



The KNIGHTLY NEWS

Columbia Christian School • PreK-12th Grade

September & October 2022

Pumpkin Fun Day



It's a bird, it's a plane, no – it's a pumpkin! If you happened to be walking near our soccer field on a sunny morning in late October, you may have noticed an interesting sight. Columbia students were launching orange gourds across the campus as part of their Pumpkin Fun Day. Supported on either side by a parent volunteer or staff member (or a willing high schooler) each child had an opportunity to use the custom catapult device to see how far they could make their vegetables soar. Students also enjoyed activities like bowling, basketball, tic-tac-toe, art projects, and relay races.

Pumpkin Fun Day is becoming an annual tradition at the school – involving the “Prayer Warrior” big buddies and little buddies. Each class at Columbia is partnered with another grade (10th grade with 5th grade, 7th grade with 1st grade, etc.) and students have specific buddies within that class. They are partnered for the school year and participate in a variety of events, chapel times, and classroom activities. No doubt Pumpkin Fun Day will be one of the memorable times together!

Columbia is grateful to all the volunteers who came out to support the event: Kelly McLeskey, Rachel Ryerson, Amy Ngo, Arlene Campbell, Steve Merryman, Laura Walthinsen, Angie Merwin, and Rici Preuit.

Important Dates:

November 11

Grandparents Day
Veterans Day Program

November 21-25

Thanksgiving Break

December 2,3,4,9,10,11

Winter Drama Performances

December 6

Middle & High School Christmas Program

December 8

Elementary Christmas Program

December 19 - January 2

Christmas Break



TRANSFER STUDENTS

Do you know someone considering school options for their children? Columbia Christian accepts transfer students during the school year! Contact the office to learn which classes have waiting lists or open spots available: 503-252-8577 or ccs@columbiachristian.com.

New Faces: Faculty & Staff Update



Eric Estacio is a welcome addition to Columbia's high school math and science crew. He is passionate about helping students understand the world around them through the lens of math and science – and especially through Christ. Mr. Estacio has a Master's in Mathematics from Grand Canyon University and a Bachelor's in Chemistry from Lubbock Christian University.



Kendra Johnson believes in the value of working in Christian education. Mrs. Johnson earned her Bachelor's in Early Childhood & Elementary Education from Cascade College. She previously taught for five years at Columbia Christian, and three years at West Hills Christian, before staying home with her two children. Now Kendra's back this year to join the elementary team – teaching 2nd and 3rd grade!



Jeanna Hammond has already been part of the Columbia community for many years as a dedicated substitute teacher; she now enjoys her new role teaching full-time high school English. Mrs. Hammond has a Bachelor's from South Carolina State and has served in a variety of school settings. She loves working in a Christian environment.



Nicole Adams has been an involved parent volunteer at Columbia for many years, but she officially became a staff member this fall as manager of The Armory Café in the student center. Mrs. Adams truly offers service with a smile!



Jenna Heath works in the elementary – supporting Ms. Fletcher and the 5th grade students, and teaching some music classes. Miss Heath has spent the last three years working in Christian education and she is excited to serve in a profession that combines two of the things she is most passionate about: ministry and education. Mrs. Heath has a Bachelor's in Ministry and Music from Corban University.



Emma Weaver joins the high school team to support students in faith and character development. One of Mrs. Weaver's biggest passions is walking with young people towards Jesus while engaging in their world. Emma holds a degree in Christian Ministries and Biblical Studies from George Fox University; she has been volunteering and working in youth ministry since 2011.



Anna Carter stepped back into the classroom this fall to join the middle school team. Mrs. Carter has a long history with Columbia Christian – as a student, parent, and teacher. Anna is passionate about helping students learn, and she is missional about centering Christ in the curriculum. Mrs. Carter has a Master's in Special Education from Western Oregon University and a Bachelor's in Music Education from Columbia Christian College.



Did you know that Columbia partners with Dishes2U to provide hot lunch options for students? Families can place orders online to have meals delivered to the cafeteria at lunch each day. Some of the vendors currently in the rotation include Panera Bread, Papa John's, and Panda Express. The students enjoy having these special meals!

