

next week at colquitz

friday, sept 18, 2026

THIS WEEK'S REFLECTIONS

Hello Colquitz families,

It's been a wonderful week of settling in and sunshine at Colquitz!

We hope all families can join us this coming Thursday. September 24th between 6-7pm for a BBQ and Open House. The purpose is to introduce yourself to staff and put faces to names through a fun, community-centered event. If you would like to speak with staff in more detail about your child, please email to set up another time to meet.

At the Open House, students can take their families on a tour of the building and grounds, enjoy FREE CORN and you can buy a dinner of hot dogs or burgers if you wish. See more information on page 3 of this newsletter. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Some of you may be aware that Jane Spies, who has taught grade 7 at Colquitz for many years, is now our teacher-librarian! She is making efforts to decolonize the library and make it a more dynamic learning commons with inviting seating and engaging activities. Enjoy these photos of students in the re-designed space.

Ms Spies would like to do even more with the space, and Thursday's BBQ & Open House is in part a fundraiser for that. We are also raising funds to install an A/V/sound system in our gym.

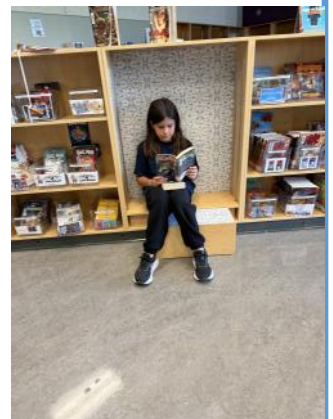
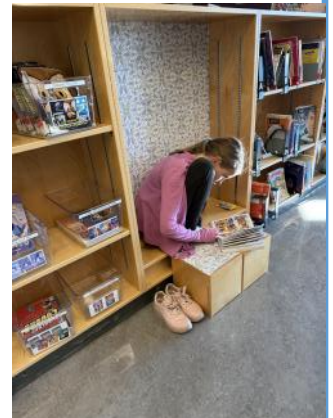
Also, just a reminder that Monday is a ProD day, and therefore, no school for students. This coming Thursday is also PHOTO DAY as well – prepare those favourite outfits now!

Along safety lines, please note the ongoing construction on Burnside Road, and please encourage your children to walk on the other side of Burnside (Tillicum mall side) until they can cross safely at a crosswalk close to the school.

Hope to see you Thursday at our Open House!

Have a wonderful weekend with your friends and family.

- Carrie Schlappner, Principal



next week at a glance

Monday, Sept 21

- **Pro D Day (NO SCHOOL)**
- *International Day of Peace*

Tuesday, Sept 22

- Spirit Day - Spirit Wear / Blue, white and black

Wednesday, Sept 23

- *International Day of Sign Languages*
- *Bi Visibility Day*

Thursday, Sept 24

- Photo Day
- Family Open House 6-7pm—Barbeque! (more details to come!)

Friday, Sept 25

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upcoming important dates—mark your calendars!

Monday, Sept 28	PAC Meeting @ 6.30pm
Monday, Sept 28	Orange Shirt WEEK —please wear orange every day this week, especially Monday and Tuesday. Our assembly will be MONDAY.
Wednesday, Sept 30	National Day for Truth & Reconciliation Orange Shirt Day
Monday, Oct 05	International Teacher's Day Indigenous Student Lunch CPAPA meeting @6.30 pm
Monday, Oct 12	Thanksgiving (NO SCHOOL)
Thursday, Oct 15	Great Shake Out
Monday, Oct 19	PAC Meeting @6.30pm
Thursday, Oct 22	Photo Retakes

NO PARKING OR STOPPING IN STAFF PARKING LOT

The Staff Parking Lot is for staff only.

This is especially important in the mornings, when staff are counting on being able to park to be to work on time or carry in heavy loads.

Please **DO NOT** use our parking lot and stalls as a place to stop to drop off students. This is what the pull-outs on Dumeresq are for. Or, better yet, please have your child scooter, bike or walk to school, or drop them off a block or two away to reduce congestion around the school.

