

# next week at colquitz

friday, january 16, 2026

## THIS WEEK'S REFLECTIONS

Hello Colquitz Families,

It's been a wonderfully busy week at Colquitz!

First, an announcement: **Leadership donated \$1000 to the Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver Island** with money was raised through candy gram sales in December. Thanks to Save on Foods at Tillicum and Blanchard as well as Shoppers Drug Mart on Gorge Road for their generous candy cane donations. **Way to go, Leadership! :)**

Tuesday morning, several students, their parents, Ms. Spies, Ms. James, and I went to drum with Saanich Municipal staff and police. Students and staff from Glanford were also there. It was a heartwarming event and a wonderful way to connect with our larger community. Many thanks to Kolette Cristante, VP of IED, for always leading the drum circle so beautifully.

Tuesday was also Lohri, and we celebrated with Mehreen and Nelish from Div 12 dancing for students in the gym. Lohri is midwinter folk and harvest festival celebrated by Hindus and Sikhs that marks the passing of the winter solstice and the end of winter. It is a traditional welcome of longer days and the sun's journey to the Northern Hemisphere.

Wednesday was Jersey Day. Thank you to all of the staff and students who always participate in our fun Spirit Days!

Thursday was Black Excellence Day. Thanks to those who supported, and we see it as the start of our planning for Black Heritage Month in February. We are working with students on activities for the month, including the assembly on February 2nd.

Tonight is our first annual Family Game Night at 5:30pm—we hope to see many of you there!

Have a wonderful (hopefully sunny!) weekend with your friends and family.

- Carrie Schlappner, Principal



## next week at a glance

Monday, Jan 19	• Indigenous Student Lunch
Tuesday, Jan 20	• PAC Meeting @6.30 pm
Wednesday, Jan 21	•
Thursday, Jan 22	•
Friday, Jan 23	•

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## upcoming important dates—mark your calendars!

Monday, Jan 26

**Pro D Day (No School Today)**

Tuesday, Jan 27

International Day of Commemoration of Honour the Victims of the Holocaust

Thursday, Jan 29

National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia

Friday, Jan 30

Grade 8's—Deadline for programs of Choice and Career program applications

Monday, Feb 2

Black Heritage Month Assembly

Friday, Feb 6

Indigenous Student Lunch

Monday, Feb 9

CPAPA Meeting @ 6.30pm

## Yearbooks are on sale now!

Yearbooks cost \$26.

To order your child a copy of the yearbook, please [click here](#).

- Yearbooks are delivered to students at the end of June



Reporting

Absences



Please email [colquitz@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:colquitz@sd61.bc.ca) AND your child's teacher if your child will be late or absent, or call the Attendance Line at 250-479-4313.

This is the best way to ensure we get the message and a call-out does not go out to you in error.

**Thank you**



## Pizza Update!

We are now offering a **gluten-free pizza option** for pizza day. The price per slice will still be \$4.00 but the slice size is slightly smaller than the regular.



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## SPORTS @ COLQUITZ

**Here is the schedule for Sports practices and games.  
Please check in with your students around information  
from coaches.**

Jan 19-23	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Before school	Girls $\frac{1}{2}$ Comp practice w Kiet 7:00am	<u>Grade 6 boys rec</u>		Girls $\frac{1}{2}$ Comp practice w Kiet 7:00am	$\frac{1}{2}$ girls Rec Practice 7:15am
Lunch practice		Lohri se-up	$\frac{1}{2}$ girls rec volleyball practice	Grade 6 Boys rec	Grade 6 girls volleyball
After school practice	Boys $\frac{1}{2}$ comp practice with Mr Robillard 3:00-5:00	Boys $\frac{1}{2}$ comp practice with Mr Robillard 3:00-5:00	Grade 6 girls volleyball	Boys $\frac{1}{2}$ comp practice with Mr Robillard 3:00-5:00	Swim Club
Competition			Girls Comp blue@ Rockheights Girls Comp White@ Glandford		

**Please email Christine Crljenkovic [ccrljenkovic@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ccrljenkovic@sd61.bc.ca) if you are interested.**



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## MUSIC UPDATE

### Tour Update:

There was a mandatory meeting on Wednesday, January 14th. Thank you to everyone who came out for your time! If your student is on tour and you were unable to attend the meeting, Ms. Forster will send you an email to set up a meeting time. The forms are available in person from Ms. Forster or on the google classroom for tour.

Tour Payment #2 is up online now and is due ASAP! Payments can also be made via cheque. Students' fundraising will be applied to payment 3, unless they had enough money to cover more than one full payment, which the money has been equally applied to payment 2 and 3.

