



# Circle of Life Academy

*"Our Circle of Life Academy is immersed in Anishinaabe Mino-Bimaadiziwin for our children and community while providing the highest quality of education."*

## COLA May 2021 Newsletter

### Important Dates to Remember!

**Please note:** Further details for each important date or event can be found in the following pages of this Newsletter.

**May 10:** State and Federal Standardized Testing - **Canceled**

**May 28:** Kindergarten and Senior Graduation

**May 28:** Last Day of School for Students & return of Technology

**June 1 – June 10:** Summer Intersession Activities

**July 1 – August 13:** Enrollment Window opens!



**CANCELED**

**POSTPONED**

**BIE ASSESSMENTS**

BIE Assessments have been canceled due to students remaining in Distance Learning.

---

**COLA Powwow**

Due to COVID-19 the COLA Powwow has been postponed until the Fall.

More information will be sent out closer to the date.

---

**COLA 7-12 Picnic & Field Day**

Due to COVID-19 the COLA Picnic & Field Day has been postponed until the Fall.

## Kindergarten Graduation



Boozhoo Kindergarten students and families,

It has been an extremely difficult yet rewarding year for our COLA Kindergarten class. In the past we have held a Kindergarten Graduation on campus. Due to COVID-19 both last and this year's graduation were moved to "Home Visit" or "Driveway" graduation. I am sorry to say that this year will be the same as last year. The plan is that on Friday, May 28th, there will not be Kindergarten zoom class as Vince and I will be coming to visit each of you. We will be bringing you your grad cap, gown, and diploma. We Will have a short celebration in your driveway. I, Teacher Seth, will be contacting each family in the next couple of weeks with further details. If you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, please feel free to contact me. What an exciting time for all of you almost first graders! Howah! ~~Seth

---

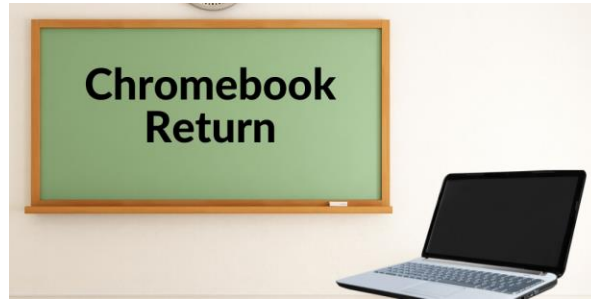
## Senior Graduation

Boozhoo COLA Community,

Spring is upon us, the end of the year is drawing closer, and our seniors are getting ready to celebrate their achievements. This year has not gone by without its challenges, but we are excited to announce that we have been approved to host an in-person graduation on March 28th at 5:00 PM at the COLA Gymnasium. Due to the ongoing concerns surrounding COVID, each graduate can invite up to 6 guests to celebrate their achievements. Food will not be provided to further account for the safety of our community. We hope that this decision will be received with understanding and support from all stakeholders.

We greatly appreciate everyone understanding as we do our best to work around these challenges while also providing our students an opportunity to come together and celebrate their achievements!

Miigwech



### **Last Day of School**

The last day of school is May 28th. All items from the lockers and desks have been sent out via our transportation team. Please make sure all school owned technology is turned in beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>.

---

### **Summer Intersession**

June 1-10 (10 days)

Cultural Activities

Credit Recovery for Grades 9-12.

---



### **COLA Enrollment**

Open enrollment for next school year will open July 1<sup>st</sup>. An application will be mailed out to the current COLA students. If you need an application for a new student, please call 218-983-4180 and one can be mailed to you or

arranged for a pick-up at the school. New applications must include a CIB, birth certificate, most recent immunization record, and the completed application.



# Farewell Message from Superintendent Leadbetter

Dear Outstanding Students, Families, Employees, Patrons and Board Members of Circle of Life Academy School District,

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Superintendent. I have learned much from you over the past three years and will take those lessons learned and implement them into my life as I interact with the lives of others.

Thank you for the incredible impact you all have had on my life with your great passion for and advocacy of education. I am grateful for your genuine hearts and incredible desires to provide the very best education possible for the young people Circle of Life Academy.

