



The KNIGHTLY NEWS

Columbia Christian School • PreK-12th Grade

Fall 2023

After-School Enrichment: New Clubs!



Important Dates:

November 18

Holiday Fair

November 20-24

Thanksgiving Break

December 1-3, 8-10

Fall Drama Performances

December 14

All-School Christmas Program

December 18 - January 1

Christmas Break

January 12

Homecoming

February 10

Open House & Fun Fair

By Deborah Miller

This fall Columbia launched an after-school enrichment program: offering students in grades 3–12 a chance to be involved in clubs that appeal to a variety of interests. Our goals in developing this program were to ignite and develop varied interests and abilities; provide parents safe and meaningful pursuits for their children; to host classes that integrate a biblical worldview; and to facilitate activities that were affordable compared to other club activities or club sports.

The clubs are taught by skilled and talented parents and staff (all background checked) who are willing to give of their time to create a fun opportunity for students to explore

areas of interest. Each club meets once a week for ten weeks at a cost of \$150. In our fall sessions, students could choose from chess club, robotics, sketch and watercolor, craft class, and gospel choir. Clubs were offered from 3:45 to 4:45 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays so students could participate in more than one if they wanted. We were pleased to see the equivalent of 10% of our student population take part in our first set of offerings.

It's hard to describe the joy of watching students gathered across grade levels to play and create and compete (chess!) and enjoy learning in low-stress environments. The energy was palpable.

Continued on page 2...

After-School Enrichment: New Clubs!

Students had these things to say about their involvement in after-school clubs:

Aiden, 3rd grade: "Craft class is so much fun. I made a string-art bunny that is hanging in my bedroom. I also enjoyed the mosaic and the weaving project. Chess is amazing too - Mr. E's tournaments are really fun!"

Josiah, 6th grade: "Robotics club is cool! We get to make the robots drive and do color-sensing things."

Grace, 7th grade: "I love to sing, so Gospel Choir makes my love for singing grow and grow each week. I have learned to breathe right, and when I need to take breaths so I can have a longer note. I absolutely love her [Deborah Greenidge]... When she

was our guest speaker at MS chapel, I literally fell in love with her vibe."

We want to offer a huge "thank you" to the teachers who were willing to make themselves available; to families who were willing to give this pilot program a try; to the students who signed up and came week after week, and to Christy Barrett and Laura Walthinsen for providing administrative support for the program. It takes a village—and we have THE BEST.

We are recruiting teachers for our winter term of After-School Clubs, getting the classes and schedule set up, and then opening them up for sign-ups after Thanksgiving Break. We hope you will consider taking advantage of these opportunities for your children!



Jog-A-Thon 2023

	<div>JOG-A-THON 2023 STATS Running Time: 4 hours Laps Recorded: 2,184 (more than 455 miles!) Funds Raised: over \$12,200 Top-ranking class for donations: 4th grade Water Gulped: 22 gallons Snacks Consumed: over 5lbs Smiles Exchanged: countless</div>	

by Mark Beekman

What a memorable day! In mid-October the weather was perfect and the rain held off. The soccer field was damp (but not soaked), energy was high, and the running path was marked with orange cones. Each elementary student received their event-themed shirt, were assigned their lap-counting leader, and waited excitedly for the announcement of "Ready, Set, Go!" Away they went!!

Jog-a-thon is always a highlight activity for elementary students in the fall, and this 28th-annual event was no different. The children gathered their pledges and prepared for the big day. Then for their class's designated time (a 15-20-minute segment), the students ran...and ran and ran. Middle school and high school students took a

break from classes to join in the festivities by providing the cheering throughout the event. Some supporters showed up with signs displaying words of encouragement for the participants! Several teachers also provided support while running side-by-side with students.

We appreciate, and would like to acknowledge, the Parent Teacher Fellowship (PTF) for organizing student snacks, coordinating volunteers, and providing the music. We would also like to thank the additional friends, family, and other members of the Columbia community, who circled the soccer field with cheers and waved gold and black pompons as the students ran by. A special acknowledgment goes to this year's corporate sponsors: AVI Master Tech, Jason Preuit of Premier Property Group, Womack Auto Body, and the Columbia Christian PTF.



