

next week at colquitz

friday, february 20, 2026

THIS WEEK'S REFLECTIONS

Hello Colquitz Families,

We trust everyone had an enjoyable Family Day extra-long weekend. It was a short and busy week at Colquitz!

Tuesday was the start of Ramadan and the Lunar New Year.

For Muslim families, please know that we have offered the use of the Library as an alternate place for students who are fasting so that they do not need to be around classmates who are eating. If your child did not hear that announcement, please let them know.

To celebrate the Lunar New Year, the Culture Club handed out fortune cookies and Lunar New Year napkins to all staff and students. Parents Lili He and Xiulong Duan came and made traditional dumplings with Ms. Cumming and Divisions 21 and 23 as well as members of our Culture Club. Many students had never tried them before, and said how delicious they were. It was a wonderful way for culture to come alive and to celebrate the Spring Festival together.

If you as a parent have ideas for any cultural celebrations or events that you would like to support us with, please email me anytime. We value and appreciate your support and ideas in helping to highlight and honor the diverse cultures of Colquitz.

On Thursday, Ms. Spies, Ms. James and Ms. Durden accompanied our Lahal team to the district-wide tournament at Spectrum. They had tons of fun!



On Friday, we had an impromptu "Go, Canada, GO!" Day in celebration of our Olympic athletes. It was wonderful to see so much red and white! Ms. Drouin and I also took the opportunity to do a staff appreciation "Bubbly Cart" and spread a little cheer.

Some important upcoming dates to be aware of include Curriculum Completion Day Monday, February 23rd, (early dismissal at 11:35 for those who do not need to stay), Pink shirt Day Wednesday February 25th, and Grade 9 Course Selection with Spectrum on Wednesday, March 4th. Please note that if your child is going to high school other than Spectrum, you should connect directly with them around course selection.

Please note that Term 2 is coming to a close, so it is especially important for your children to hand in any late or missing assignments as soon as possible (which is partly the purpose of CC Day). If you have any questions about what your child may need to do, please contact their teachers directly. You should have received a letter or email regarding CC Day from your child's teacher already.

Enjoy the weekend with your friends and family,
- Carrie Schlappner, Principal



next week at a glance

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Monday, Feb 23 | • CC Day #2 (Early Dismissal @ 11.45 am) |
| Tuesday, Feb 24 | • |
| Wednesday, Feb 25 | • <i>Shivratri</i>
• Pink Shirt Day |
| Thursday, Feb 26 | • |
| Friday, Feb 27 | • |

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upcoming important dates—*mark your calendars!*

Saturday, Feb 28	Ramadan Begins
Monday, March 2	CPAPA meeting @6.30 pm
Wednesday, March 4	Cycle 2 Theatre Pull-out ends Spectrum course selection
Friday, March 6	Spirit Day: Dress like a teacher/student day Treat Sale
Monday, March 9	Fire drill @ 9am Indigenous Student Lunch
Wednesday, March 11	Spring concert @1.15 pm Spring concert @7 pm

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

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 pizza.



Reporting

Absences



Please email 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

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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.

Colquitz Winter Sports

Feb 23-- Feb 27	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Before school	Girls 7 th Comp practice w Kiet and Mark 7:00am			Girls 7 th Comp practice w Kiet and Mark 7:00am	7 th girls Rec Practice 715am
Lunch practice			7 th girls rec volleyball practice	Grade 6 Boys rec	Grade 6 girls volleyball
After school practice		Boys 7 th practice with Mr Robillard 3:00-5:00		Boys 7 th comp practice with Mr Robillard 3:00-5:00	Swim Club
Competition	Boys 7 th Comp game @Home		Playoffs: 7 th girls comp blue @ Journey Girls 7 th Rec @ Selkirk		



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MUSIC UPDATE

Tour Update:

There will be a **MANDATORY** meeting for parents and guardians on **Wednesday, April 1st 2026 at 6:30pm in the drama room. At least one parent/guardian per student must attend this meeting.**

Please bring \$2.00 to this meeting as a contribution for a thank you gift for our bus drivers!

The rooming and lunch selection form has been posted on the tour google classroom. If your student needs a paper copy, let Ms. Forster know.

They need to be submitted by March 3rd.

Tour payment 3 is up! It will remain open until spring break begins, but please pay it as soon as possible.

There will be a **MANDATORY** meeting for **students** joining us on tour on Wednesday, April 1st at lunch **eating** time (11:57am) in the **BAND ROOM.**

Term Check-In #2

Students have 2 exercises in the book for their check-in. They must complete both exercises to finish their check-in!