I am excited to watch and cheer as Principal Lynda Wadena launches Circle of Life Academy into its next chapter of greatness! Principal Lynda Wadena will assume full oversight of Circle of Life Academy on May 1, 2021. Enjoy the incredible journey and continue to reach for excellence as you strive to serve Every Child, Every Day!

With gratitude and great appreciation,

Jenna Leadbetter, M.S., Ed. S. (CCC-SLP)  
Superintendent  
Circle of Life Academy

## **COLA's Parent Committee**

In February, COLA held its first NEW Parent Committee meeting. This incredible team of parents/guardians will meet once a month on all things COLA. Feel free to reach out to any one of these COLA advocates and they will be sure to bring your questions/concerns to the COLA round table.

The next Parent Committee meeting will be held virtually, with a date soon-to-be determined by our Chairwoman, Ms. Bellanger.

Ashley Bellanger, Chair

Paula Smith, Vice Chair

Andrea Thompson, Secretary

Rachael Lafriniere, General Member

## **What is a Parent Committee?**

WHAT IS IT? Parents/guardians of current students at COLA come together with school personnel and administration to work together and provide guidance on what kind of education and learning experiences they want their children to have at our Circle of Life Academy.





# COLA Opening and Closing Ceremonies

Friendly reminder that COLA's amazing Team of Cultural Educators are hosting Opening and Closing Ceremonies for our In-Person Learning students in our COLA gym and at the same time broadcasting LIVE to our Virtual Learning students. We LOVE seeing and hearing from our students!



---

## Need Internet Access?

COLA continues to seek funds and partnerships to positively address the remote Distance Learning needs of our students, families, and staff during this unprecedented time. If you have limited or zero internet connectivity at your home, please let your teacher know as soon as possible or call COLA at 218-983-4180.



**Need help  
getting  
internet  
access?**



## **Congratulations to our top schools in each grade band for Lexile growth from March 1 - March 31!**

Grades 3-5: Little Eagle led Lexile growth followed by Kickapoo Nation coming in second followed by a tie for 3rd with Tiospa Zina and Fond Du Lac.

Grades 6-8: Little Eagle was in the lead. Next Duckwater in second followed by Cherokee Middle School.

Grades 9-12: Shoshone Bannock led the way with **Circle of Life Academy** taking second and Northwest HS rounded out the top three.

**We can't wait to see who took the lead for April and May!**

**We know that *2.0 activities per week with 75% first- try scores* are key to accelerated Lexile gains. We can do it!**



## **A friendly reminder to our Virtual Distance Learners from your COLA Bus Drivers**

This is a friendly reminder to set out your heavy-duty red storage bins every day for our Distance Learner deliveries! Although it is Spring, we secured extra heavy-duty red storage bins to drop off and protect your food or school items. If you need another heavy-duty red storage bin, please call COLA at 218-983-4180. We ask that you ensure these bins are visible to the bus drivers and placed back a bit from the roadside edge.

Chi-miigwech,  
Your Bus Drivers



## **A message from K-12 Dean of Students, Mike Bunker**

Boozhoo COLA Students, Families and Friends,

Writing to all of you in the Final COLA 2020-2021 Newsletter is a bit strange, but this entire year has been strange from the start beginning with Distance Learning moving into In-person-Onsite learning then transitioning back into Distance Learning while waiting to see what happens in the future. No matter what the future brings, I want all of you to know that it has been my pleasure being able to work at COLA and see all your bright smiling faces hidden under your masks either at school or at Walmart ;) Keep up on your schoolwork as this school year comes to an end and keep yourselves safe by socially distancing, wearing your masks and washing your hands often. I cannot wait until this is over and we can visit once again.

---

## **A message from Assistant Dean of Students, Loretta Solmon**

Boozhoo Everyone!

I hope that you are all staying healthy and safe, this has been a challenging year. I want to thank all the parents for supporting distance learning. You are all doing a great job, Miss y'all and hope to see y'all soon.