Jog-A-Thon 2022

Development Director Mark Beekman shares...

What a wonderful day! In early October the weather was perfect, the sun was shining, the soccer field was damp (but not soaked), and a collection of orange cones marked the course. Columbia elementary students received their tie-dyed shirts, were assigned their lap-counting leader, and waited excitedly for the announcement of "Go!"

Jog-a-thon is always a highlight in the fall, and this 27th Annual event was no different. The students had already 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 joined in the festivities by providing the cheering throughout the event, complete with black & gold pom-poms and tunnels for the kids to run through! Several teachers also provided encouragement while running side-by-side with students.

We appreciate everyone who supported this year's fundraiser. Some of the parent volunteers who devoted their Friday morning include Jason & Rici Preuit, Amanda & Caity Himes, Rachel Ryerson, Debbie Hinkle, Danielle Zapp, Matt & Ashley Wojcik, Laura Walthinsen, and Gretchen Zanon. The Parent Teacher Fellowship (PTF) provided the energetic tunes along with the rest-stop refreshments throughout the event. A special thanks goes to this year's corporate sponsors: AVI Master Tech, Davis Landscaping, Jason Preuit of Premier Property Group, Womack Auto Body, and the Columbia Christian PTF.



JOG 2022 STATS

Running Time: 4 hours

Laps Recorded: 1,950

Miles Run: over 450

Water Gulped: 20 gallons

Snacks Consumed: over 5lbs

Smiles Exchanged: countless!

Technology Update



Through generous grants from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust and Juan Young Trust, combined with support from the Columbia community, the school was able to take the first steps in developing and implementing their campus-wide technology strategic plan. This portion of the strategic plan ensures Columbia is able to continue to bring current technologies into the students' hands in the classroom environment. This technology also reinforces Columbia's ability to provide strong digital learning opportunities, in both distance- and brick-and-mortar classroom scenarios.

TECHNOLOGY STRATEGIC PLAN

- Phase 1 included the purchasing of new Chromebooks for each 5th-8th grade student to use, and the development of two technology carts to be utilized by the PreK-4th grade classes
- Phase 2 brought new, large, internet-ready SMART televisions to the PreK-4th grade classrooms
- Phase 3 rolled out with the installation of 75" and 86" Interactive Touch Screen monitors in the 5th-12th grade classrooms
- Phase 4, the project's final phase, which includes the installation of digital cameras in each of the classrooms, will begin during the last quarter of this school year.

But wait, that's not all! As part of this initiative, teachers at the lower grade levels will be able to access additional teaching resources and aids to support their classroom efforts. These younger students will benefit from the introduction of basic keyboarding, expanded project research opportunities, and digital educational activities. At the middle school and high school levels, this technology provides the opportunity for each student to receive additional support through direct student-instructor screen sharing capabilities, the recording of class lectures with whiteboard notes for reference, and the potential for additional academic programming. The impact of these improvements is great!

Go Guardian

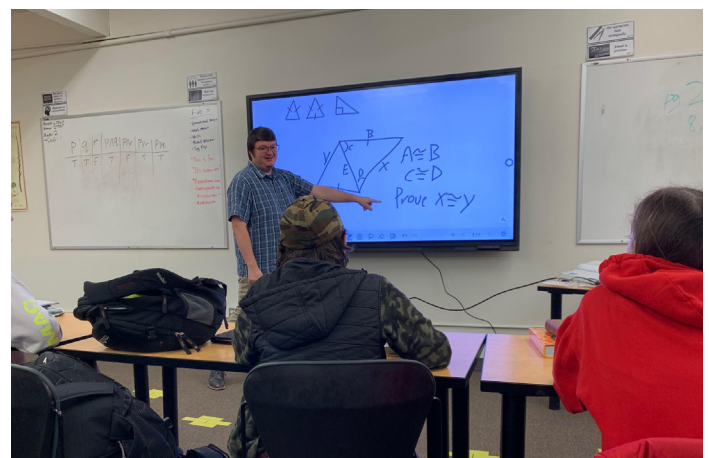
From Principal Deborah Miller...