Students who have not completed their term check-in by Monday, February 23rd will be held for CC day on that day. Emails were sent by Ms. Forster today, Thursday, February 19th to request students to stay.

Students may retest their check-ins until Thursday, February 26. They may resubmit a video or

come in during a break to resubmit. The best combination of attempts will be taken!

Schedule: Changes to Wednesday and Thursday

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 (All instruments, both pods) (Students will be let out at 8:20 am, as Ms. Forster has to go to Spectrum)

10:33 am: Band 7

11:15 am: Band 8 **CANCELLED.** Students will spend their band block with their advisory teachers, they will do lots of playing at Spectrum!

Thursday:

7:40 am: JAZZ BAND CANCELLED. Students in choir 7/8 must go to choir.

8:54 am: Band 8

9:36 am: Band 6 Green

10:33 am: Band 7

11:15 am: Band 6 Orange

11:57 am: JAZZ BAND AT LUNCH. To make up Thursday morning rehearsal.

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

MUSICAL THEATRE

Hyenas have a rehearsal on Sunday
at 1pm to 4pm

REHEARSAL

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Craft Night for the Musical

Craft Night – A Huge Success!

Next craft night is Monday, Feb 23 @ 6:30pm in the art room

There are lots of ways to help and projects to continue with from the previous craft night

If you have an extra glue gun and extension cord, or any other items you like to use, bring it along



Rehearsal Info

Looking for information on when rehearsals are taking place? Here are some places to check

- Weebly (website): Updated every Saturday with a weekly overview

Link: <https://colquitzfinearts.weebly.com/>

- Google classroom: key information is posted for students - please remind them to check it out!

PAC UPDATE

PAC minutes from the January meeting are available on the CMS website. Click [here](#) to stay informed and review the latest updates.

As a reminder, Spring Break is coming up and there will be no PAC meeting in March. Our next meeting will be held on April 21 at 6:30 in the library.



There is still time to volunteer for a PAC Executive role. These positions are essential and the list of available roles can be found on the same webpage as the meeting minutes.

A PAC Executive is crucial and required in order to apply for and receive the Gaming Grant, which is the primary source of PAC funding. These funds directly support the many valuable opportunities available to our students. As we look ahead, new volunteers will be essential to ensure the continued success of the PAC and its ability to support the school. Please keep this in mind and watch for information about PAC elections taking place in the spring.

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VCPAC SAFETY TOWNHALL

FEBRUARY 26, 2026

ON-SITE CHILDMINDING AVAILABLE!
PIZZA & GAMES FOR THE KIDS.

CREATING SAFE & CONNECTED SCHOOLS

- K-12 Safety Framework
- Data and Trauma-Informed Practices
- Shared Responsibility among Partners

COME SHARE YOUR STORIES & ASK QUESTIONS!

SPEAKERS

- DEB WHITTEN, SD61 Superintendent
- SEAN POWELL, SD61 Associate Superintendent
- GEOFF JOHNSON, Former Superintendent
- CHRIS CLARKE, GVTA Health and Safety Officer

Feb 26, 2026
6:30-8:30PM

ESQUIMALT HIGH
847 Colville Rd.

FREE TO REGISTER

<https://forms.gle/z3zU9VA64ZAWqz7RB>



VCPAC Safety Town Hall

- ◆ Thursday, February 26th, 6:30pm-8:30pm at Esquimalt High
- ◆ Onsite childminding with pizza & games available for kids
- ◆ Come hear about SD61's safety plan and ask questions directly to the district
- ◆ Speakers include Deb Whitten (Superintendent), Sean Powell (Associate Superintendent), Geoff Johnson (Former Superintendent) and Chris Clarke (GVTA Health & Safety Officer)

To sign up go: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/>

Student Safety Cheat Sheet: A Guide for Parents



Middle School (Grades 6-8)

- **Digital Footprint:** Remind students that nothing is truly "deleted" online. Set a "device-free" bedroom rule at night to ensure rest and safety.
- **Social Media Privacy:** Regularly review privacy settings on apps like TikTok or Instagram. Turn off "Location Services" (geo-tagging) for camera and social apps.
- **Bullying:** Watch for withdrawal or sudden changes in school interest. Empower them to use the ERASE anonymous reporting tool if they witness or experience harassment.
- **Communication:** Have a secret family "code word" they can text if they need to be picked up from a situation where they feel uncomfortable.

