starts April 8th, practices are every Tuesday and Thursday. U7/U9 \$125; U11/U13 \$215; U15/U16 \$265
2. Lacrosse @ WLFN School Gym – contact Cody @ 250-267-6838, starts on March 6th
3. Try Lacrosse for Free at Cataline - April 1st& April 3rd at Cataline School Gym: U7/U9 5:30 to 6:00; U11/U13 6:00 to 7:00; U15/U17 6:30 to 7:30

School of Choice: Parents wishing for their child to attend a school that is NOT their catchment school MUST fill out a “School of Choice” application available ON-LINE ONLY. A computer will be available at the catchment school for parents/guardians who do not have access to a computer at home. **Applications due March 12 th .**

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.

Administration Team Hattie Darney, Principal Matt Cullum, Vice-Principal Alina Cameron, Vice-Principal	Clerical Team Liz Crosina, Office Front Desk Tassie Giroday, Office Records & Registration Ann Bailey, 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](#)

UPDATED Facebook Page: “Columneetza Junior Secondary School”



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1.9K likes • 2.3K followers