

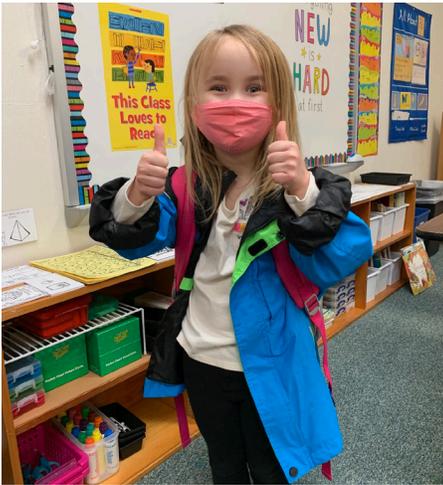


# The KNIGHTLY NEWS

Columbia Christian School • PreK-12th Grade

January & February 2021

## Full Days, Full ❤️s



That's right! Starting in January, Columbia students were able to come back to campus for full days of in-person learning. The schedule currently includes on-site classes every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Distance learning is utilized on Wednesdays, to especially support students who are still learning from home. It's been a school year with many challenges and transitions – from exclusively distance learning in September, to two-hour limited in-person instruction (“power hours”) through the fall, and now to full-day sessions. Columbia teachers and students are excited to be moving closer to “normal”.



### Important Dates:

**March 2**

Parent Prayer Group

**March 4**

PTF Meeting - Zoom

**March 8-18**

Elementary Read-A-Thon

**March 22-26**

Spring Break

**April 1**

End of Quarter 3

**April 2**

No School, Grade Day

**April 5**

Easter Break

**April 6**

Quarter 4 Begins

### WHAT DO OUR TEACHERS THINK ABOUT MORE IN-PERSON TIME?

“Our students benefit from the in-person experience academically to be sure, but even more so their emotional health has improved their focus and their motivation. The thing I like most about having students back in the classroom is that the level of energy and engagement is so much higher!”

*-Mr. Schultz, Middle School English*

“The kids are so much happier! They come to school excited and ready to participate. Keeping them on task and organized is significantly easier. They have missed their peers. They have a much deeper appreciation for one another, and the kids encourage and build each other up.”

*-Miss Fletcher, 5th Grade*

“My favorite part about being back in the classroom is the increased student engagement. I’m getting much more participation in class discussion, and our time together feels much more fruitful. It’s important for students to get out of the house, spend time with each other, and build more meaningful relationships with both their peers and their teachers.”

*-Mrs. Wetzler, High School English*

# New Club is Soaring



If you've been around Columbia's campus lately, you may have noticed some colorful flying objects. This can be attributed to the newly-formed disc golf club. Grown out of an independent study PE course, the school now boasts a full nine-hole course with baskets donated by generous supporters.

Disc golf is one of the fastest growing sports in the U.S. and it's gaining popularity at Columbia too. At least 20 middle and high school students have participated in the activity so far this school year, and several faculty/staff members have joined in as well. Goals of the club include exposing students to the sport, building their skills, and providing a recreation activity to get them outside and moving.



## MEET THE COACHES:

### KEVIN YAWS, PE TEACHER

Coach Yaws has been playing the sport since his senior year of high school (1986) and he's excited to bring it to Columbia's campus. He likes that it's a social activity that helps kids get to know one another and build community. He hopes that it can grow to the point of inviting other schools to compete. Of the club, Yaws shared, "Disc golf is an affordable sport that almost anyone can play and it's a lifetime activity. It's brought a lot of joy. The kids are loving it!"

### ELI DUKES, FACILITIES DIRECTOR

Coach Dukes is credited with construction of Columbia's disc golf course – putting in the labor to make it happen. His family has a special connection with the sport as Dukes' son Connor played disc golf as part of his high school independent study PE course last year. Eli joined him and their interest grew to the point that they wanted to help bring it to Columbia. "It is such a blessing to have a full nine holes on Columbia's campus. During the heaviest COVID restrictions, disc golf was one way our students were able to get together, socialize safely, and experience a sport new to most of them. I have most enjoyed watching students develop their skills on the course in such a short time."

### DOUG MOORE, 6TH GRADE TEACHER

Better known as "The Teach" in the disc golf world, Coach Moore is a professional player who is well-known in the Pacific Northwest. He holds the current record on the campus course (7 under par) and brings a lot of enthusiasm to the club. Coach Moore shares, "I've been impressed with how quickly the students have improved in disc golf and how much they've enjoyed trying the sport. They quickly translated their other sports skills into the skills needed to play disc golf: core strength, coordination, mental focus, and strategy. I've also been very encouraged by how the students talk about going quickly from never having heard of disc golf, to having it be one of their favorite sports. Based on what I've seen, we will have a great disc golf team well into the future. Other schools are starting to get on board with having their own teams and following us as a pioneer of bringing the sport of disc golf to schools."

# Band Honors



Columbia junior Connor Dukes was named to the All-State Symphonic Band 2020-2021. Connor has been playing the clarinet for six years and previously received the honor of playing with the all-state ensemble in middle school as well. This year, due to COVID, things looked different (no large gathering of performers), however the accomplishment is no less of an honor. To qualify, Jan Farnsworth, Columbia's band director, nominated Connor through Oregon Music Educator Association (OMEA) and Connor submitted an audio recording. It was evaluated by three judges who gave individual scores. Connor's playability was of a caliber to qualify him among the top players in the state.

