

# Columbia Elementary School Newsletter



October 2016

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## Administrators' Message

October is already here, and it is wonderful to see how students are settling in so quickly, and beginning to set learning goals and make new friends. A special thank you to parents for working together with teachers and staff to support student activities. From the PAC barbeque in September, to supporting the Terry Fox Run.

## TERRY FOX RUN

Congratulations to the staff and students at Columbia Elementary for a highly successful Terry Fox Run. The run was held on Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. We ran daily stories about Terry Fox and held a school-wide assembly to watch his inspirational video. The run was completed by virtually all students and we raised \$766.00 for the Terry Fox Foundation. Special thanks to all our families who donated coins (and more!) Once more, Terry's story and his incredible tenacity inspired us all to never give up and work hard to reach our goals.



## PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Thank you to all the parents who were able to participate in the fall interviews. Parent-teacher conferences can boost family involvement in learning from parents or guardians to be better informed about students' strengths.



## DISTRICT RUNS

Columbia School sent a team of runners to the district Pumpkin Run in Trout Creek and Naramata. It is so great to have such a big group of active enthusiastic runners! About 45 runners from grades 4 and 5 attended each of the runs. Runners did a fantastic job of representing themselves, their families, and Columbia school. Congratulations to all runners! A special mention goes to Caleb Best, Cash Lewenden, Jordis Hickie, Hunter Murray, and Evan Miller who all earned top 10 finishes which is definitely a wonderful accomplishment!



## HALLOWEEN AT COLUMBIA

We know Halloween is a very exciting time for many of our students, and that many are already planning their costumes and activities ☺- so we thought we should let you know the following:

### *An important note to parents from the school:*

Halloween can be a fun, exciting event for all, but in order to keep it this way for everyone, **students are NOT allowed to bring or wear toy weapons of any kind with their costume, or wear full head masks or bring 'gruesome' props.** Please remember we have young children who will be participating in the activities, and we do not want to frighten them. **Students who wear or bring such items will have to put them in the office, and parents may pick them up after school is dismissed.**



## Halloween Parade

Columbia will once again be hosting our annual parade in the gym. This gives family members a chance to see all the costumes and an opportunity for any parents, grandparents, little brothers and sisters to also parade with us in their costumes! This is scheduled for **Monday October 31 at 2pm in the gym.** Hope to see you at this special event. Have a safe Halloween.

## Breakfast Club News

We are so lucky to have our Breakfast Club up and running again this year. A huge thank you to 'Meals on Wheels' and Erin Beck for continuing to coordinate this worthwhile program. This year we are hoping that more of our Columbia parents (or grandparents!) will be able to volunteer one morning a week so that this program will be able to continue. Please contact the Meals on Wheels program at 250-492-9095 if you would like to volunteer. Also, just a reminder that breakfast club is open for any student, and the suggested donation is \$2 per meal. Thanks so much!



## STUDENT SAFETY- Dropping Off and Picking Up

The street in front of our school is a very busy and congested place before and after school. In the interest of your child's safety, we are asking ALL parents to:

- Remind their children to use the crosswalk when crossing to the other side of the road (and please model this behavior by using the crosswalk yourself!)
- NOT park in the pull-in area in front of the school- this is for *BUSES* and handicapped only.
- Use the street side area in front of the adventure playground and in front of the parking lot as a 'drop-off, pick-up area', rather than the pull-in area.

***Let's all work together to keep our children safe!***



### SAFE ARRIVAL

Thank you to the parents who have called to let us know if your child is absent or late. It saves us time and effort making numerous phone calls. **Phone number is (250) 770-7676 ext 6027.**

### CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS / DRIVERS' ABSTRACT

In order to ensure the safety of our children, all parent volunteers are required to have a criminal record check completed by the R.C.M.P. **at no cost.** If you would like to help out in any way in the school or be a parent driver for field trips, please ask our secretary for a form that you can fill out and drop off at the R.C.M.P. station. **This is a one time request and will remain valid while your child attends Columbia Elementary.**

**Drivers' Abstracts** need to be completed **once a year** and turned into the office. To obtain your driver's abstract please phone 1-800-950-1498 between 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Monday to Friday and 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. They can email it to [columbia@summer.com](mailto:columbia@summer.com) Thank you for your cooperation!

### 2016 – 2017 BELL SCHEDULE

Start Time	8:50 a.m.
Recess	10:20 – 10:35 a.m.
Lunch	12:15 – 1:00 p.m.
Dismissal	2:45 p.m.

### FIELD TRIPS

Our students have already been enjoying field trips this year. The grade 3 classes went to SORCO, the grade 4 classes will be going to Oliver to observe the Salmon Run.



## COLUMBIA SCHOOL GRADE 4/5 SOCCER TEAM

Many of our grade 4/5 students signed up to play soccer this fall. The season is now over and we would like to thank our coaches Mr. Percevault and Mr. Lindsay for organizing game times at Kings Park. What a wonderful opportunity for our students.



