



The KNIGHTLY NEWS

Columbia Christian School • PreK-12th Grade

March & April 2020

Distance Learning Success



SCHOOL USES DRIVE-THRU CONCEPT FOR HOMEWORK

Important Dates:

May 4-8

Teacher Appreciation Week

May 4,5,7,8,11,12

Town Hall Sessions (By Class)

May 25

Memorial Day, No School

May 26

12th Grade Last Day of School

May 29

9th,10th,11th Grade Last Day of School

June 2

8th Grade Last Day of School

June 3

PreK-7th Grade Last Day of School

[See full Columbia Calendar](#)

When Governor Kate Brown closed the campuses of K-12 schools throughout Oregon in early March, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Columbia Christian was ready to adapt. Administrators and faculty had been preparing for several weeks for this possibility – by creating work-at-home packets, gathering resources for remote learning, and receiving and providing training on tech equipment and platforms. Though in-person education is still preferred, and teachers are missing being in their classrooms each day with their students, they are making the best of the situation and finding great success with the temporary methods.

Local news outlets picked up the extraordinary work at Columbia; the school was featured in a KGW8 News special feature as well as radio interviews on 104.1 The Fish and 93.9 KPDQ. Columbia has provided a couple of opportunities for families to come to campus for a “drive through” experience – picking up new materials and dropping off completed assignments – without even leaving their vehicles. Some teachers are even providing porch delivery of packets and encouraging notes and treats to their students’ homes. The children enjoy visiting with them from a safe distance. Other important elements of the ongoing distance programs include frequent emails, phone calls, online forums, and daily Zoom sessions.

Of continuing Digital and At-Home Learning for the remainder of the school year, Principal Joel Davis commented, “We are pleased with the exceptional efforts of our team to respond quickly and effectively to this sudden change in education methods. Our students are to be commended for their resilience, and their families are appreciated for their ongoing support and partnership. We are grateful for our ability to continue in our mission of excellence in faith, character, and academics.”



Clowning Around Literacy Day

Elementary students at Columbia were surprised to discover that their school had been transformed into a circus. One morning in late-January they were greeted by a ringleader (President Vensel), offered tickets by Administrative Assistant Christy Barrett, served popcorn by Librarian Angie Siler, photographed by Art Instructor Kim Yeager, and led through the "Big Top" by the other faculty and staff - in full costume and character. The focus of the day was literacy and the students rotated through a variety of circus-themed activities that involved clowns, tricks, oddities, animals, and lots of FUN!



Audiences Wowed by Drama Production



Danielle Valentine, Columbia drama teacher, and Cole Wagner, class of 2019 graduate, teamed up to direct "The Importance of Being Earnest" this year. The cast and crew brought an entertaining show to life for six performances on campus. Audience members were impressed and thoroughly entertained!



Boys Basketball: Third in State



Congratulations to the varsity boys basketball team for their success in the 2A State Tournament. The Knights captured the 3rd place trophy. The 6th-ranked Knights beat #3 Coquille in the first round 61-43 and knocked off Northwest League rival Knappa 64-49 in the 3rd place game. In between they lost the semifinal matchup with Western Christian.

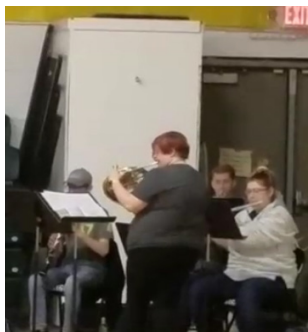
From Athletic Director Bart Valentine

The high school boys really worked hard and exceeded my expectations. To win our 4th straight league title and then finish 3rd in state in a rebuilding year is a terrific accomplishment. Isiah Mariscal stepped up as a senior leader by working tirelessly in the off-season. His commitment to improvement led to an exceptional season and eventually to his being named as the NWL Player of the Year. Both Freddie Jackson and Mo Hartwich also developed into outstanding players giving us three of the top players in the

state at our level. We were primarily a junior-laden team. The challenge now is for our returning group of juniors to put in the work to be even better next year.