We appreciate your consideration.

SUBWAY/PIZZA LUNCHES

We are pleased to offer Subway and pizza as a lunch option to order on Wednesdays and Thursdays respectively.

If you are interested, **order through School Cash Online**. The **weekly deadline** to place orders for the upcoming week is **Sunday at noon**. We are unable to accept any orders after this deadline.

Please note that there are **no refunds** for unclaimed pizza or Sub-way. Parents – you can arrange to pick up your order the same day or transfer it to another student if you inform us by 11am on Tuesdays and Thursdays at colquitz@sd61.bc.ca or call 250-479-1678.



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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Family Open House and BBQ Fundraiser on Thursday, September 24th from 6-7pm

Please join us for a BBQ Open House Fundraiser on Thursday, September 24th from 6-7pm here at Colquitz! Staff will be here to welcome you, and your children can take you on a tour of the school to show you where the magic happens!



In addition to a food truck where you can purchase dinner or snacks, we also will have FREE corn to enjoy.

Please feel free to bring a camping chair or blanket as well!

Proceeds from food sales will be a fundraiser for an A/V and sound system in our gym and to support decolonizing our school library.

If you would like to enjoy a BBQ dinner, please see the prices below. There is no pre-ordering needed. They accept cash, credit card and debit card.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Food Menu

SPECIALS	Price
Includes chips & drink	
Hotdog	\$6.50
Burger	\$7.50
Cheeseburger	\$8.00
Veggie Burger	\$8.50
REGULAR	
Hotdog	\$4.00
Burger	\$5.00
Cheeseburger	\$5.50
Veggie Burger	\$6.00
Drinks	\$2.00
Chips	\$2.00
Freezies	\$1.00



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SAFETY TIPS FOR GETTING TO SCHOOL:



BE SEEN

Wear reflective clothing, carry a flashlight, and stick to well-lit areas so all road users can see you.



FOLLOW ROAD RULES

Use sidewalks and crosswalks, looking both ways and making eye contact with drivers before leaving the curb.



STAY ALERT

Be aware of your surroundings and avoid using your phone or wearing both earbuds while walking.



WALK IN GROUPS

Walk with a friend and let an adult know your route and expected arrival time.

 www.sd61.bc.ca

  @sd61schools

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MUSIC UPDATE

Updates:

- If your student rented a book/instrument over the summer break, please return it as soon as possible!
- Band 7 and 8 students have started playing this week. If your student wants to rejoin, **it is NOT too late to register!** Please email Katherine Forster with your student's name and division.
- It is NOT too late to sign up for grade 6 band! Come see or email Ms. Forster for a form
- Google classrooms for grade 7 and 8 concert and jazz band students are up and running.

Grade 6 google classrooms will be available shortly.

Tour 2027

Grade 7/8 band, strings and choir students are all invited on tour in April. We will send out a survey in the next few weeks to gather people's input for the tour! Things like how many nights, where we go, etc.! Please keep an eye out.

Rental information:

All band students (grade 6-8) should try to get their instruments rented as soon as possible! Grade 6 will play on Tuesday.

Instruments can be rented from Tapestry music or Long and McQuade. There are also some instruments available to rent by donation from the band program. Please email Katherine Forster (kforster@sd61.bc.ca) for this!

Music Schedule: Please read this carefully each week. All band students need their instruments for all classes (as well as pencil and their folder)

Monday: September 21:

PRO D Day- No classes.