### Remembrance Day Assembly

Our assembly is scheduled for November 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:45am in the school gym. Columbia community members are welcome to join us as we pay our respect at this special assembly.



<b>SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 67 (OKANAGAN SKAHA)</b> <b>2016-2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR</b> <b>FOR ALL SCHOOLS</b>	
Curriculum Implementation Day – schools closed	Tuesday, September 6, 2016
Schools Open	Wednesday, September 7, 2016
Professional Development Day – schools closed	Friday, September 30, 2016
Thanksgiving Day – schools closed	Monday, October 10, 2016
Professional Development Day – schools closed	Friday, October 21, 2016
Curriculum Implementation Day – schools closed	Thursday, November 10, 2016
Remembrance Day observance – schools closed	Friday, November 11, 2016
Schools close for Winter Vacation	Friday, December 16, 2016 (last day of school)
Schools Reopen	Tuesday, January 3, 2017
Family Day – schools closed	Monday, February 13, 2017
Professional Development Day – schools closed	Friday, February 17, 2017
*Schools close for Spring Break	Friday, March 17, 2017 (last day school)
Schools Reopen	Monday, April 3, 2017
Professional Development Day – schools closed	Thursday, April 13, 2017
Good Friday – schools closed	Friday, April 14, 2017
Easter Monday – schools closed	Monday, April 17, 2017
Professional Development Day – schools closed	Monday, May 15, 2017
Victoria Day – schools closed	Monday, May 22, 2017
Administrative Day (students not in attendance)	Friday, June 30, 2017

## PAC Meetings

If you are a parent of a Columbia student, then you are a member of PAC! Please join us and let your voice be heard. Our PAC has been instrumental in problem-solving, decision-making, fundraising, supporting staff and students in a myriad of ways! Please join us if you can.

**The November date of The Columbia PAC Meeting is Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the School Library:**



## Aboriginal Education Team

Dear SD67 Parents and Guardians,

As we begin another school year many parents and students may be noticing changes within their schools and classrooms in regards to some of the content or teaching strategies.

As a means of increasing communication our Aboriginal Education team wanted to share some key information items. As of this September, the Ministry of Education has mandated the full implementation of the renewed curriculum for Kindergarten thru Grade 9 curriculum. This curriculum has been carefully remodeled by collaborative teams of teachers across our province. The intention is to fully implement the Grade 10 -12 renewed version in September of 2017.

Within this Renewed Curriculum is several components that will help us better meet the needs of our students while evolving with the global landscape. The basis of all subject areas will be the core competencies of Communication, Thinking, and Personal and Social. These fundamental characteristics develop differently for everyone.

In addition, a significant emphasis is also being placed on embedding indigenous principles of learning. Provincially, the education sector is excited about the respectful integration of aboriginal history as a means of educating our youth about sensitive issues such as Residential Schools.

Overall, we believe parents are an integrate part of their child's education and we encourage you to embrace these changes and to discuss these components with the educators who work alongside your children every day.

Regards,  
Allen Beckingham, District Principal

## HEALTHY FRUIT AND VEGGIES - and more!

As you know, our school is part of the BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation program. For the past three years, Columbia School has been receiving fresh fruit and vegetables to give students an opportunity to try new healthy snacks. So far this year, students have enjoyed peaches, cucumbers and pears.





*Message from  
Education Minister Mike Bernier*

October 4, 2016

Dear Parent,

I'm writing today to ask you to share your opinions with the Ministry of Education as we work to update student reporting in kindergarten through Grade 9. Students in these grades are experiencing B.C.'s new curriculum in classrooms in every part of the province.

We are adapting the curriculum in B.C. schools so kids learn the skills they need to succeed in our changing world. This means we also need to develop a new reporting approach. Right now the progress of your child is reported in many different ways, including report cards, parent teacher meetings, and regular student/parent/teacher check-ins.

Reporting is all about keeping parents like you informed, and we want you to tell us HOW you want to be informed and keep track of your child's progress. Until February 28 next year you can submit your thoughts online at [engage.gov.bc.ca/yourkidsprogress](http://engage.gov.bc.ca/yourkidsprogress).

As well, community meetings will be held in 10 communities across the province over the coming months so parents can ask questions and share their input. Check the website for times and locations as they are scheduled.

The ultimate goal of this engagement is to develop a student reporting process that gives families a deeper understanding of their child's progress at school through timely and comprehensive information. We'll gather the feedback and share our plan next June.

Our education system is one of the most highly ranked in the world. Students are finding success in music, in academics, in sports – and in every subject in between. Together parents, teachers, and the education system are making sure we build on that for an even better tomorrow.

For more details on our new curriculum, please visit [www.curriculum.gov.bc.ca](http://www.curriculum.gov.bc.ca).

Thanks for your help,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Bernier".

**School District #67 will be a Regional Host on February 21, 2017,  
the place and time is to be determined**

Mike Bernier  
Minister of Education