#### Extra help/practice space is available:

Tuesday: Nut break

Wednesday: Nut break and lunch recess

Thursday: Nut break and lunch recess

### Schedule:

#### Tuesday:

7:40 am: BAND 7/8

8:54 am: Band 6 Green

9:36 am: Band 6 Orange

Lunch: Jazz Band (Please come right at lunch EATING time.)

#### Wednesday:

7:40 am: BAND 6 COMBINED

10:33 am: Band 7

11:15 am: Band 8

#### Thursday:

7:40 am: JAZZ BAND

8:54 am: Band 8

9:36 am: Band 6 Green

10:33 am: Band 7

11:15 am: Band 6 Orange

Reminder: If students do not have their instrument/ music, they are still expected to show up to class.

**Wednesday, February 25th:** Band 8 to Spectrum (Time to be confirmed, in the AM)

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## Musical Theatre



Musical Theatre Auditions continue this week with Solo Singing Auditions at lunch times and three more speaking audition opportunities after school on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Callbacks (by invitation for specific characters) will occur on Friday.

**Cast list up the following Monday (Jan 19) after school!**

## CPAPA News

Musical Theatre Parent/ Caregiver Information Night on:

**Monday January 26 at 6:30 PM in the Art Room.**

- ◆ Ms. Mackenzie will be available to answer questions about this year's production of the Lion King!
- ◆ This production is not possible without the support of our parent/caregiver community. If you have talents in:
  - Set design
  - Hair
  - Costumes
  - Makeup
  - Corralling small humans (aka shushing and keeping order backstage) or simply want to help out in any capacity, we want to hear from you!



CPAPA Monthly meeting on:

**Monday February 2 at 6:30 PM in the Art Room (In Person)**

<https://meet.google.com/jvs-njts-ihc> **(Virtual)**

- Come and find out what exciting plans we have for the winter and spring term
- We are looking for parents and caregivers to join and prepare to carry CPAPA through the 2026-27 school year! Help keep the performing arts alive at Colquitz!

Drop us a line at [cpapainfo@gmail.com](mailto:cpapainfo@gmail.com) if you are interested

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## FamilySmart

Together-Centred

[Get to know the FamilySmart team](#)



[Find Support Here](#)

Help  
for  
the  
Hard  
Times

[Support for Your Family  
After a Mental Health Crisis](#)

[Join Us Online](#)

Connect and Learn  
Online Events for Parents and Caregivers

If you are a parent or caregiver who would like to know more about crisis support and safety at home, but your child has not had an emergency room or inpatient experience, we can still help! We created this video for you: [Supporting Safety At Home When Your Child Has A Mental Health Crisis](#)

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**PEARKES YOUTH CENTRE (FLIPSIDE)**  
**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**Jan-May 2026**

**Monday**

After School Drop-in 3:30-5:30PM (FREE)  
Girls on the Go - Girls Group 6:00 - 8:00 PM (FREE)

**Tuesday**

After School Drop-in 3:30-5:30PM (FREE)  
Magic: The Gathering Club 6:00 - 8:00 PM (FREE)

**Wednesday**

After School Drop-in 3:15-5:15PM (FREE)  
Pearkes Youth Art Hive 6:30 - 8:30 PM (FREE)

**Thursday**

Homeschool Social Drop-in 12:00 - 2:00 PM (FREE)  
After School Drop-in 3:15-5:15PM (FREE)  
2SLGBTQIA+ Dinner + Social Drop-in 6:00-8:00PM (FREE)

**Friday**

After School Drop-in 3:15-5:15PM (FREE)  
Flipside Fridays (Jan-Mar) 4:00-7:00PM (\$30)  
Teen 2 Chef (Apr-May) 5:00-7:30PM (\$15)

**Saturday**

BIRTHDAY PARTY RENTALS  
11:00AM - 1:00PM  
OR  
2:00-4:00PM  
\$170

**SCAN TO REGISTER**

**Program Info**

\*Closed on STAT Holidays and some Pro-D days\*  
All programs are free or low cost for the community

Drop-in Programs include snack  
Registered Program

**HOW TO REGISTER:**

1. Online via [Saanich RecOnline](#) site, through the above QR code, or through this direct [LINK](#)
2. Phone: 250-475-5462
3. In person at G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre Reception

G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre  
3100 Tillicum Road Victoria, BC V9A 6T2, 250-475-5400

The Youth Centre entrance is located beside the 5 minute loading zone parking at the front of the building\*

