



The KNIGHTLY NEWS

Columbia Christian School • PreK-12th Grade

April 2019

NEWSLETTER CHANGES

In response to increased positive news from the school, Columbia Christian is moving this publication to a monthly format to keep information and stories current. Readers will benefit from timely updates and real-time educational news.

Important Dates:

April 12, 13, 18, 19, 20
HS Musical Into the Woods

April 16
1st CITE Class: Sola Scriptura

April 18
K-8th Learning Fair
HS Conferences - By Appointment

April 19 & 22
No School: Easter Break

April 21
Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt

April 24
Elementary Honor Chapel

May 3
Family Fun Knight

[See full Columbia Calendar](#)

NEW SCHOOL PRESIDENT NAMED: AMI VENSEL

The Board of Columbia Christian School has selected Ami Vensel as the school's next president.

Board Chairman Dr. David Tucker announced Mrs. Vensel's selection last month at a meeting of the faculty and staff. Mrs. Vensel will assume the new role September 1.

In that meeting, Dr. Tucker said, "After an extended search and much prayer, the Board came to the conclusion that the best person for this job was already on our staff. Mrs. Vensel has the academic background and spiritual depth to thrive in this position, and we believe she is the one to lead Columbia Christian into a better future. She has exciting plans for our school, and the Board looks forward to working with her."

The Board search committee received numerous resumes, selected ten applicants for telephone interviews, and brought three finalists to campus before selecting Mrs. Vensel for the position.

Mrs. Vensel has served Columbia as principal since 2013 after serving as second grade teacher for ten years. Previously she taught at Crossroads Christian School for nine years. She also coached volleyball and basketball at both schools.

A graduate of Warner Pacific College, Mrs. Vensel is currently completing



a master's in educational leadership with Grand Canyon University. Mrs. Vensel also serves on the regional Council of the Association of Christian Schools International.

Marquita Moss, who served as assistant to the search committee, will continue serving as interim President until Mrs. Vensel assumes the new role.

Mrs. Vensel and her husband Dan have four sons, all of whom have graduated from or attend Columbia: Daniel, class of 2015, Dustin, class of 2017; Dylan, junior, and Dawson, eighth grade. The Vensels are members of the Metro Church of Christ, where Dan serves as a deacon.

Bloom Where You Are Planted: 2019 Auction

It may have been raining outside, but the sun was certainly shining on this year's auction on Saturday, April 6. Lively bidding by a full house of guests resulted in the school's topping \$100,000 in gross income for the first time and a record net income of \$76,000, according to preliminary results.

"Funding Excellence," an oral auction event that invited guests to make straight donations to the school, brought the largest response, garnering more than \$42,000, after a moving introduction by Brian Simmons, Oklahoma Christian University professor and long-time Columbia supporter.



Camaraderie and lively bidding characterized the silent auction and later, the highly-competitive oral auction, as friends renewed old relationships and made new friends over dinner and between bids.

Dennis Gilliam and Cindy Hill, two members of the very first primary classes at Columbia, came as guests of Jeff and DeAnn Womack. Retired Columbia elementary teacher Carol Davis, wife of current Dean Joel Davis, pointed out that her mother, Edna Ruth Brewer, had been Dennis and Cindy's teacher back then.

Loyalty and roots that go back 72 years to the school's beginning demonstrate the valuable, life-long difference that Columbia Christian School has made in so many lives.

A new auction feature, the "Dessert Dash," added an element of fun and flavor, with guests at each table making bids in hopes of their table winning first choice from the dessert table laden with delicious donations from area restaurants and bakeries.

Student performances delighted guests, with elementary children performing a choreographed version of "Jolly Holiday" from Mary Poppins and the high school drama department performing a scene from their current musical, Into the Woods.

Beautiful decorations carrying out the theme of the school's first springtime auction, "Bloom Where You Are Planted," and delicious formal dining catered by Elephant Catering added a touch of elegance to the evening.

Auctioneer Rob Hill, event chairwoman Karen Shewmaker, development director Jason Housley, decorations chair Shauna Wagner, and facilities team Eli and Tracey Dukes deserve special recognition for an outstanding event.



Mary Poppins Extravaganza

Impressive. Adorable. Entertaining. Fun!

These are some of the words used by the audience to describe the “Mary Poppins Extravaganza” at Columbia Christian School last month. Elementary students from PreK through 5th grade put on a great spring music concert including songs and scenes from the classic Disney film. The program involved adjustable backdrops created by the high school choir class, and showcased elements of singing, choreography, acting, and simple music instruments. The program was coordinated by music teachers Jan Farnsworth and Danielle Valentine.



Of the performance, Mrs. Farnsworth commented, “It is so encouraging to see everyone come together to support our students when they’ve worked so hard! I could not be more proud of our kiddos! Thanks to all who helped make the night Supercalifragilisticexpialadocious!”

Mrs. Valentine added, “I loved watching the kids dress up and feel proud of their performance. I was so impressed with how hard they worked at memorizing lines. I’m looking forward to having these kids in future shows at Columbia!”

Income Property – Campus Rentals

Did you know that Columbia nearly lost access to the gym, science labs, cafeteria, soccer field, and classroom space when Cascade College closed in 2009? Do you know how the school avoided that detrimental loss?