-Loretta



## **Employment Opportunities at COLA**

COLA Industrial Technology Teacher (1 Position Available)

COLA K-12 Music Teacher (1 Position Available)

COLA 7-12 Math Interventionist (1 Position Available)

COLA Industrial Technology Teacher (1 Position Available)

COLA EBD Special Education Teacher (1 Position Available)

COLA Education Technology Coordinator (1 Position Available)

COLA MARSS and Data Coordinator (1 Position Available)

COLA Maintenance / Custodians (2 Positions Available)

COLA Special Education Paraprofessional (3 Positions Available)

COLA Bus Driver (1 Position Available)

COLA Substitute Bus Drivers (Multiple On-Call, As Needed Positions Available)

COLA Substitute Teachers (Multiple On-Call, As Needed Positions Available)

**Please call White Earth Tribal Human Resources at  
(218) 983-4646 to inquire about open positions!**

**If you have specific questions or concerns regarding your child's education or the school, please contact one of your building Principals as follows:**

K-12 Principal, Lynda Wadena

Office: 218-983-4180

Work Cell: 218-850-8876

Assistant K-12 Principal, David Perry

Office: 218-983-4180

Work Cell: 218-850-8677

**If you have other questions or concerns:**

**Cultural Coordination**

- Principal, Lynda Wadena
- Teacher of Anishinaabe, Vince Olson
- Teacher of Anishinaabe, Susie Ballot

**Special Education Coordination**

- Assistant Principal, David Perry

**Curriculum / Instruction Coordination**

- Principal, Lynda Wadena
- Assistant Principal, David Perry

**Technology Coordination**

- Principal, Lynda Wadena
- High School Teacher, John DeJong

**Assessment Coordination**

- Principal, Lynda Wadena
- Assistant Principal, David Perry

**Transcripts / Graduation Coordination**

- Principal, Lynda Wadena
- High School Counselor, Matt Meyer

**K-12 Attendance / Truancy Coordination**

- Dean of Students, Mike Bunker
- Assistant Dean of Students,

**Transportation Coordinator**

**K-12 Attendance / Truancy Coordination**

- Dean of Students, Mike Bunker
- Assistant Dean of Students, Loretta Solmon

**COVID-19 Coordination**

- Principal, Lynda Wadena
- Dean of Students, Mike Bunker

**Student Support / Mental Health / Wellness Coordination**

- High School Counselor, Matt Meyer
- K-8 School Counselor, Sheila McLeod

**Food Service Coordination**

- Business Manager, Carol Zortman
- Head Cook, Grace Jackson

**Business / Finance Coordination**

- Principal, Lynda Wadena
- Business Manager, Carol Zortman
- Business Coordinator, Andrea Thompson

**Facilities Coordination**

- Facilities Manager, Darwin Shaugabay
- Transportation Coordinator, Matt Jensen

## COLA Community Perception Questionnaire

We are trying to improve our school to ensure students, parents and community members are partners in our school improvement process. The questions that we are going to ask you will help us identify areas that we can improve to be a place you would send your child/niece/nephew or grandchild to be educated. Your answers are anonymous. Thank you for sharing your thoughts.

	<b>strongly disagree</b>	<b>disagree</b>	<b>agree</b>	<b>strongly agree</b>
Our school provides a safe and orderly environment for learning.				
School-sponsored activities are open to members of the community.				
School and community partnerships exist to provide a network of support for our students				
Discipline in the school is administered fairly and appropriately.				
Community members feel welcome at our school.				
School staff (Administrator, teachers, bus drivers, food service, custodians) are courteous?				
The Board of Education members listen to and are responsive to parents and community.				
The school's policies and programs reflect, respect, and value the diversity of the families in the community.				
Teachers and parents work together closely in this school toward mutually accepted educational goals.				
Our school provides sufficient opportunities for community involvement.				
The school's values reflect the values of the community				
The school promotes the social and emotional development of students				
Parents/caregivers in our community feel they can talk to and be supported by the school staff if they have any concerns.				
The school recognizes the indicators for when children may need assistance in meeting their social or emotional needs.				
The school's culture reflects the culture of the community.				

