

# next week at colquitz

friday, march 13, 2026

## THIS WEEK'S REFLECTIONS

Hello Colquitz Families,

It has been a wonderful last week before Spring Break here at Colquitz!

On Monday, we had our Indigenous Student Lunch with John Harris, the District Elders & Indigenous Knowledge Facilitator. He cooked fish soup and made salmon sandwiches with students, then they went for a walk to the Colquitz River and did some learning there.

Wednesday was our Spring Concert. As many of you already know, nature threw us a curveball and we ended up with a "candlelight concert" when the power went out! Many thanks to parents who stepped in to help light the way with flashlights on their phones and from their cars. It turned into a magical evening. We also want to thank Tillicum students, parents and music teacher Mr. Lienard for their participation with our choir. It made for a fabulous night!

Thursday, our Youth and Family Counselor, Melody Kassiri, organized a beautiful, engaging and fun Nowruz (Persian New Year) celebration for the school. She, her mother, and son did a Nowruz display and classes learned about the traditions associated with it, including jumping over the (pretend) fire. This symbolizes leaving the bad energy of the past year behind and embracing positive energy in the new year. Everyone enjoyed this, and of course, the treats. ;)

On Friday, many classes went on field trips, and grade 7s had a Board Game Café in the gym.

This is a reminder that we now share Learning Updates (report cards) online through the Parent Connect Portal. **You can access the Term 2 LU's TODAY, March 13th at 3pm.** Please see Sam Bender's email for more details.

Enjoy Spring Break with your friends and family,  
- Carrie Schlappner, Principal



## next week at a glance

- Monday, March 16 •
- Tuesday, March 17 •
- Wednesday, March 18 •
- Thursday, March 19 •
- Friday, March 20 •

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## upcoming important dates—*mark your calendars!*

<b>Saturday, March 14-29</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
<b>Monday, March 30</b>	<b>School Re-opens</b>
Tuesday, March 31	Int'l Transgender Day of Visibility
Wednesday, April 1	April Fool's Day
Thursday, April 2	World Autism Awareness Day
Friday, April 3	Good Friday
Monday, April 6	Easter Monday
Tuesday, April 7	World Health Day
Monday, April 13	CPAPA Meeting @ 6.30pm
Tuesday, April 14	Vaisakhi/Baisakhi

## 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***

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## Craft Night –

### Date Change



Due to the Greater Victoria Special Budget Meeting on Monday, March 30, **Craft Night has been rescheduled** to Tuesday, March 31 at 6:30 p.m. in the art room.

Come get creative and have some fun! If you'd like to join or have any questions about volunteering for the musical,

please email  
[SerenaBirkSamra@gmail.com](mailto:SerenaBirkSamra@gmail.com).

## 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.**

## Volleyball Clinic

### Opportunity – March 21

Former student and her VVA U17 volleyball team are hosting a Spring Break volleyball clinic as a team fundraiser on March 21. The session will be led by the team's coaches and is open to girls in Grades 6–9 who are interested in building their skills and having fun on the court.



Registration link: <https://vballcamp.rsvpify.com/>



### Junior Youth Empowerment Spring Break Camp



March 23-27<sup>th</sup> 9am - 4pm



Tillicum Community Empowerment Centre (306 Burnside Rd W #103)



- Discussion, Arts & Sports
- Field Trip, Service project
- Community Gathering



[Press here for Registration Link](#)



Contact [victoria@junioryouth.ca](mailto:victoria@junioryouth.ca) for any questions

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## MUSIC UPDATE

**THANK YOU** to everyone who was at the concert Thursday evening. I was so impressed by how well the students handled the power outage and the concert continuing. It was a first for me as a teacher! Thank you to everyone who volunteered at the bake sale, it looked amazing!

Thank you to everyone who got up on chairs and risers to shine light on their music before I could ask! Band 7/8 set a great tone, and played very well, and Sr. Choir, Jazz band and Mass choir continued! Thank you to the jazz band students for advocating for yourselves to play after the power went out! I am also very appreciative of Ms. Schlappner and Ms. Drouin for their support as well!

If you have photos and videos from the concert, PLEASE send them to Ms. Forster! Email [kforster@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:kforster@sd61.bc.ca) or [kforster@sd61learn.ca](mailto:kforster@sd61learn.ca).

