



# Columneetza Junior Secondary School

## April 2025 Newsletter



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

**Parent-Teacher Night:** All parents, caregivers and Education Coordinators are welcome to come to Columneetza to meet your child's Semester 2 teachers and discuss your child's progress to date. Interviews will be held on a first come first served basis in teachers' classroom. Some teachers report on 120 students, while others have less than 30; if the line-ups are long on April 9th and you'd like to schedule a different time to meet, there will be a sheet posted on the classroom doors for you to leave your information so teachers can follow up with you. Staff will be in the main lobby to help with directions and schedules. Please, bring your child along as a guide and participant in each interview. We will have some community agency tables as well for families to interact with on that night. There will also be a group fundraising and running a small dinner concession that evening as well.

**Jess Dance:** Joshua from Jess Dance will be teaching Grade 7 students 3 forms of dance: Hip Hop, Breaking, and Street Dance. *At Jess Dance, we hope programs are an unforgettable experience that will uplift and inspire your students. Your enthusiasm, participation and support will help set the foundation for great learning!* For more information, please visit [www.jessdance.com](http://www.jessdance.com).

### **Columneetza Makes the Tribune:**

Columneetza's Student Council Organizes Kindness Campaign:

<https://www.wltribune.com/local-news/williams-lake-students-find-a-voice-organize-kindness-campaign-7868340>

Former Canucks Goalie Kirk McLean visits Columneetza:

<https://www.wltribune.com/local-news/former-canucks-goalie-kirk-mclean-visits-williams-lake-schools-7857718>

**Williams Lake First Nation's (WLFN) Cultural Team Visits Columneetza:** Our school community will have the opportunity to learn the Secwepemc Honour Song in a Drum Circle. William Lulua and Valarie West will be drumming and singing with students and staff so that we can learn the song of the Shuswap territory. Students are encouraged to bring their own rattles or drums if they would like to, but it is not required.

**Bus Registration:** Bus registration for eligible riders is now open and to register, click [HERE](#).

**Practice Lockdown Drill this Month:** This month we will organize a second practice lockdown drill with the RCMP as part of safety planning. Once I have the date, I will let families know by email. Each year, schools conduct 2 practice drills.

### **Safer Schools Online Family Sessions (Apr-May):**

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

### Important Dates

- Apr 3&4 Bake Sale at Lunch, each item will be \$1-\$3
- Apr 8-10 Hoop Dancing for Gr. 7s
- Apr 8 Parent Meeting for Enduro-Mountain Biking (High-Risk) 6pm
- Apr 9 Parent-Teacher Night from 5-7pm
- Apr 10 Dipnet Making Starts Today, Room 144B @ lunch
- Apr 11 **Pro D Day – NO SCHOOL**
- Apr 14 Spring DART reading Assessments begin (all grades)
- Apr 15 Jess Dance & Earth Day Activities for Gr. 7s
- Apr 17 WLFN's Cultural Team – Drumming & Singing the Secwepemc Honour Song (all grades)—Drum Circle
- Apr 18 **Good Friday – NO SCHOOL**
- Apr 21 **Easter Monday – NO SCHOOL**
- Apr 22 Band Concert 7pm; Student Satisfaction Surveys for Gr. 7 (Ministry of Education)
- Apr 23/24 Early Dismissal Days (School is out at 2:16pm & Buses run early)
- Apr 24 End of the Quarter (Gr 9 electives will change)
- Apr 25 Gr. 8 Expo Changes
- Apr 28 PAC Mtg 5:30pm

**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. 28<sup>th</sup> 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:** (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

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

	SPRING GYM					SPRING FIELD				
Time	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

#### **Community Lacrosse:**

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

1. Lacrosse Club – Contact Keitha @ [bighornslacrosse@gmail.com](mailto:bighornslacrosse@gmail.com). The season starts April 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 6<sup>th</sup>
3. Try Lacrosse for Free at Cataline - April 1<sup>st</sup>& April 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

**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.

**Interior Health at Columneetza:** Beading with Courtney at lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Cafeteria.

### **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](mailto: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.

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

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

[Columneetza Code of Conduct](#)

**UPDATED Facebook Page:** “Columneetza Junior Secondary School”