We are pleased to announce, with the support of Title IV funds (free to the school through the local ESD), we have been able to purchase a software monitoring and protection app for our school-issued devices – iPads and Chromebooks. This app, GoGuardian, has several very useful features that we are glad to utilize.

GoGuardian enables our faculty and staff to help defend students from inappropriate websites or content and to keep students focused on academics while at school. At the classroom level, teachers are able to view each student's screen during class, as well as open and close tabs if students are off-task in their browsing. Teachers can also spot-check usage to see how much time students are spending on any particular site. At the administrative level, we are able to track whole-school usage such as top sites visited and how much time is spent on them. We also get "Smart Alerts" when students are attempting to access at-risk content. When we receive these notices, we share the information with the teacher and the parent so we can work as a team to support the child.

Parents/guardians, there are features available to you as well! One of them is having the ability to shut off internet access at a certain time of the evening. Parents wishing to learn more about the parental features can email our IT Director Donnie Alcatraz at dalcataz@columbiachristian.com.

With this software, we hope to help students become wise, effective, and discerning users of technology.



Fall Sports

Athletic Director Joey Chapman shares an overview of the Fall 2022 sports season.



5th-8th Cross Country

This season, our 5th-8th cross country team had the best student-athlete turnout in almost 10 years at 16 kids! Coach Han and Coach Yaws were ecstatic with the development of each runner throughout the course of the season and they expect a very bright future for our cross country program!

High School Cross Country

After graduating the 2021 Individual Girls Cross Country State Champion, Makena Houston, Coach Yaws was on a mission to find the next great runner at Columbia. With three new faces to the girls team and two new faces to the boys team, Coach Yaws was impressed with the dedication each runner had this year. Tanner Wright had some fantastic races and our lone senior, Frank Adams, capped off his final race with a great PR.



5th-8th Soccer

Coach Rude and his 5th-8th soccer team had an incredible season, finishing in 5th place in the Metro Christian League. The 8th grade class led our team with their experience, leadership, and willingness to improve all season long. The 8th graders will move up and play an integral part of our high school team next season while the 5th-7th graders will get their chance to step up as leaders and have another successful season next fall.

High School Soccer

What a season it was for our high school soccer program! Led by the League Coach of the Year, Larry Delamarter, our Knights battled all the way to the League Championship game where they fell just short to Mannahouse in a thrilling match. Dawson Vensel, Christian Chapman, Kamden Reed, Deven Truong, and Bryan Burgos were all named as All-League players. Earning the 2nd place trophy at the league playoffs was our program's best finish in over 10 years and we are excited to see it in the trophy case very soon!



5th/6th Volleyball

What stood out most in the Athletic Department this Fall? It had to be the attitude and smiles on our 5th/6th Volleyball team. With almost an entire new group of girls, and Coach Sequoia taking the reins, our 5th/6th team not only had a stellar season, but also helped lay the foundation of what it means to be a Columbia Christian volleyball player. Coach Sequoia did a fantastic job of goal-setting with each girl and then celebrating big when those goals were accomplished in practices and/or in games.

Fall Photo Collage



Columbia's Academy 6 students enjoyed four days at Camp Yamhill in October for their Outdoor School experience. Learning about God's amazing creation while actually being immersed in it - that's powerful!



Chapel is an integral part of the Columbia community. All-School chapel is an especially meaningful time for the students to worship together.



Columbia's Back to School BBQ is a fall tradition that brings together returning and new families for food, fellowship, and FUN!



From ropes course elements and group challenges to campfire songs and silly games, high school students bonded during their 3-day Knight Fest retreat at Camp Yamhill in early September.



Take a step through the wardrobe and find yourself in Narnia! Librarian Angie Siler created a delightful new theme for the students to enjoy this year.



The Armory Cafe' got a new name and a fresh look at the start of this school year. Cafe' Director Nicole Adams loves serving students - literally and figuratively.