### Tour Update:

- 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.
- 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!
- We will provide a packing list at the April 1st meeting, but please make sure your student has ALL BLACK pants, shoes, and socks (or knee length skirt and tights). No white or coloured stripes or spots, etc. Please make sure they have a waterproof jacket that fits; we will not spend a lot of time outside, but Port Alberni has a lot of rain year-round.

### Extra help/practice space is available:

Tuesday: Nut break

Wednesday: Nut break and lunch recess

Thursday: Nut break and lunch recess (for practice only)

**Practice Records:** There will not be any practice records posted during Spring break! The next one will be up the day before school resumes. Students are encouraged to practice and start working on their new music, if they would like!

### Schedule:

For March 30-April 2

#### Tuesday:

**7:40 am: TOUR BAND** (if your student is not joining us on tour, they do not need to attend)

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)

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



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## CPAPA Update

### Calling All Colquitz Performing Arts Parents and Caregivers!

The Colquitz Performing Arts Parents Association (CPAPA) is hosting a Volunteer Info Night—and everyone's invited!

Come learn how to get involved with the performing arts program, meet other amazing parents, and discover how you can help make the magic happen behind the scenes. Whether you're interested in joining the executive team or just lending a hand at events, there's a place for everyone!

This is a huge opportunity to shape the future of parent involvement in CPAPA and help build a strong, creative community that supports our talented student performers.

What's Happening:

- Treats and refreshments
  - A quick, casual info session about volunteer roles
- Great company and creative conversation

#### Event Details

Date: Monday April 20, 2026

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Arts Room



Bring your enthusiasm (and your appetite) and find out how to support the talented student performers of Colquitz.

Come for the treats—stay for the teamwork and the chance to make a lasting impact on the future of the Arts programs at Colquitz!

Please stay tuned to the Colquitz PAC Facebook page for more upcoming opportunities for parents to support our teachers and students in keeping Colquitz Performing Arts programs alive and thriving!

## SPECTRUM VOLLEYBALL

Our in-house league is a great chance for Glanford and Colquitz students to build confidence and grow their volleyball skills. It also creates meaningful leadership opportunities for our Spectrum students—many of whom are former Glanford/Colquitz kids—bringing things full circle.

### REGISTRATION LINK:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfwR6uqqVemAkQzFQ2Pl5FxfjBAchxO0Vz2AVIT\\_amSH5FISYA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfwR6uqqVemAkQzFQ2Pl5FxfjBAchxO0Vz2AVIT_amSH5FISYA/viewform)

HOSTED BY SPECTRUM VOLLEYBALL PROGRAM FOR GIRLS AT COLQUITZ & GLANFORD MIDDLE SCHOOLS GRADES 6 - 8

Thunder  
SPECTRUM  
VOLLEYBALL  
IN-HOUSE LEAGUE

INCLUDES T-SHIRT + MEDALS

APRIL 8 - MAY 6

EVERY WEDNESDAY 5:00-7:00PM

TO REGISTER - SCAN THE QR CODE, FILL OUT THE GOOGLE FORM & PAY THROUGH SCHOOLCASHONLINE LINK

\$150 + FEES  
LIMIT OF 48  
PARTICIPANTS

www.thunderathletics.ca

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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.**

Mar30-Apr 2	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Before school				-Badminton practice	GOOD FRIDAY
Lunch practice		Intramural Badminton Field Hockey Practice (Outside Library Field)	Field Hockey Practice (Gym)	Intramural badminton	
After school practice		Badminton practice	Rugby practice until 4PM library field	-Rugby practice until 4PM library field	
Competition					

**Please email Christine Crljenkovic [ccrljenkovic@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:ccrljenkovic@sd61.bc.ca)  
if you have any questions**



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## Parenting When Anxiety Shows Up As Anger

Anxiety in our kids can show up as anger, and that can make parenting extra challenging. Learn from Karen Peters, Registered Clinical Counsellor, to discover some strategies that can help us before, during, and after these hard moments.

### Dates & Times:

Wednesday March 11th 12:00 pm

Wednesday March 25th 6:30 pm

Tuesday March 31st 6:30 pm

To Register: <https://familysmart.ca/monthly-events/>

Watch Anytime: <https://youtu.be/Sk7b45uMxn0?si=vT2AyfMol4vpGPEW>

'intheknow'  
Online Events

## Connect & Learn

Online Events for Parents & Caregivers

Every month, we host events for parents and caregivers of a child or youth with a mental health and/or substance use challenge.