Columbia’s foresighted school board was able to negotiate an equitable purchase price for the vacated campus in 2012 and launched a massive “Walk of Faith” campaign to raise funds toward a down payment on purchase of the 12-acre campus and its facilities.

But that was just the beginning. The board created a comprehensive plan for rental of parts of the campus in order to make the large monthly mortgage payments. They oversaw the conversion of the Bristol and Hartzog dorms on the Burnside end of the campus to apartments

and directed the restoration of six of the houses that had served as offices back to homes for lease.

Other rentals, such as the gym, the Johnson Center kitchen, and the soccer field, also combine to help make the monthly payments and provide maintenance. Even more important, this income makes available excellent space for high school classrooms, science labs, indoor and outdoor athletics and physical education, lunchroom, special events, and more.

Though the closing of Cascade College was a disappointment to the churches in the northwest and many others in the local community, the resulting expansion of Columbia Christian School has meant more young lives impacted by a quality education rooted in Biblical truth. God continues to be glorified in this place.

Middle School Gets Their Hands Dirty

On March 22nd, 7th and 8th graders participated in a service-learning field study at Whitaker Ponds. As a complement to their lessons about freshwater ecosystems, this trip allowed students to work with Laura Guderyahn, an ecologist with Portland Parks and Recreation, as part of a multi-year restoration project at Whitaker Ponds. Classes from Columbia have been volunteering with PPR at Whitaker Ponds for the past 12 years.

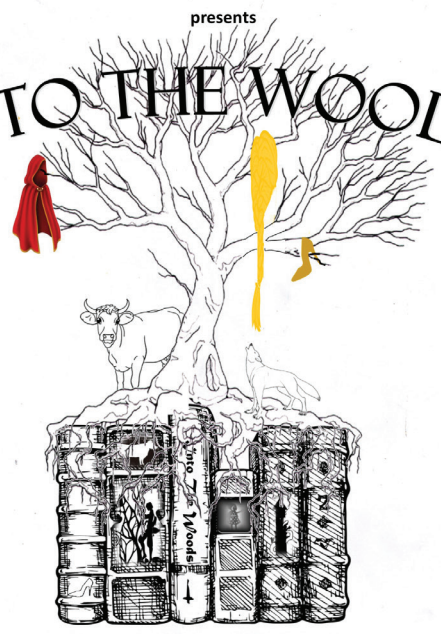


During the study, Hayden, a 7th grade student, was excited to find a native frog along the pond. Mrs. Guderyahn demonstrated how to properly hold a frog and explained how they can be harmed by pollution in the water. This provided a great lesson about the role of amphibians as an indicator species.

Of the trip, Columbia science teacher Nancy Dawkins reflected that it was a gorgeous spring morning so they enjoyed the hike around the ponds and observed a variety of bird species. It wasn’t just a leisurely trip, however, and she remarked, “In two hours we planted over 400 native plants around the north pond!”

Columbia Christian School
presents

INTO THE WOODS



APRIL SHOW TIMES

12TH 7 PM, 13TH 2 PM & 7 PM
18TH 7 PM, 19TH 7 PM
20TH 2 PM & 7 PM

EASTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

For ticket information: (503)252-8577
www.columbiachristian.com

General admission: \$10.00
Students: \$7.00

Directed by Danielle Valentine

Based on the screenplay by James Lapine Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Originally directed on Broadway by James Lapine

FREE MONTAVILLA COMMUNITY EVENT

EASTER EGG HUNT

Columbia Christian School • 9101 E Burnside St. Portland, OR 97216

ALL ACTIVITIES WILL BE HELD ON THE SOCCER FIELD, RAIN OR SHINE!

SUNDAY, APRIL 21 1:30pm

Staggered Start Times:

- 1:30pm 3 and under
- 1:40pm 4-6 years old
- 1:50pm 7-9 years old
- 2:00pm 10-13 years old

• Free Egg Hunt • Easter Bunny Photos • Special "Golden Egg" Prizes •
• Bring Your Own Basket •

SPONSORED BY

MONTAVILLA INITIATIVE Gresham Ford The Dealer with A Heart! Columbia Christian FAITH • CHARACTER • ACADEMICS

Questions?
Call 503-252-8577 or email jthousley@columbiachristian.com



Sola Scriptura: The History & Importance of the Bible A CITE Life-Long Learning (L3) Class

Date & Time: Tuesday nights,
April 16– May 28, 2019. 6-9pm.
Instructor: Dr. Darren Williamson
Course Fee: \$30 (\$35 if obtaining CEUs)
Location: Hosted by Columbia Christian School,
9101 E Burnside St, Portland, OR 97216

Course Description:

Church Historians & Theologians currently are in a season of marking the 500-year anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. One of the great principles of the Sixteenth-Century Reformation is that scripture alone (sola scriptura) is the primary authority for the Christian faith, and this remains a foundational value of Evangelical Christianity today. This class explores the History of the Bible and its status as authoritative Word of God. The first part of the course focuses on the History of the Bible and its textual reliability, the Canon, and early English translations, while the second part examines the Bible's own testimony about its nature and authority and unpacks the important doctrine of inspiration. The class aims to be intellectually stimulating as well as spiritually edifying.

[Click here for more information or to register](#)



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