

next week at colquitz

friday, sept 25, 2026

THIS WEEK'S REFLECTIONS

Hello Colquitz families,

It was an amazing, busy week at Colquitz! Monday was a ProD Day; while students had the day off, staff were learning together. Tuesday was Spirit-wear day, and Thursday was photo day.

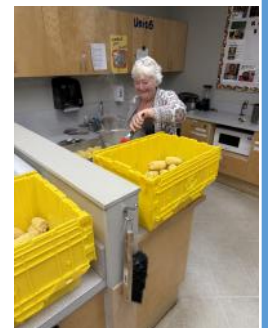
The biggest and best event of the week was last night at our Open House BBQ with FREE CORN. Many thanks to the many staff who helped organize, set-up and clean-up for the event. A special thank you to Ms. Schuring and the Blue Team for the brilliant idea of having a corn-shucking contest (and to Div 18 for winning!), and to Ms. Cumming and fellow staff for cooking TONS of corn!

Another special thank you to the Legion for being a well-oiled machine of barbequing and friendly service, and to Silver Rill Farms for the donation of the delicious corn. Also, special mention goes to students who became known as "The Corn Peddlers", who showed incredible enthusiasm (and volume!) to make sure everyone got their fair share of free corn. Thank you, Bryce, Micah, James, Bentley and Oakley for adding extra fun to the night!

All of us at Colquitz appreciate how many families showed up – there was a wonderful "buzz" in the building, and we plan on this being an annual event from now on!

Please remember that MONDAY will be our Orange Shirt Day Assembly at 9am. Families are welcome to join us. As a sign of support for Reconciliation, we are inviting everyone to wear orange all week next week, and especially on Monday and Tuesday.

Have a wonderful weekend with your friends and family.
- Carrie Schlappner, Principal



next week at a glance

Monday, Sept 28

- PAC Meeting @ 6.30pm
- **Orange Shirt WEEK**—please wear orange every day this week, especially Monday and Tuesday. **Our assembly will be MONDAY** at 9am

Tuesday, Sept 29

- *Please wear orange*

Wednesday, Sept 30

- *National Day for Truth & Reconciliation—NO SCHOOL*
- *Orange Shirt Day*

Thursday, Oct 01

- *Please wear orange*

Friday, Oct 02

- *Please wear orange*
- Indigenous Student Lunch

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upcoming important dates—mark your calendars!

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
Friday, Oct 23	Pro D Day (NO SCHOOL)
Monday, Oct 26	Intersex Awareness Day
Tuesday, Oct 27	Book Fair
Wednesday, Oct 28	Parent-Teacher Interviews Early Dismissal @1.49pm

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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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

Please make sure your band student comes to class with their folder (including music, book and a pencil) and their instrument.

If your student rented a book/instrument over the summer break, please return it as soon as possible!

It is NOT too late to register! Please email Katherine Forster with your student's name and division. Students in any grade can still register! Google classrooms are up for band 7/8 and jazz band. Students have been invited!

Thank you to everyone who came to CPAPA! Our next meeting is on Monday, October 5th.

Rental information:

Please get instruments as soon as possible. We have started playing this week in grade 6 band as well!

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

Extra Help/Practice Space is available the following days:

Tuesday: Nut Break

Wednesday: Nut break and Lunch Recess

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.! We typically go for one night to help keep costs as low as possible. Please

MUSIC Schedule: If students don't have their instrument, they are still expected to attend classes.

Monday:

9:36-10:18: Choir 6

10:33- 11:15: Choir 8

11:15-11:57: Choir 7

1:02: Beginner Strings

1:44: Intermediate/ Advanced strings

Tuesday:

Before School 7:40-8:35: Band 7/8

Combined, Choir 6

8:54-9:36: Band 6 Orange (With instruments, please!)

9:36-10:18: Band 6 Green

11:57-12:42: JAZZ BAND (right at 11:57) Grade 7/8

Wednesday:

NONE- National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

Thursday:

Before School 7:40-8:35: Jazz Band

9:36-10:18: Band 6 Orange

10:33-11:15: Band 7

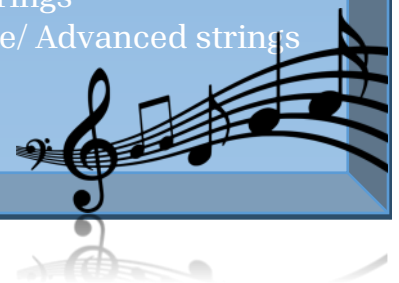
11:15-11:57: Band 6 Green

Friday:

8:54- 9:36: Band 8

1:02: Beginner Strings

1:44: Intermediate/ Advanced strings



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Parents Association Committee (PAC)

We hope everyone had the opportunity to meet staff at school during the Open House! **Thank you** to the school for organizing the BBQ and all the **student helpers** who made sure everyone knew about the free corn!