Join us to watch a video and share experiences and strategies that help in the hard moments, focusing on strengthening our understanding and connection with our kids.

### Parenting When Anxiety Shows Up As Anger

Anxiety in our kids can show up as anger, and that can make parenting extra challenging. Learn from Karen Peters, Registered Clinical Counsellor, to discover some strategies that can help us before, during, and after these hard moments.

Join us and other families for this video presentation and discussion that's facilitated by a FamilySmart Parent Peer Support Worker.

- COST: Free
- DATES:

Times are in Pacific Time (most of B.C.)

- o Wednesday March 11, 12pm
- o Wednesday, March 25, 6:30pm
- o Tuesday, March 31, 6:30pm



Register online at  
[familysmart.ca/events](https://familysmart.ca/events)



## Spring Break Camp

Victoria Women's  
Transition House

9:30am  
-3pm

MARCH  
16<sup>TH</sup> - 20<sup>TH</sup>

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](mailto:hayleew@vwth.bc.ca)  
or call/text 250 216 1228



PARKS, RECREATION  
COMMUNITY SERVICES

## PEARKES YOUTH CENTRE (FLIPSIDE)

### WEEKLY CALENDER

10-17yrs

Jan-May 2026

### Monday

After School Drop-in  
3:30-5:30PM (FREE)

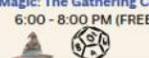
Girls on the Go - Girls Group  
6:00 - 8:00 PM (FREE)



### Tuesday

After School Drop-in  
3:30-5:30PM (FREE)

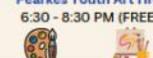
Magic: The Gathering Club  
6:00 - 8:00 PM (FREE)



### Wednesday

After School Drop-in  
3:15-5:15PM (FREE)

Pearkes Youth Art Hive  
6:30 - 8:30 PM (FREE)

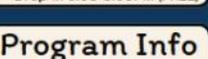


### Thursday

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)

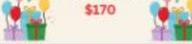
Teen 2 Chef (Apr-May)  
5:00-7:30PM (\$15)



### 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](https://saanichrec.ca) 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\*

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## HIGHWAY 1 COLQUITZ BRIDGES PROJECT INFORMATION & UPDATES March 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-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

February construction focused on bridge rehabilitation and maintaining safe traffic flow through the corridor. Traffic management and lane shifts remained in place to support ongoing works, along with continued environmental protection and site cleanup. On the South Bridge, crews advanced north parapet rehabilitation, including surface repairs, installation of reinforcement, and concrete placement and curing. Crews removed one of the North Bridge support structures and reinstated the nearby pathway slope.

### 1 MONTH LOOKAHEAD

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

- Replacing temporary concrete barriers along the east side of roadway and continuing sign installation
- Starting drainage fixes along roadway
- Pouring and finishing concrete for the sidewalk and the Burnside Road East curb and gutter
- South Bridge: removing temporary coverings and heaters, taking down formwork, continuing concrete curing, and setting up equipment for upcoming bridge deck work
- Grading within the median area in preparation for tree planting

### PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Environmental protection measures remained in place throughout February, with ongoing monitoring along the Colquitz River. A third-party environmental audit was completed on February 20, 2026 and included in-stream water quality monitoring upstream, downstream, and adjacent to the Project area. Monitoring results confirmed the Project continues to meet turbidity requirements, and construction activities have not affected river water quality.

The Ministry has retained the Peninsula Streams Society (PSS) to complete restoration planting and enhancement works within the Colquitz River aquatic and riparian areas. The riparian enhancements provide critical habitat improvement, enhance water quality, and support long-term stream resilience. Planned works include removal of invasive species, replanting with native vegetation, construction of two boulder riffles and two pools, and placement of spawning gravels. This work is scheduled to begin this Spring and will continue through the Fall of 2026.



Figure 1: Looking north across the newly planted rain garden.

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## HIGHWAY 1 COLQUITZ BRIDGES PROJECT INFORMATION & UPDATES March 9, 2026



Figure 2: Water quality monitoring location, looking downstream.



Figure 3: Dismantling of old bridge support, looking Northeast.



Figure 4: Dismantling of scaffolding prior to old bridge support removal, looking southeast.



Figure 5: North-facing view after bridge support removal and pathway slope reinstatement.

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