



Columneetza Junior Secondary School

May 2025 Newsletter

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

The Fourth R -Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Revolutionize – This super upbeat and empowering dance show will invigorate students to care deeply for the natural world. The Grade 7 Dept. organized DanceFachin to visit Columneetza and perform!

Monday, May 5th – National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit people. Students and staff can wear **RED** on this day to support awareness.

Children of the Street Assemblies: Children of the Street is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness about human trafficking. Children of the Street provides age-appropriate, engaging, and informative workshops that focus on online safety and human trafficking awareness. During their visit, they will be presenting at both the middle school and high school, delivering workshops such as: *It Can Happen to Anyone; Keeping Kids Safe Online; Safer Space; and Taking Care of Ourselves, Taking Care of Others*. Often, when people think about human trafficking, they assume “that doesn’t happen here” or “not my kids,” but the reality is that it can happen anywhere, and it's not always easy to recognize. This visit is an important opportunity to learn how to protect and support the youth in our community.

In addition to school-based sessions, there will be a community presentation on Wednesday, May 7 at 6:30 PM in the Commons area at Lake City Secondary School. This presentation is open to all community members—including parents, educators, support staff, and local leaders—who want to better understand the realities of human trafficking and online safety. Together, we can make a difference and help keep our kids safe. Thank you to the Child Development Center, the Foundry and LCSS for their partnership!

Gang Awareness Presentation: RCMP Cpl. Peers, Gang Awareness Coordinator from Surrey will be visiting Columneetza as well as some other Williams Lake schools to give a preventative presentation and question and answer period to students about gangs and gang awareness. The Gr.9s will be attending this presentation.

New Resources for Families Going Through Separation: The Health and Justice Alliance has created a new, free resource to support family well-being during parental separation. This toolkit contains six key messages, images, social media posts and newsletter text that are linked to practical actions and tangible resources on an updated, interactive website to help parents and children navigate this stressful time and foster resilience. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Creating a Substance Use Prevention Plan Webinar for Parents: The ministry, with Dr. Hayley Watson, adolescent clinical psychologist from Open Parachute, is hosting three, free virtual sessions for parents, guardians and caregivers on creating a personalized, step-by-step plan for implementing substance use prevention skills in their home.



RED DRESS DAY

Important Dates

- | | |
|--------|--|
| May 1 | Gr. 7 Assembly in D Blk
“The Fourth R”

Make Medicinal Ties in
the Foyer at Lunch |
| May 2 | Make Red Dress Pins in
the Foyer at Lunch |
| May 5 | National Day of
Awareness for Missing
and Murdered
Indigenous Women and
Girls and Two-Spirit
People.

Red handprint
facepainting in the
Foyer at Lunch |
| May 6 | Children of the Street
Assembly, Gr. 9 in C Blk;
Gr. 7/8 in D Blk |
| May 7 | Children of the Street
Parent/Community
Night – 6:30pm in the
LCSS Commons |
| May 8 | Gr. 8 & 9 Learning
Updates available on
My Education |
| May 15 | Moose Hide Campaign
Day |
| May 19 | Victoria Day STAT -No
School |
| May 22 | Gang Awareness
Assembly for Gr. 9s

Indigenous Role Model
Celebration at LCSS |
| May 28 | Welcome to Gr.7 BBQ
at Columneetza 5-7pm
for incoming Gr.6
students

Expo #8 Begins |

Participants are required to register in advance for one of the sessions on April 29, May 7 or May 8 from 6:00-7:30 pm PDT. This is for parents, guardians and caregivers of all ages. Email the Mental Health and Substance Use team at educ.mentalhealth@gov.bc.ca if you have any questions. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Safer Schools Online Family Sessions (May):

These sessions are designed to support families and caregivers in navigating the digital world. Click [HERE](#) to register for the last session on Zoom 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.

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.

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

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, May 26th 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 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

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 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
Columnneetza Indigenous Support Workers George Fraser Jordy Moise Katrina Wilde Youth Engagement Worker Courtney Mailhot	Counselling Team Jon Harding Tara Burtenshaw

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

[Columnneetza Code of Conduct](#)

UPDATED Facebook Page: “Columnneetza Junior Secondary School”



It is acknowledged that we live, work, and learn on the unceded, traditional territory of the Secwépemc people.