Tuesday: September 22

Before School 7:40-8:35: Band 7/8 and Choir 6
8:54-9:36: Band 6 Orange (With instruments, please! And for all classes going forward)
9:36-10:18: Band 6 Green (With instruments, please! And for all classes going forward)
11:57-12:42: JAZZ BAND (right at 11:57) Grade 7/8

Wednesday: September 23

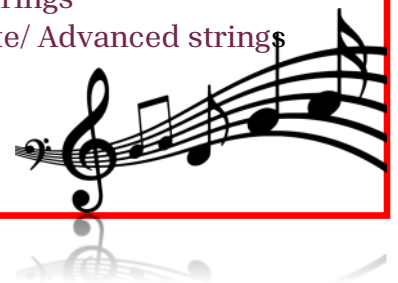
Before School 7:40-8:35: Choir 7/8 (grade 6 band mornings will start October 7th)
10:33- 11:15: Band 7
11:15-11:57: Band 8

Thursday: September 24

Before School 7:40-8:35: JAZZ BAND!
9:36-10:18: Band 6 Orange (With instruments, please! And for all classes going forward)
10:33-11:15: Band 7
11:15-11:57: Band 6 Green (With instruments, please! And for all classes going forward)

Friday: September 25

8:54- 9:36: Band 8
1:02-1:44: Beginner Strings
1:44-2:28: Intermediate/ Advanced strings



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Connect & Learn

ONLINE EVENTS FOR PARENTS AND 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.



CONNECTING WITH OUR KIDS WHEN ANXIETY LEADS TO SOCIAL ISOLATION

When kids spend a lot of time alone because of their anxiety, it can be frustrating and challenging for parents. Join us as Christine M. Yu, M.A., Registered Clinical Counsellor, and a parent talk about the hard stuff. Learn some strategies that can help us connect with our kids when they are socially isolated.

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

DATE & TIME:

Tuesday, September 22 at 6:30pm

***All times are in Pacific Time**

REGISTER ONLINE AT:

familysmart.ca/events

FREE EVENT



CARING FOR ALL OF OUR KIDS WHEN A SIBLING STRUGGLES WITH THEIR MENTAL HEALTH

A mom, sibling and psychologist share their insights in this gentle and compassionate video. They focus on connection, and ways we can care for all our kids while a sibling is struggling. Together, they share actionable ways to normalize your siblings' mixed feelings and ensure every child feels seen and supported in their role within the family.

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

DATE & TIME:

Tuesday, September 15 at 6:30pm

Thursday, September 24 at 12:00pm

***All times are in Pacific Time**

REGISTER ONLINE AT:

familysmart.ca/events

Parents Association Committee (PAC)

Our **Apple Fundraiser** is now open for online orders! These Okanagan apples are delicious and healthy, and priced below most grocery store costs. Orders for different varieties can be made by the box, and savings can be had for stacking or larger orders. The ordering deadline is **October 6** and pick up will happen at Colquitz during Parent-Teacher Interviews on **October 28th**.

https://fundraising.sunokafruit.com/seller_1/082073248/org-campaign/colquitz-middle-school-pac-harvest-2026

Our **first PAC meeting** is scheduled for **Monday September 28, 2026 @ 6:30 - 7:30 PM** in the school library. Please enter through the main doors of the school. Each meeting we have the opportunity to hear directly from **Principal Schlappner** about what has been happening around the school and what's coming up. **Bring your questions!**

If you are interested in helping but cannot attend the meeting, or if you have questions in general for the PAC, you can reach us at colquitzmiddleschoolpac@gmail.com

Farm Fresh Apples For Sale

FRESHLY PICKED OKANAGAN APPLES

DON'T MISS OUT!

COLQUITZ PAC HARVEST APPLE FUNDRAISER

The most delicious fundraiser is BACK! Once again we have partnered up with Sun-Oka Fruit Farms to sell their scrumptious fresh-picked apples.

Orders due by October 6

Apples will be available for pick up October 28

SCAN HERE TO ORDER



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Parents Association Committee (PAC)



VCPAC is hosting **PAC 101** on **Thursday, October 1st** from **5:45pm to 8:00pm** at the SJ Willis Education Centre (923 Topaz).