Mrs. Farnsworth reflected, "Connor is my most dedicated student. He has a genuine love for music and is innately gifted with an understanding for music theory. Connor brings a quality sound and work ethic to our organization. He also contributes great ideas and creativity. He is a joy to have as a strong leader in our band community and he's always willing to help fellow students no matter their age!"

# Black History Month

In honor of Black History Month, Columbia teachers and students spent time learning and engaging in discussions that highlight the powerful work of God through the lives of influential African Americans, as well as black men and women throughout history – including the Bible. Black History Month was developed out of a desire for black educators to teach their students about the positive contributions of black culture to the flourishing of America. Though not just reserved for February, this month provides an opportunity for intentional focus on the accomplishments of black leaders, innovators, and trailblazers who had the courage to step out and break down color barriers.



Following are just a few ways Columbia students celebrated:

Kindergarten students learned about influential African Americans like Garrett Morgan, George Washington Carver, Ruby Bridges, Rosa Parks, and Jackie Robinson. They discussed how God created all people with His loving care.

1st and 2nd graders created a poster about an African American inventor or innovator. They also discussed the book *Be the Change* and learned important lessons from the Biblical account of the Good Samaritan – loving one's neighbor the way God instructs, not based on skin color or appearance.

5th graders learned about Martin Luther King Jr. and wrote their own "I Have A Dream" messages.

Middle school students studied the history of the black church in America and learned about the Jim Crow museum. In art, they utilized techniques from Black American artist Alma Woodsey Thomas.

High school English classes celebrated the lives and works of black poets – many from the Harlem Renaissance, and they examined the influences of Romanticism and Modernism on counter-cultural movements, especially the civil rights movement.

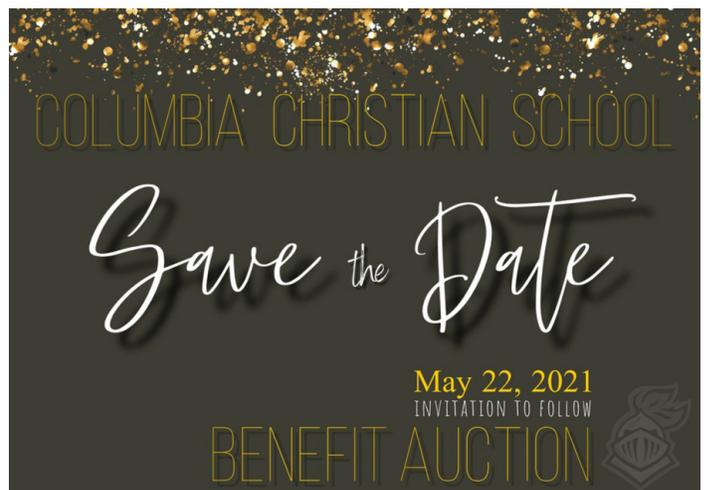
In Advisory, seniors discussed the initial events that brought black people to the Americas – to get a foundation of the race issues that are still faced today. Building on that, they watched videos, read articles, and talked about ongoing race concerns in the United States.



## GOING THE DISTANCE



The Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) recently ran a story on Columbia sophomore Frank Adams. The article highlights Frank's determination to overcome challenges as a cross country and track athlete. You can read more at <https://www.osaa.org/today/article/1965>



# Vensel's Voice



President Ami Vensel

I'm a fan of great quotes! Not long ago I was encouraged by one of our Board members to reflect on a quote from Vincent van Gogh, the painter. You know, the guy who cut off his own ear! He was a Christian, by the way, and once wrote:

"There may be a great fire in our soul, but no one ever seems to come and warm themselves at it, and the passers-by see only a little bit of smoke coming through the chimney, and pass on their way. Now... one must tend that inward fire, have salt in oneself, and wait patiently yet with how much impatience, for the hour when somebody will come and sit down near it, to stay there maybe. Let him who believes in God wait, for that hour will come, sooner or later."

My hope – my prayer – is that we [Columbia] can tend to the inward fire; that people will want to come and warm themselves by it. That students, parents, and our community will see the smoke coming from the chimney of Columbia Christian and will stop to notice. The passers-by will want to come and warm themselves by the heat of the fire of Christ in the soul of Columbia Christian School.

# Alumni Spotlight



Candace with Mr. Morgan Outlaw, long-time Columbia Administrator

*Candace (Tompkins) Takahashi*  
*Class of 1985*

Candace Tompkins enrolled at Columbia in 7th grade and went on to graduate with the class of 1985. Reflecting on her years at Columbia, Candace shared, "I remained lifelong friends with some of my teachers. I've always said the class of 1985 was like a church youth group. We were so close. My best memory is making a friend in 7th grade and that friendship continuing to this day. My brother Ken also went to Columbia and he and I often talk about our time there. It felt like family and still does. My graduating class gets together when we can and it's just like picking up where we last left off. Some of my fondest memories include Columbia. It truly is the School of Brotherly love."

After graduation, Candace immediately went to Bolivia with her parents as missionaries to the deaf. She recalled, "Columbia just cemented my desire to serve. I was in Bolivia for two years and when I came back to the States I married, had a family, and have been an ASL interpreter ever since. A Christian education, I feel, is vital. A Christ-centered home and regular church attendance coupled with a Christ-centered education gives kids such a solid foundation. One thing Columbia offered stands out above everything, the Christlike atmosphere. Many of the kids I went to school with at Columbia are still following the Lord."

## 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.



### 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 [jhousesley@columbiachristian.com](mailto:jhousesley@columbiachristian.com).



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