Aside from the players, many other people contributed to our success. Support from our students and all our fans was incredible. The efforts of people like Darla Bennett, Cheri Davis, Dave Astin, and assistant coach Sid Astin were instrumental in our accomplishments. It was fun and exciting to see the new pep squad and pep band, as they brought energy to our games. I would like to thank all those who had a hand in making this a season to remember.

We've Got Spirit



Two new groups were revived this year to promote school spirit at events, athletic activities, and around the campus in general. The Pep Band was directed by music instructor Jan Farnsworth and included several musically-inclined middle and high school students. The Pep Squad was coached by PE teacher Kevin Yaws and admissions director Carrie Rude, and showcased the energy and talent of seven middle school girls. Both groups contributed positively and encouraged their fellow Knights.

Engineering Experience

Mrs. Hall's Pre-Engineering students enjoyed a special field trip this year. Multnomah County Bridge Engineers took them to the viewing tower, control center, and below-deck of the Morrison Bridge to learn about mechanics and observe the lift in action.



Alumni Spotlight in Memory of Phyllis Bristol



Phyllis Rosalee Bristol (Haven) passed into the next life on December 18, 2019. Phyllis's family shared that she loved God and Jesus and that her life revolved around the church. In 1947, Phyllis was a 1st grader on the opening day of the brand new Columbia Bible School, and that was just the beginning. The support that Phyllis and her extended family provided to Columbia Christian over the years has been invaluable.

In 1992, Women For Columbia recognized Phyllis with this tribute: "Our goal tonight is to honor Phyllis Bristol, a "worthy woman" who participated fully in the benefits of Columbia Christian Schools and who has used her God-given talents to serve Columbia in many ways. Phyllis Haven graduated from Columbia Christian Schools in 1960. That same year she married Rod Bristol who had graduated from CCS a year earlier. Together they supported the school in the finest way by sending all five of their children to Columbia. In later years, Phyllis taught home economics in the high school, blessing many of our own boys and girls who were students there."

Phyllis and Rod encouraged others to support Columbia. Phyllis started Women For Columbia District #48 at the West-side Church of Christ congregation in Beaverton, and served that group regularly as an officer. She also contributed as membership secretary on the WFC executive board. Rod helped by computerizing records. Phyllis was the Holiday Fair chairwoman for several years and she is famous for the beautiful Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls she made each year to sell at the fair. Phyllis has participated in Columbia's growth as a student, parent, teacher, and supporter. We commend you, Phyllis. An excellent woman we have found in you. We miss you.

Vensel's Voice



President Ami Vensel

The lighted rectangles in our pockets – smartphones and their bigger siblings, tablets and computers – have redefined so much about our lives, including spirituality and the pursuit of God (Kinnaman & Matlock, 2019). Who am I? What decisions are mine to make? Where and with whom do I fit in? What is my trusted source of truth? Consequently, our young people are asking these questions and are looking for the answers on screens. The reality - screens disciple. Our kids are following, researching, believing, liking, tagging, and friending - screens. How can we compete? David Kinnaman and

Mark Matlock in their book, Faith For Exiles, recognize the challenge of raising children in Digital Babylon and offer hope through practices that can reshape behavior.

I was privileged to attend NCSA's (National Christian School Association) National Conference in early March, held at the Museum of the Bible in Washington D.C.; Mark Matlock was one of the keynote speakers. His message was intense, yet very clear – we must consider ways for a new generation to follow Jesus. Then, to reflect on how we help, encourage, and support our young people to rise up to be the next generation of leaders.

I have read and am now rereading Faith for Exiles. We want our young people to thirst for Jesus, and to follow Jesus with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength. For this I pray.

Do you want to be on the next Alumni Spotlight?

The "Alumni Spotlight" is a regular feature in the Knightly News. Contact Jason Housley in the Development Office if you are interested in being included.

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