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⇒ **For Families: A Conversation About Eating Disorders**

Knowing how to help our kids who are experiencing an eating disorder can be a terrifying, isolating and overwhelming experience. Learn about disordered eating, what to be aware of, the importance of connection, and strategies that help support recovery.

Join us as Victoria Keddiss hosts a conversation with Eating Disorders Therapist & Educator Carmen Kaufmann, and Rylee McKinlay, a young person with lived experience, and Terri McKinlay, a parent with lived experience.

Time & Dates:

Thurs. Feb. 26 at 6:30 pm

Watch Now: <https://youtu.be/KMvvWz89YE8?si=yLhmfxrJOc73Y7B8>

⇒ **Mental Health and Preparing for the Transition to Post Secondary:**

After high school, post-secondary education for our youth can be exciting but also stressful if they have struggled with their mental health. You're not alone. Discover some ways we can prepare our youth for school, and support their mental health and independence while they are at school. Join us to listen to this video conversation featuring Dawn Schell from the University of Victoria, Melissa Feddersen from the University of British Columbia Okanagan and Victoria Keddiss, a parent with lived experience; as they discuss strategies and points to consider as your youth embarks on this transition.

Time & Dates:

Tues. Feb. 24 at 6:30 pm

Watch Now: <https://youtu.be/iaq3ho9X0FE?si=T1oCfYt214oyU0Ye>



Register online at
familysmart.ca/events



FamilySmart
Together-Centred

Register: <https://familysmart.ca/online-events/>

Meaning of Home

Division 6 students joined classrooms across Canada participating in the Meaning of Home writing contest. This contest asks students to explain what home means to them in a short poem or essay, and for each contest entry a donation is made to Habitat for Humanity.

Because of their participation, students in Division 6 have generated a \$140.00 donation for Habitat for Humanity in Victoria!



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Announcing a new fundraiser:

"THE CARD PROJECT" is coming to our school!

"The Card Project" is an art-based fundraiser. The children are working on a special art project that can be professionally printed on a range of beautiful, quality products.

Every child will receive a free greeting card that showcases their own art.

Orders open Monday, February 23



Your child's artwork will be online at www.TheCardProject.ca

Our school's access code is CQ37

The deadline for orders is **Sunday, March 8** with delivery in the week of March 30 - April 3.

This is a wonderful fundraising initiative for our school. We receive 20% of the sales.

Questions? Contact Marcelle at Marcelle@TheCardProject.ca



Victoria Women's
Transition House

Spring Break Camp

9:30am - 3pm | **MARCH 16TH - 20TH** | for female identifying youth ages 11-13

LEARN ABOUT HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS, SELF-CARE, BOUNDARIES, SELF COMPASSION AND MORE

CAMP IS FREE AND WILL INCLUDE SNACKS/LUNCHES

WE WILL BE BUILDING SKILLS AND LEARNING THROUGH CONVERSATIONS, ART, AND FUN OUTINGS

OUTINGS INCLUDE MANICURES, JEWELRY MAKING, POTTERY PAINTING AND MORE

To inquire or register email: hayleew@vwth.bc.ca or call/text 250 216 1228



PEARKE'S YOUTH CENTRE (FLIPSIDE)

WEEKLY CALENDER

10-17yrs

Jan-May 2026

<p>Monday</p> <p>After School Drop-in 3:30-5:30PM (FREE)</p> <p>Girls on the Go - Girls Group 6:00 - 8:00 PM (FREE)</p>	<p>Tuesday</p> <p>After School Drop-in 3:30-5:30PM (FREE)</p> <p>Magic: The Gathering Club 6:00 - 8:00 PM (FREE)</p>	<p>Wednesday</p> <p>After School Drop-in 3:15-5:15PM (FREE)</p> <p>Pearkes Youth Art Hive 6:30 - 8:30 PM (FREE)</p>	<p>Thursday</p> <p>Homeschool Social Drop-in 12:00 - 2:00 PM (FREE)</p> <p>After School Drop-in 3:15-5:15PM (FREE)</p> <p>2SLGBTQIA+ Dinner + Social Drop-in 6:00-8:00PM (FREE)</p>
<p>Friday</p> <p>After School Drop-in 3:15-5:15PM (FREE)</p> <p>Flipside Fridays (Jan-Mar) 4:00-7:00PM (\$30)</p> <p>Teen 2 Chef (Apr-May) 5:00-7:30PM (\$15)</p>	<p>Saturday</p> <p>BIRTHDAY PARTY RENTALS 11:00AM - 1:00PM OR 2:00-4:00PM \$170</p>	<p>SCAN TO REGISTER</p> 	

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

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



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