Fall Memories



Pumpkin Fun Day



6th Grade Outdoor School



Back to School BBQ



College Expo



High School Leadership Lunch



Middle School Mt. St. Helens Field Trips



Knight Fest High School Retreat



Dr. Miller's Korea Visit



All-School Chapel

Fall Sports Recap

By Ian Hutchins

As we transition now into winter sports, let's look back at Columbia's successful fall athletic season. We are extremely proud of the hard work, commitment, perseverance, and growth we witnessed in our student athletes all season long. We grew in our relationship with God and we promoted positive, Christ-centered connections between our student-athletes, parents, and coaches.

Our fall sports for high school include co-ed cross country, co-ed soccer, and girls volleyball. We offer the same teams at the 5th-8th grade level. This year we were pleased to

have over a hundred student athletes participating across our six teams. One hundred! Isn't that incredible? We think so!

It is bittersweet to celebrate with our graduating seniors: Hayden Reid, Bryan Millan, Skylar Stewart, Raylin Hartman, Tanner Wright, Iris Zapp, and Ariana Muffenbier. These students truly represented our athletic department through our three core values: Christ, Community, and Culture. We will continue to pray for them and can't wait to see what God has in store for their futures.



5th-8th Grade Cross Country

Our middle school cross country team, ten athletes strong, was led by head coach Han White-Duong. Coach Han had the full support of high school head coach Kevin Yaws to continue to build the program off of last year's success. Our middle schoolers competed in eight events, including the Middle School Christian League (MCL) Championship. This was an exciting time since many had never raced competitively before. Our boys all set personal records with Isayah Landeros setting the school's 3000m record with a time of 11 minutes, 11 seconds. The girls continued to improve and all of them ended the season setting new personal records.



High School Cross Country

Veteran head coach Kevin Yaws had ten athletes come out this season. The runners participated in eight events, including the District Championship. This year we had our school's first-ever scoring girls team in Columbia history. They ended the season ranked 14th out of 20 in the state's strongest league. We had three boys race individually all season long, with each of them setting personal records.



5th-8th Grade Soccer

Led by Coach David Rude, our middle school soccer team consisted of sixteen 5th through 8th graders (we opened it to 5th graders in order to have enough players to fill a team). Unfortunately, with such a young team (only three were 8th graders), we finished the season 2-8. However, we saw tremendous growth within each player and we are very proud of the way they battled all season long.



High School Soccer

First-year head coach Ben Arthur had nineteen players come out for soccer, with twelve of them being underclassmen. We were a very young team competing at the eleven-man level. The team started off hot at 4-1-1, but they experienced injuries as well as seasonal fatigue that led to some adversity. The team finished 6-8-1, making the league playoffs and even winning a road playoff game. Hayden Arthur was selected as 1st Team All-League, scoring thirty-four goals in the season. We also had Bryan Millan and Madison Loggins receive League Honorable Mention.

Fall Sports Recap



5th/6th Grade Volleyball

Head coach Sequoia Ranson had twelve girls participate in this year's 5th/6th grade team—many of them first-time players. Our 5th and 6th graders practiced two to three times a week and played in twelve games. They finished the season with a record of 4-8. Throughout the season, the girls exhibited great character—they played hard, competed well, and got better every single day.



7th/8th Grade Volleyball

Under the leadership of Coach Natalie Bishop, our middle school volleyball team played ten games and finished the season at 3-7, just missing out on the Middle School Christian League Playoffs. Our girls improved their individual skills, learned how to play as a team, and most importantly, grew in their character as they endured personal and team challenges throughout the season.



High School Volleyball

Second-year head coach Lauren Starts saw her team grow from twelve girls on one team a year ago to nineteen girls this year, allowing both a JV and Varsity team. Our junior varsity team, led by Ana Wakefield, competed in twelve games, finishing with a record of 4-8. Our varsity team was one of the youngest teams in the league, but still managed to pull off some victories, finishing at 5-12. Our girls battled all season long and even forced a league play-in game vs Southwest Christian for a chance to be our league's last representative in the district playoffs. Raylin Hartman earned All-League Honorable Mention.

