
Clearwater Secondary

Newsletter February 13th 2026

Lock down Drills, Kids doing good things

Hello Parents,

The news of the Tumbler Ridge shooting landed hard with me personally, with staff, students, and parents. Often when violent incidents happen we can say “That is the US, those things don’t happen here” or “That is the big city, those things don’t happen here”. This one felt really close to home, a small town and a school about our size.

I have had conversations with PAC about how to support Tumbler Ridge and about how CSS prepares for these types of incidents. We have always taken lockdown drills seriously. We only conduct the drills in collaboration with the RCMP. The RCMP offer advice to improve our procedures, sharing their experience from being members of tactical teams. We talk about real things, we don’t sugar coat anything. On the back half of drills we (myself and Sergeant Simpson) often engage students in conversations about where to hide, about which objects will stop bullets and which will not. We put people in spaces with multiple exits. We encourage students to arm themselves with improvised weapons (see video link), we discuss what to do if the fire alarm goes off. I typically show this Vancouver Police Department [video](#), about 30 seconds of it, from about 6:15 to 6:45. I postponed our lockdown drill that was scheduled for this week but I believe that it is still important to conduct one, we need to ensure we have a plan. With all this in mind I want your input into the correct timing, discuss as a family and then please response via [this very brief survey](#).

With this dark news foremost in our mind I thought it would be appropriate to highlight some of the great things our kids are doing. This is not an exhaustive list, it just represents what I have good photos of. We will be having a recognition assembly on Friday February 20th to celebrate students who have made the honour roll and students for good deeds within the school and community.

Thank you,

Darren Coates, Principal dcoates@sd73.bc.ca

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Basketball Season - A class act

Sport provides opportunity to learn from adversity and in the process build capacity to excel in life outside of sport. Ms. Herring's Jr. Girls Basketball team put on a clinic in resiliency this month. Playing multiple games with only five players, NO SUBS! I was lucky enough to be able to watch one of those games. They were behind the entire game, they were tired. They did not give up, they did not whine, they played with class and ferocity to the buzzer. Amazing representatives of CSS.



Legion Competition

We have some amazing writers and artists at CSS. Four of our students entered the Legion Remembrance Day competition and were recognized for excellence. Entries included essays, poems, and artwork. Thank you for representing CSS.



Maddy and the Ghost Dog

Mrs. Fraser's Career 8 class had to take on a volunteer project and this group of students knocked it out of the park. According to Mrs. Fraser they largely self organized a bake sale at the recent hockey tournament and raised \$490, which they donated to Maddy' Animal Rescue. One of our hopes is that our students engage in contributing to community and these students did an exemplary job.



Giving Back

Two members of our Senior Boys basketball team volunteered to referee games down at Raft River Elementary. What a great way to give back and act as role models for the younger students.



Upcoming Events

Monday February 16th

Family Day, no school. CSS is hosting events on Monday starting at 12 noon.

Friday February 20th

Recognition assembly at 12:40

Friday February 27th

Interim reports sent home

Thursday March 5th

Early dismissal, parent teacher interviews

Tuesday March 10th

Grad photo retakes

Wednesday March 11th

PAC meeting in the library, 5 pm.

March 14th to March 29th

Spring break