



# The KNIGHTLY NEWS

Columbia Christian School • PreK-12th Grade

November & December 2020

## Making Connections



To say that it's been a unique school year would be an understatement. Starting this fall in Comprehensive Distance Learning, then implementing Limited In-Person Instruction (following strict health and safety guidelines) has created a multitude of challenges. Columbia administration, faculty, and staff have worked tirelessly and creatively to engage students and families – building valuable relationships for effective learning and growth.

government hosted outdoor events like Glow-in-the-Dark Party, Harvest Festival, and a tree-planting ceremony for Veteran's Day. The middle school



also organized a Harvest Fest and movie party. Elementary students had the Move-A-Thon in October, and a few playground/gym "Knights at Play" sessions through November and December. Older students have had sports training for cross country, disc golf, soccer, pep squad, and (until recent gym closures) volleyball and basketball. All grades celebrated on-campus with class Christmas parties, and the school hosted a couple of BIG outdoor events for the whole community: Fall Festival and Christmas Extravaganza.



Through all of these programs, the goals have been to keep the students connected to their peers and teachers, facilitate positive relationships, and encourage the entire Columbia family.

### Important Dates:

**January 7**

*PTF Meeting - Zoom*

**January 16**

*Bottle Drop Day*

**January 18**

*No School, MLK Jr. Day*

**January 19-22**

*Finals Week*

**January 25**

*No School, Grade Day*

**January 26**

*Quarter 3 Begins*

**January 28**

*Open House & Parent Night*



On the digital side, President Ami Vensel and Principal Joel Davis hosted virtual "Connection Sessions" so families in each class could meet one another and learn about important updates at the school. Teachers facilitated online conferences with parents to check in regarding progress in the first semester, in addition to weekly emails and other frequent touch-points. Chapel with Mr. Rude went online this year, and Mrs. Farnsworth hosted video karaoke parties just for fun.

Beyond the virtual platforms, many opportunities for physically-distanced, in-person socializing were created. The high school student



# The Season in Photos

## CLASS HARVEST PARTIES



AUTUMN ACTIVITIES INCLUDED A PUMPKIN PATCH, CARVING COMPETITION, COSTUMES, AND MORE

## FALL FESTIVAL



FAMILIES ENJOYED THE "TRAIL OF TREATS", AGILITY COURSE, PUMPKIN JUDGING, AND PHOTO BOOTH AT THE FREE EVENT.

## VETERAN'S DAY



TO HONOR THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED, COLUMBIA'S MUSIC DEPARTMENT CREATED A TRIBUTE VIDEO AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PLANTED A SPECIAL TREE ON CAMPUS.

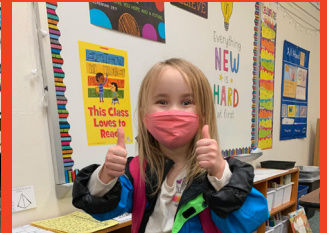
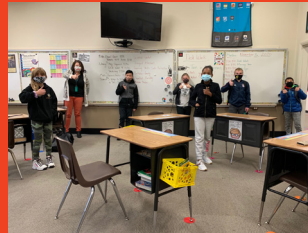
# The Season in Photos (Continued.)

## CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA



COLUMBIA'S FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT PRESENTED A FREE, OUTDOOR COMMUNITY EVENT INCLUDING DRAMA PERFORMANCES, GNOME HUNT, VISIT WITH SANTA, AND ART AND MUSIC STATIONS OF JESUS' BIRTH.

## LIMITED IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION (LII)



STUDENTS IN ALL GRADES ARE OFFERED OPPORTUNITIES TO COME TO CAMPUS EACH WEEK FOR ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THEIR DISTANCE LEARNING EXPERIENCE.

# Columbia Christian's <sup>Return To</sup> Open House & Family Night "NORMAL"

THIS **VIRTUAL** EVENT IS FOR CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

LEARN ABOUT SCHOOL UPDATES:

- How are Our Kids Doing?
- News for Next Year
- Tuition for Fall 2021

HEAR FROM:

Administration, Board, & School Community

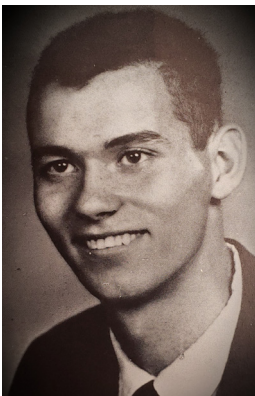
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# Alumni Spotlight



**Tom Bristol**  
**Class of 1963**

Tom Bristol graduated as Valedictorian from Columbia Christian High School in 1963. Of his experience at Columbia, Tom shared the following:

*The Bible learning has been a wonderful foundation for continued studies and commitment all my life. The closeness of teachers, who obviously care about you*

*and your fellow students, sets a course of positive expectations. Because of the small student body, we expected each other to pitch in and get things done and this sense of community involvement has stayed with me.*



*Because the teachers encouraged me to aim high, I attended medical school and I am still in practice, now for the Oregon Department of Corrections serving those whom the rest of the medical community seems to ignore. I do notice that leaders at church tend to come disproportionately from Christian schools and I would encourage all parents to invest in the God-centered education found at CCHS.*

Tom served several years on Columbia's Board of Directors and he is currently an elder at the Keizer Church of Christ. He and his wife, Janie, remain faithful supporters of Columbia Christian; their generosity is a blessing to many.

## 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.

# Vensel's Voice



President Ami Vensel

My encouragement to our school community this year has been to journey through challenges, to not grow weary of doing good (Galatians 6:9). Consider Exodus 14:1-4: *Then the Lord said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon. Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.' And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord."* So the Israelites did this. Verse 31: *And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.*

God led the Israelites to a place where He would do the miraculous. What appeared to be 'wandering in confusion', a dead-end with no escape from Pharaoh and his army – was the exact place God had intended them to be – a place where He would be glorified. And, the Israelites journeyed through the Red Sea on dry ground (vs. 22).

The family of Columbia Christian will journey through – completely dependent on God's leading. We journey through with purposeful attention toward development of character of ourselves and of our students. We journey through with a greater appreciation of our school family. Together we learn what it means to be patient, kind, faithful, longsuffering, loyal, generous, and courageous. We journey through, trusting God is leading us on dry ground to the other side.

Yes, 2020 was a year of challenges; yet, God is faithful! *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.* Lamentations 3:22-23

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## SCAN ME!

Access this QR code with your smartphone camera to be linked to resources like our website, videos, images, and everything Columbia. If you have any questions or need help scanning the QR code, contact Development Director Jason Housley at [jhousley@columbiachristian.com](mailto:jhousley@columbiachristian.com).

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