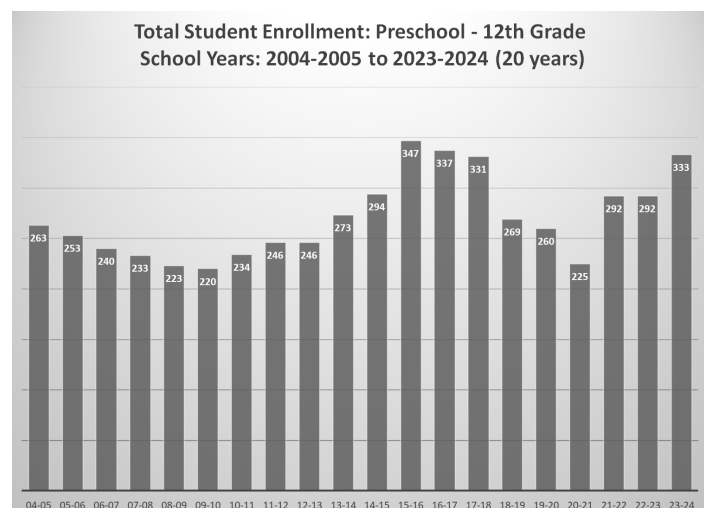
Enrollment Growth

by Carrie Rude

It is not uncommon for people to ask me what a school office does over the summer months. Perhaps because the students are on break and the classrooms are quiet, they think there isn't much work to be done. (I hope they don't ever pose this question to the Facilities Director – the campus maintenance tasks over the summer are significant!) Yes, the daily pace and routine may look different in July and August, but there is still plenty to keep us occupied.

In the admissions department, the summer and early fall are a busy time of new family phone calls and emails, campus visits and tours, application collection and review, student assessments, and admission paperwork. This year was no exception; the wave of activity resulted in an increased student enrollment over 12% from last year. The 2022-2023 school year wrapped up in the spring with 292 total students. At the start of the 2023-2024 school year, total student enrollment was at 333 – an addition of 41 students. Our administration was especially pleased to surpass our headcount / budget goal of 327 students.

To give some perspective, the chart below outlines Columbia's 20-year historic enrollment totals for each school year. Of special note is that fact that in the last 20 years (perhaps in all of Columbia's history), there have only been four years that we've had over 300 students enrolled: 2015, 2016, 2017, and NOW!



Partners in Faith

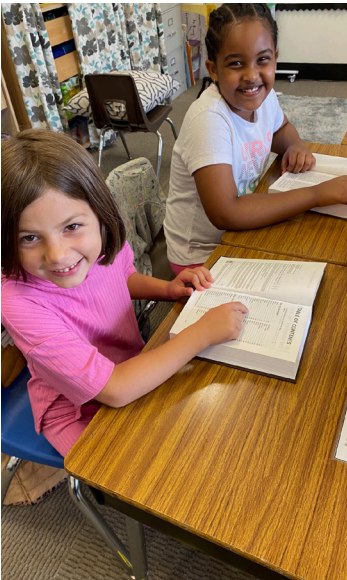
by Carrie Rude

Many people know that Columbia Christian School has founding roots in the Church of Christ. In fact, the school originally operated in the Central Church of Christ building in the 1940s before moving to the present location in the 1950s. Today, however, over 80 local churches are represented by the students and families who currently attend Columbia Christian. That's a lot of churches! The congregations include denominations like Baptist, Bible, Christian, Community, Episcopal, Evangelical, Lutheran, Orthodox, and many more. Of course, Churches of Christ are also represented – Eastside, Metro, Oregon City, East County, VanChurch, Hazel Dell, and Southwest. Having involvement and support from these bodies of faith is a blessing to the ministry at Columbia.