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!** A big part of this first meeting will be planning for the year, from fundraising opportunities, to what projects we can help with. Your participation is extremely valuable!

We have just under 2 weeks left Apple Fundraiser orders! This fundraiser was a huge hit last year, and we are quite far behind our target currently. The apples are delicious, healthy, and priced below most grocery store costs. Orders for different varieties can be made by the box, and savings can be had when coordinating orders with friends and family! 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

We will have some upcoming **volunteering opportunities** to share - if you would like to be added to our list of folks who can help out, please get in touch with us! colquitzmiddleschoolpac@gmail.com

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.

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.

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/kMpoNw4bWzO24ffYA>

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THEATRE

Fall play rehearsals for *The Wrath of the Buried King* are now officially underway! All students in the show should have access to the google classroom for theatre where they will find both a copy of the script and a rehearsal calendar. Students were also given a hard copy of the script and calendar. All after school rehearsals run until 4:15pm.

This week's rehearsals:

Monday after school Aetheric and Goblins scene 2

Tuesday after school Scene 6 (Pip, Ace, Eghan, Gannix, Aoife)

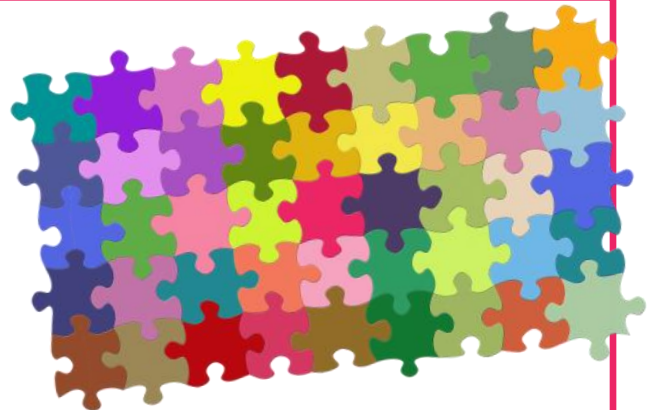
Thursday after school Scene 10 (Airmid's hut)



Puzzle Donations Needed for the Library

The Colquitz Library is looking for donations of 6–50 piece puzzles and 8–100 piece puzzles for our Speed Puzzling Bin.

If you have any puzzles in good condition that you would be willing to donate, please contact Jane Spies (Teacher-Librarian) at jspies@sd61.bc.ca.



Thank you so much!"



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How can families support healthy development in a world of smartphones, social media, and AI? This engaging session shares current research and practical, evidence-based strategies to help foster wellness, resilience, balance, and digital wellbeing.

Arbutus Global Middle School PAC is pleased to host this presentation for interested parents/caregivers from all 10 Middle Schools in the Greater Victoria School District

Supporting Adolescent Mental Health in a Digital World

with Registered Clinical Counsellor

Julie-Anne Richards

M.A., R.C.C., C.C.C., www.JulieAnneRichards.com



Julie-Anne Richards
Clinical Counsellor

Julie-Anne Richards, M.A., R.C.C., C.C.C., is a seasoned clinical counsellor, educator, and dynamic speaker with more than 25 years of experience in mental health and education. She brings extensive experience working with children, adolescents, parents, and schools, translating psychological research into practical strategies for supporting young people's mental health. Known for her warmth, humour, and engaging style, Julie-Anne helps audiences understand the challenges young people face in an increasingly digital and connected world.

Arbutus Global Middle School

in the Cafeteria

2306 Edgelow St, Victoria

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

6:30 to 8:30 pm

No charge, but pre-registration on a first-come first-serve basis is required.

To register, click [October 2026 Parent Education REGISTRATION LINK](#)

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COLQUITZ SPORTS AT A GLANCE

***We are looking for Basketball coaches for grade 6 and 7's!** If you are interested, please contact the Athletic Director Christine Crljenkovic ccrljenkovic@sd61.bc.ca

