The KNIGHTLY NEWS

Columbia Christian School • PreK-12th Grade

September & October 2019

Success Beyond High School



Important Dates:

October 29 Picture Retake Day

November 1 End of Quarter 1

November 7-8 PreK-8th Parent Conferences

November 15-17 & 22-24 Fall Drama Production

November 25-29 Thanksgiving Break

See full Columbia Calendar

It's no accident that students who attend Columbia Christian go on to great things after graduation. As an excellent academic institution, Columbia partners with families to prepare children for abundant lives. That abundance encompasses faith, service, relationships, and so much more! One essential element involves the decisions graduates make regarding higher education and employment. Children dream about and aspire to many jobs – from doctors and lawyers to professional athletes and pastors. Parents also have hopes and goals for their child as they grow. Columbia's job is to help each student realize his/her God-given gifts and provide opportunities for exploration and confidence-building.



Leading Columbia's College and Career program this year is *new* Guidance Counselor Karen Banducci. Mrs. Banducci is starting her 4th year on the faculty at Columbia, and is in her 14th year in education – including 9 years in guidance counseling. With a Master's in Educational Leadership and a heart for helping children reach their potential, Banducci is well-equipped to direct students and parents as they consider options for the future.

Columbia administrators are excited to extend a Career Pathways course to high school students this year. Through a variety of career, academic, interest-related and assessments and activities, students explore their God-given abilities while investigating future careers, occupations, and professions. They develop skills to assess their individual characteristics, gifts, and talents, as well as educational and career goals. Students research and analyze career and educational information and develop and discuss a plan designed to achieve personal, educational, and career goals in preparation for their college experience. This involves identifying potential careers and college options. Preparation for college will be the goal as students practice college entrance exams and essays.

So far this year, students have had opportunity to attend three college fairs in the area. Additionally, Columbia has individually hosted representatives from several universities on campus, including: Abilene Christian, Biola, Concordia, Freed Hardeman, Grand Canyon, Harding, Lipscomb, Multnomah, Oklahoma Christian, Pepperdine, and York. More visits are scheduled throughout the school year. *(continued on page 3)*

Elementary Jog-A-Thon

Fall at Columbia Christian brings an important event for elementary students: Jog-A-Thon. The goal for the 2019 event was to reach \$10,000 in donations and sponsors. Thanks to hard-working students, generous supporters, and a new online pledge program, this 24th annual Jog-A-Thon brought in more than \$15,000 in sponsors and donations. The school wishes to especially acknowledge the 2019 sponsors: Abilene Christian University, Concordia University, York College, Riverview Community Bank, Heritage Bank, Womack Auto Body, Coras Construction, Davis Landscape, and Miller Paint.





JOG-A-THON FUN FACTS

- 1,428 laps were completed
- PE teacher Coach Yaws ran more laps than any student (over 50 laps)
- The 5th grade class won a set of school T-shirts for being the first to reach \$1,000 in pledges
- As a reward for meeting the overall goal, elementary students got to tape President Ami Vensel to a wall
- Costco pizza lunch was a huge hit

Memory of a Notable Servant



Harold Hailey 1945-2019

Columbia Christian School would like to recognize and honor Harold Hailey, who served the institution for many years, and who passed from this life September 5, 2019. Mr. Hailey's memorial service was held at the Lincoln City Church of Christ building on September 22 and was attended by many friends of the school and the family.

Harold's service to both Columbia Christian College as well as Columbia Christian Schools extended over 5 decades. He always had a great love for the students and faculty. He served on both the College and the School Board as well as filling the role of Board Chairman. When the School incorporated on its own in 1992, and established its own Board of Trustees, it was not long before Mr. Hailey became very active again – assisting the school with his business expertise through his Board participation. Around 2009, Mr. Hailey stepped off the Board to become primarily a Business Advisor to the school in regards to development work, school expansion, projecting growth, and identifying needs to accomplish that growth.

Harold's wife, Margaret, along with Linda Moody, was very instrumental in getting the school's annual auction started and they both chaired the auction committee for many years. The school was very blessed to have the Haileys' involvement and talents. Their children as well as four grandchildren have attended Columbia. One grandchild, Merek, is currently attending as a senior.