Here are just a few ways the church community has recently contributed to Columbia's mission:

- Members from Metro Church of Christ donated supplies, time, and effort to revitalize the Vera Johnson Rehearsal Hall. From cleaning and painting, to installing planters and backdrop curtains, many hands were part of the beautification project.
- Eastside Church of Christ generously donated a set of new Bibles to the 2nd grade class this fall, and they supplied homemade cookies for an international student gathering.
- Crossroads Church provided desserts for the school's Pumpkin Fun day in October and has also agreed to let Columbia use their gym for middle school basketball practices again this season.
- Each summer for several years, Portland Central Church of the Nazarene has hosted our summer service project: building and improving tiny homes at Agape Village.
- Many local churches distributed treat bags with Columbia information through their children/youth activities this past summer.

Reflecting on church partnerships at Columbia, Mrs. Vensel commented, "There is great blessing in relationships that are founded on God's Truth with a mutual desire to grow Christlikeness. 'A cord of three strands is not easily broken' (Ecclesiastes 4:12). When children are taught and receive the same message of Truth at home, their church, and at Columbia (Christian education), the Christian community builds a lasting foundation of faith in a child."



Columbia Christian School's

Parent Teacher Fellowship

Presents

HOLIDAY FAIR

Saturday, November 18th 10am-4pm



*Free Pictures
with*

Santa!

PIE BY THE SLICE!

RAFFLE!

NAME YOUR PRICE TABLE!

FREE COFFEE & HOT COCOA

Essential Oils ❄ Handmade Gifts ❄ Jewelry
Quilts and More Sewn items
Pottery ❄ Homemade Treats... And So Much MORE!

9101 East Burnside PDX 97216 (JC/Cafeteria)

Vensel's Voice



President Ami Vensel

"Come and see what the Lord has done, the amazing things he has done on the earth" (Psalm 46:8). The passage goes on to talk about really, really big things God can do, like stopping wars. But God also works in smaller ways, and ways that make a difference in our lives. Here on the Columbia campus, it was a busy summer of seeing God move in providing facility improvements on campus and amazing additions to our staff.

Over at the elementary campus, we filled empty rooms with new classes--three grades doubled this year!--the library has a new theme, and we've moved our Extended Day program to a more convenient location. Miss Poole has taken on a new role as our full-time learning specialist, complete with her own space from which to work. We have also added a variety of after-school clubs to offer students: chess, robotics, crafts, sketch & watercolor, and gospel choir – students are so enjoying these activities. At the middle school, we've added a new lounge area: Knights Nook, where students can hang out, do schoolwork, play games, and where extra storage was created for gym bags. In the high school, we've not changed much physical space other than creating a really cool new area for the cooking classes, but we've added many new electives, including college concurrent classes, and welcomed new staff. Our high school fall annual retreat (Knight Fest) took place at Camp Jonah in Trout Lake, WA. We invited special guest speaker, Dr. Grant Miller, who serves as chaplain at Northwest Nazarene University. Grant challenged students to engage in a spiritual act of seeing one another – and inviting each other into community (Acts 3:1-11). Standing in a circle of high school students listening to them sing, join arms, and and worship together was... beautiful.

All that to say, it was a joy to welcome students and families back to campus and see their excitement for the beginning of a new school year. We are filled with joy and anticipation for what amazing things God is going to CONTINUE to do throughout this year. "But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you" (1 Samuel 12:24).

Join us on

GIVING TUESDAY

for Columbia Christian School!



**Tuesday
November 28th,
2023**

Korean Winter Camp Hosts Needed!

Camp #1 - January 8-24

Camp #2 - February 4-28

Camp #3 - February 4 - March 28

Students will come from Busan and Seoul, South Korea. They will range from 3rd grade through 11th grade.



Can you host?

Please contact Laura Walthinsen:
lwalthinsen@columbiachristian.com



Newsletter Staff

Luke Moody	Ian Hutchins
Ami Vensel	Eli Dukes
Carrie Rude	Deborah Miller
Mark Beekman	Pearl Howarth

Follow us on
Social Media!



/columbiachristianschools
/columbiachristianathletics



@letsgo_knights



@columbia_christian_school
@ccsknights