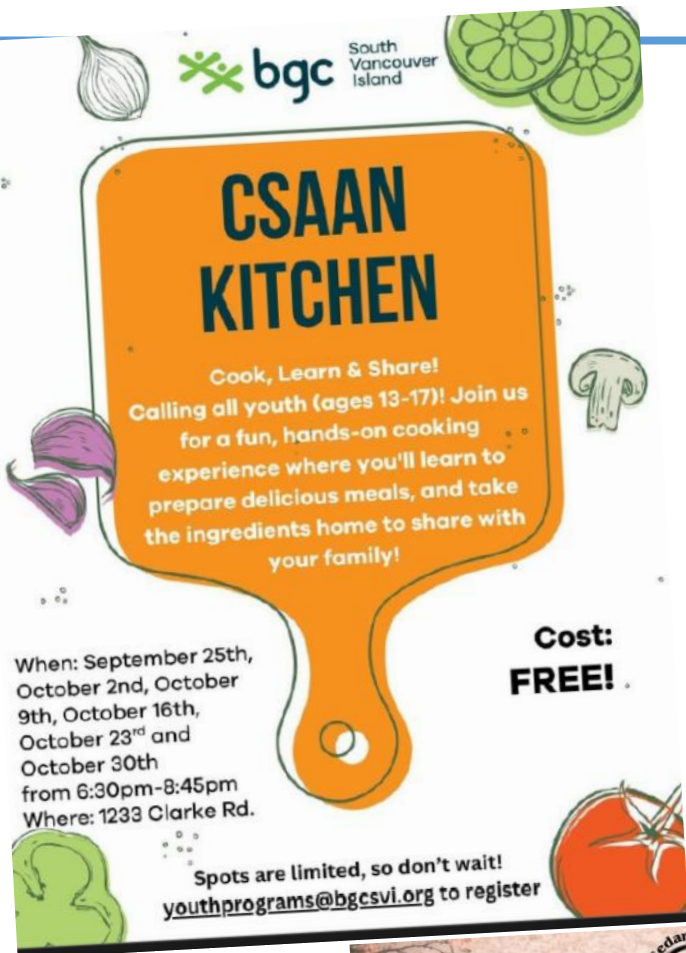
***Please see your specific schedule handed out by coaches. This is just a week's glance.**

September 28-Oct 2	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Before school	Set-up for Orange Shirt Assembly	Gym unavailable			Grade 7/8 Basketball Open Gym
Lunch practice	X-country run practice	2-Ball Intramurals	National Day for		Ultimate 2-Ball Intramurals
After school practice	Rec gr 7 and 8 boys basketball meeting (see competition)	Ultimate practice	Truth and Reconciliation	Mtn biking at Hartland until 5pm No Soccer Practice after school.	
Competition	Soccer jamboree @ St. Michaels University School			X-Country race U-Vic	



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bgc South Vancouver Island

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!

Cost: FREE!

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

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



bgc South Vancouver Island

RISE youth PROGRAM

RISE YOUTH DROP-IN

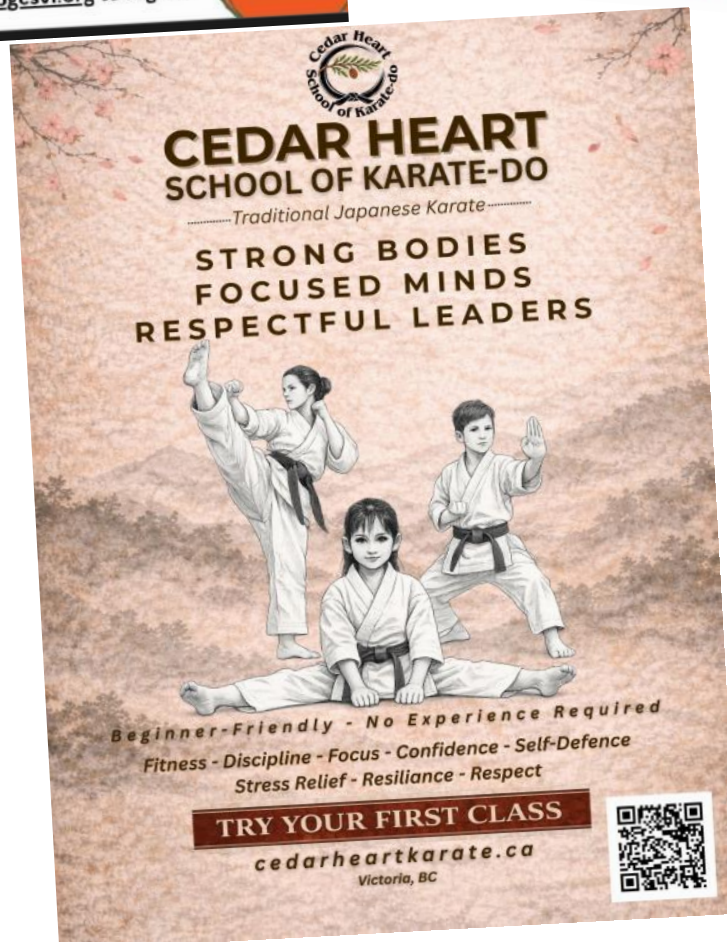
YOUTH AGES 11-15

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@bgcvi.org

Opportunity Changes Everything



Cedar Heart School of Karate-Do
Traditional Japanese Karate

STRONG BODIES FOCUSED MINDS RESPECTFUL LEADERS

Beginner-Friendly - No Experience Required
Fitness - Discipline - Focus - Confidence - Self-Defence
Stress Relief - Resilience - Respect

TRY YOUR FIRST CLASS
cedarheartkarate.ca
Victoria, BC