# COLA Parent/Guardian Involvement Feedback Questionnaire

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Our school is a Title I school, and as the parent/guardian of a child attending a Title I school you are an important part of the team. Your input is vital in planning and implementation of the parent involvement program and activities in our school. The focus of all Title I programs is to help students to meet the same high academic achievement standards expected of all children, regardless of their socioeconomic status and background. This feedback is confidential and will be used to assist us with future planning for parental involvement activities and events at our school. We appreciate your feedback and thank you for taking the time to complete this form.

	Yes	No	Unsure
<b>Did your child's school provide parents with opportunities to share feedback and ideas regarding the school's parental involvement program and activities?</b>			
<b>Did you attend a meeting this school year where the goals and activities of the Title I program were discussed with parents?</b>			
<b>Have you been given opportunities to provide input into the school improvement plan?</b>			
<b>Are you aware of what your child is expected to understand in all subject areas?</b>			
<b>Are you aware of opportunities to volunteer at your child's school?</b>			

**Please check the box**

**How would you like to see the parental involvement funds used at your school?** (Check all that apply)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent workshops                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational materials for parent use | Other: _____                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent Liaison                       |   |

**What would help you participate more in decision making and the overall academic achievement of your child's school?** (Check all that apply)

- More encouragement from the school to get involved
  - More information on how to get involved
  - More information about school issues to be addressed
  - More opportunities to share my opinion about school issues
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**How would you prefer to receive information from your child's school?** (Check all that apply)

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Letters/flyer, etc. sent home with students | <input type="checkbox"/> Email        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Call                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Text message                                | Other: _____                          |



**Which of the following would enable you to participate in parent meetings and school activities? (Check all that apply)**

- Morning meetings (9:00am – 12:00 noon)
- Evening meetings (5:30 pm- 8:00 pm)
- Weekend meetings
- Childcare assistance
- Access to information online

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**For each activity listed below, please check the box that best describes your opinion.**

Parental Involvement Activity	Not valuable	Little value	Valuable	Very valuable	Did not participate
Culture Night					
Literacy Night					
Math Night					
Open House Night					
Parent- Teacher Conferences					
Science Night					
Technology Night					
Other:					

**How often does your teacher communicate with you about your child’s progress?**

- Never                       weekly or more                       every few months                       once a year

**How often do you meet in person with or communicate with your child’s teacher(s)?**

- Never                       weekly or more                       every few months                       once a year

**In the past year, how often did you attend a parent meeting or event to help you work with your child to do better in school?**

- Never                       weekly or more                       every few months                       once a year

**How often do you work with your child on homework?**

- Never                       weekly or more                       every few months                       once a year

**How well does school leadership foster an environment in which staff, parents and the community work together to improve student achievement?**

- Not well                       Minimally well                       Quite well                       Extremely well

**How well do you feel the school creates a welcoming environment for parents?**

- Not well                       Minimally well                       Quite well                       Extremely well

**Please indicate whether you received the following information from your child’s school.**

	Received and very helpful	Received, but not helpful	Definitely did not receive	Uncertain
Information about what the school teaches your child				
Information on student assessments (PARCC, NWEA MAP, WIDA, etc.)				
What the scores on student assessments means to your child				
How to keep track of your child's academic progress				
Information used to determine whether your child is on track for promotion to the next grade level				
How you can work with teachers to help your child in school				
What programs the school offers for your child				
Information about parent rights, student assistance teams, or academic improvement plans				

**How often does school staff report positive achievement about my child's character or academic performance?(circle one)**

Never                  weekly or more                  every few months                  once a year

**Staff seeks my guidance about how to help my child succeed at school and in the community? (circle one)**

Yes                  no                  unsure

**School staff are familiar with our community history and culture. (circle one)**

Yes                  No                  unsure

**I feel I can talk to and be supported by school staff if I have any concerns. (circle one)**

Yes                  No                  unsure

**The school promotes the social and emotional development of my child. (circle one)**

Yes                  No                  unsure

**Any other comments you would like to share?**

---



---

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this very important feedback form to help us improve your child's school.**