A vibrant, colorful poster for a youth event. At the top left is the Saanich logo. To the right, the text "SAANICH YOUTH SERVICES" is in yellow, and "2SLGBTQIA+ DINNER + SOCIAL" is in large, stylized blue and white letters. Below this, a pink banner on the left says "Ages 11 - 17". The center text provides details: "FLIPSIDE YOUTH CENTRE @ PEARKES REC CENTER", "THURSDAYS 6:00 - 8:00PM", and "DINNER INCLUDED, DROP IN OR REGISTER ONLINE". To the right, a blue speech bubble says "CLICK TO SIGN UP". The bottom half features a diverse group of young people of various ethnicities, gender expressions, and orientations, some holding flags. A QR code is in the bottom right corner.

A flyer for the Literacy Family Forum. At the top is the VCPAC logo, which is a stylized 'V' and 'A' in green and blue with a yellow sun-like circle in the center. Below the logo is the title 'LITERACY FAMILY FORUM' in large green letters, with 'PRESENTED BY VCPAC' in smaller letters underneath. To the left of the title is a graphic of an open book with colorful letters spelling out 'LITERACY' and 'FAMILY'. The main text reads: 'Join us for an inspiring evening dedicated to building stronger literacy foundations in our community. Hear from educators, connect with local families, and discover practical ways to support your child's learning journey.' Below this is a 'FEATURED SPEAKERS' section with names and titles: Dr. Shelby Pollitt (Literacy Coordinator, Sooke School District), David Hovis (Director of Instruction, Learning & Inclusion, School District #61), and Breanna Glover (District Literacy Teacher, School District #61). The bottom half of the flyer features a list of bullet points for attendees, a QR code, and a 'SIGN UP' button with a link. The background has a decorative border of spiral notebook rings on the left and a stack of books on the right.

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## HIGHWAY 1 COLQUITZ BRIDGES PROJECT INFORMATION & UPDATES

January 9, 2026



### PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Highway 1-Colquitz River Bridges Widening project will widen and seismically retrofit both existing two-lane bridges over Burnside Road on Highway 1 in Victoria, as well as establish a dedicated bus-on-shoulder lane. Widening the Colquitz River bridges will make for a more reliable, efficient commute for south Islanders while protecting local waterways and ecosystems. The Project will provide environmental enhancements by planting native trees, removing invasive species and treating highway runoff via a rain garden before discharging into the Colquitz River. Pomerleau Inc was awarded the construction contract in March 2024 for the project.

### PROJECT UPDATES

Construction activity continued throughout December with consistent progress. Crews focused on work at the South Colquitz Bridge, including site cleanup, preparation of the north deck extension, and concrete work on the bridge structure. Concrete placement and curing were completed for wingwall improvements. Traffic management and lane closures remained in place throughout the month to support safe construction activities.

### 1 MONTH LOOKAHEAD

The following construction activities are anticipated to begin/continue over the next month:

- Continued deck extension work on the South Bridge, including installation of formwork and reinforcement.
- Continued approach slab work on the South Bridge, including rebar installation, concrete placement and curing.
- Ongoing lane closures and traffic control along Highway 1 and Burnside Road West to support construction activities.

### PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Environmental protection measures remained in place throughout December, with regular monitoring continuing along the Colquitz River. A third-party environmental audit was completed on December 18, 2025 and included in-stream water-quality checks upstream, downstream, and adjacent to the Project area. Results showed no signs of elevated turbidity beyond natural background levels, with measured conditions consistent across all monitoring locations. The Project continues to meet turbidity requirements, and construction activities have not affected river water quality.

Rain garden construction below the South Colquitz Bridge (Figure 1) was completed in December, including placement of growing medium and planting. In addition, stormwater infrastructure installed throughout the Project (Figure 2) helps manage drainage by safely collecting and directing roadway runoff into the treatment system, improving overall water management in the area.



Figure 1: Rain garden completed below the South Colquitz Bridge to support stormwater management.

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## HIGHWAY 1 COLQUITZ BRIDGES PROJECT INFORMATION & UPDATES

January 9, 2026



Figure 2: Stormwater drainage system along the east median, looking west.



Figure 3: Completed access stairs connecting the Galloping Goose Regional Trail to the future bus stop area.



Figure 4: Crews installing rebar for the north deck extension of the South Colquitz Bridge.



Figure 5: Bridge Excavation Fill (BEF) material placement and compaction at the west approach slab of the South Colquitz Bridge.

For more information about this project, please contact:  
Mike Boissoineault, Project Manager, MOTT - 778-974-2632  
Krista Englund, Regional Manager of Environmental Services, MOTT