Harold and his influence will certainly be missed. The school was blessed by the work, generosity, and tireless service he contributed.

WPU Serves

As part of their annual "Common Day of Service", 16 students from Warner Pacific University donated several hours in September to bless the Columbia campus. One day each year, WPU closes classes and sends their students all around the city to have a positive impact. Each student is expected to participate, and different groups can choose the projects they work on.



The men's basketball team has helped at Columbia for the past three years, and they came again this year, led by Head Basketball Coach Jared Valentine. The team contributed in many ways that day, including spreading bark dust, cleaning the grounds, moving furniture, and facilitating some basketball skills clinics to the PE classes.



AP Test Results

Columbia offered AP English Literature for the first time last year, and students set a high standard for future classes. Two students, Madelyne Yadav and Lisa Henry, earned fours out of a possible five, an achievement attained by only about 18 percent of all students in the nation who took the test. AP tests are scored on a 5-point scale, and a grade of three or above is a passing score.

Columbia's overall pass rate was 80 percent, compared to a global pass rate of 47 percent, according to Liz Wetzler, who teaches the course. That means that less than half of the students who take the test around the nation earn a passing score of three. D. J. Lawrence and Miriam Pasc earned scores of three on the test, contributing to the class 80 percent passing rate.

Columbia also offered AP U. S. History for the first time in several years, and two students, Parker Reed and Jason Freeman, earned threes on the exam.

Success Beyond High School

(Continued from cover story) Training and preparation for life beyond graduation doesn't just start in ninth grade. Columbia intentionally guides students at the middle and elementary school levels in age-appropriate ways as well. Elementary



students explore, read, and are encouraged to be involved in activities that develop social skills and encourage collaboration and teamwork. Students learn about jobs at the school and in the community, and their role in each. Middle school students choose from a variety of elective classes to help explore their interests and develop skills. Students in 7th grade begin creating a college portfolio that continues with them through high school, and eighth graders and parents meet with the guidance counselor to explore areas of interest, chart their high school class schedule, and begin an audit for mapping credits for graduation.

Through a variety of programs and opportunities, Columbia students are wellprepared for an abundant life. By the time they cross the stage at graduation, students will have:

- an understanding of their gifts, talents, and personality in relation to the calling God has for them
- created a resume to use along with scholarship and college entrance essays
- completed internships and/or job shadows to help them decide which careers interest them
- developed a clear plan for college or career pursuit

Equipped with these tools and resources, the future for Columbia students looks bright and abundant!

Appreciation of Service

Marquita Moss, Interim President August 2017-August 2019



Mrs. Moss enjoying the tulip festival in Woodburn, OR.

What a blessing it is to know God is faithful and always provides for His people! God's provision rings true throughout Columbia's history, and most recently through the heart and service of Interim President, Marquita Moss. Mrs. Moss stepped into leadership at a critical time when Columbia needed a strategic educational leader who was experienced and passionate about Christian education.

Mrs. Moss left her home in Austin, Texas at such a time as this (Esther 4:14) to open opportunities to optimize God's kingdom purposes at Columbia Christian. With her years of Christian school leadership, dedication, and service in building Brentwood Christian School in Austin, Mrs. Moss was excited about the opportunity to support Columbia's board and administration in creating a strategic plan: The Way Forward.

Moss quickly fell in love with the heart and work of the school. Relationships with staff, students, and families were fostered to cultivate a deep respect and appreciation of Moss and her passion to support Columbia's mission of excellence in faith, character, and academics.

Words of gratitude and appreciation seem so small in comparison to the effort, sacrifice, and labor of love extended to Columbia. Yet, we say: Thank you, Mrs. Moss. We believe you came to this place for such a time as this. "For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight." We see God's blessings, faithfulness, and provision in your service to Columbia. We will always be grateful for your service of love!

With Thanksgiving, Your Family at Columbia Christian School

Alumni Spotlight



Todd Mix Class of 1972

It is always great to have alumni come back to Columbia and it's even better when they have family return as students. Alumnus Todd Mix, from the class of 1972, posed for a picture by the soccer field after supporting his great-nieces during the Columbia Jog-A-Thon in September.

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.

Newsletter Staff

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