This event is open to all parents and caregivers in the district - whether they are curious about PAC, considering volunteering, or are on their PAC executive. The evening will include an intro to PACs and VCPAC, info about executive roles and available resources, free pizza, and round-table discussions about supporting participation and strengthening PAC collaboration. Experienced PAC members are also encouraged to attend to share ideas, connect with other schools, and meet prospective volunteers. If you're an experienced PAC member and want to help at the event either as a table lead or by presenting some information, please let me know, I'd be happy to have the help. 😊

Would you please share the attached flyer with families at your school through your usual communication channels? We are hoping to encourage more parents to become involved in their local PACs and, in turn, strengthen the district PAC. With more people contributing their time, ideas, and skills, we can make meaningful change - and make the work lighter for everyone.

No prior PAC experience is required. Please direct any questions to me at kendalls@vcpac.ca.

(Agenda is attached)

PAC 101

CONNECT, LEARN, COLLABORATE

Hosted by VCPAC (Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils)

Whether you are curious about PACs, considering volunteering, or have just joined your PAC executive, this session will help you understand how PACs work, meet other parents across the district, and explore ways to get involved.

Learn about the roles of school PACs and VCPAC, discover the resources available through VCPAC and BCCPAC, and find out how families can contribute in ways that fit their time and interests. Enjoy pizza and light refreshments, then join a friendly round-table discussion to share ideas about what helps families participate, the challenges and opportunities your school faces, and the resources PACs can share.

Experienced PAC members are especially encouraged to attend. Your insights will help shape the round-table conversations, and this is a great opportunity to brainstorm with other schools.

Thursday, October 1st | 5:45 - 8:00 PM

SJ Willis Education Centre

(923 Topaz Ave, Victoria, BC) | Meeting Room A

5:45 PM	PAC 101 presentation
6:15 PM	Pizza and light refreshments
6:45 PM	Round Table Group Discussions
7:45 PM	Next steps & wrap up



Please RSVP with your dietary restrictions here:
<https://forms.gle/kMpoNw4bWzQ24ffYA>

No prior PAC experience is required. All parents and caregivers in the district are welcome.

If you have any questions, please email kendalls@vcpac.ca.

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COLQUITZ SPORTS AT A GLANCE

If you are interested, please contact the Athletic Director
Christine Crljenkovic ccrljenkovic@sd61.bc.ca

***Please see your specific schedule handed out by coaches.
This is just a week's glance.**

September 21-25	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Before school					
Lunch practice	PRO-D		X-country run practice		Ultimate
After school practice		Ultimate practice		Soccer practice until 4 Mtn biking skills at the school	
Competition			Ultimate games @ Colquitz 3- 5 pm	X-country race @ Lambrick Park	



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**RISE
YOUTH
DROP-IN**
YOUTH AGES 11-15

**NEW RISE Drop-in Program
at our Westshore Club!**
Time: 6:30pm-8:30pm every Thursday
Where: 345 Wale Rd (Colwood)
Cost: FREE!

Session 1: Cooking Fun (October 1st- Nov 12th)
Session 2: Paint it Out (Nov 26- Dec 17th and then again Jan 7th-28th)
Session 3: Sports and Games (Feb 11th- March 18th)
Session 4: STEM games (April 1-22)
Session 5: Cooking Fun (April 29-May 20th)
Session 6: Prism Pride (LGBTQ+) (June 3rd-24th)

Reserve your youth's spot by emailing:
youthprograms@bgcsvi.org

**Opportunity
Changes
Everything**



CSAAN KITCHEN

Cook, Learn & Share!
**Calling all youth (ages 13-17)! Join us
for a fun, hands-on cooking
experience where you'll learn to
prepare delicious meals, and take
the ingredients home to share with
your family!**

**When: September 25th,
October 2nd, October
9th, October 16th,
October 23rd and
October 30th
from 6:30pm-8:45pm
Where: 1233 Clarke Rd.**

**Cost:
FREE!**

Spots are limited, so don't wait!
youthprograms@bgcsvi.org to register