SEAL Team



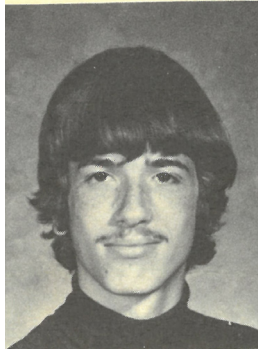
Columbia Christian School is excited to launch its 3rd-5th grade TAG program (Talented and Gifted) this November. Ms. Leah Fletcher, 5th grade teacher, will be the program facilitator in this pilot year. Called the SEAL Team (Student Enrichment for Advanced Learners), this new program provides an opportunity for the top 15% of each class, based on MAP scores and teacher recommendations, to take part in specialized opportunities outside the classrooms.

SEAL Team members will engage in enriching activities focused on areas like STEM, the arts, and different cultures. They will participate in projects designed to stimulate their curiosity, incite discovery, develop critical thinking, and engage in wonder about the glorious world God created. SEAL Team will not be a graded "class" but rather a pull-out opportunity for children to be challenged in their academic and intellectual growth.



Principal Deborah Miller commented, "As educators and school leaders we know the importance of engaging all students in learning that captivates them, stimulates their curiosity, and stretches them effectively. We also know the critical value of making learning developmentally appropriate. Often this can mean a focus on only students who are academically challenged. A saying in education is 'teach to the middle but reach to the ends.' At Columbia, we want to 'reach to' both ends of the ability spectrum. That is why we are excited to be piloting our SEAL Team for advanced learners in 3rd through 5th grade."

Alumni Spotlight



Steve Partlow
Class of 1976

Starting at Columbia Christian School in 1st grade, and graduating from the high school in 1976 (not to mention his years at Columbia Christian College), Steve Partlow is proudly on the list of Columbia “lifers”. When asked about his experience at the school, Steve shared, “The teachers were very supportive in helping me grow and mature. I really enjoyed history and choir. History was taught by Dan Frost; choir was with Frank Roberts. Both men became close friends as I matured and became an adult. Sports

were the biggest advantage for me. I was not a great athlete, but the teams needed bodies, and that allowed me to develop into a fair athlete. The Bible classes had a longer-lasting effect on me. The school was a positive influence on my spirituality.”

Another aspect of the school community was also personally impactful for Partlow. On May 23, 1975, Kalene Bilberry was Steve’s date at the sports banquet. On June 9, 1979, the two were married. Fast forward a few years and together they have three children and six grandchildren – of those grandchildren, the four who are school-aged now attend CCS.

After college, Steve held different jobs before starting his nearly 35-year career with the United States Postal Service as a letter carrier. During that time, he was recognized as the Carrier of the Month – twice! From 1987 thru 2001, Steve served as a deacon at the Oregon City Church of Christ. Since 2001, he has been an elder at the same congregation. Steve retired from the USPS in 2020, and his wife had emergency surgery in 2021, so he’s recently taken on the role of her caregiver. Thankfully Kalene is getting better, so Steve will start coaching basketball for Columbia’s 5th & 6th grade team this winter. (“Go Knights!”)

In response to the question *Why is a Christian education important?* Steve replied, “Our lives should be Christ-centered, so why not have our educational life Christ-centered? Public schools have turned against God. CCS can be a safe haven for our children and grandchildren.” In regards to his advice for current Columbia students, Partlow contributed, “Love the Lord God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and enjoy your time at CCS.”

Fall Sports (Cont.)



High School Volleyball

This season was a season of many “firsts” for our High School Volleyball team. Coach Lauren Starts entered her first season with the Knights; within one week of the season starting, she led them to their first match victory in over two years! We are proud of sophomore Elizabeth Adams earning All-League Defensive Honorable Mention. With only one senior graduating from the program, and an exciting group of 8th graders coming up, the future has never looked brighter for the high school team.

7th/8th Volleyball

Another shining example of tremendous coaching and attitude this Fall was that of our 7th/8th Volleyball team. After going almost entirely undefeated in the regular season, our 7th/8th team earned the #1 overall seed in the MCL Playoffs that were hosted here at Columbia Christian. After an exciting semi-final win, our girls battled and came up just a few points short against Rivergate in the Championship match. Earning that 2nd place trophy is a huge accomplishment and we are excited to see it up in the trophy case soon.



Vensel's Voice



President Ami Vensel

I recently had a conversation with a grandparent who shared with me her concern about the public education her grandson is receiving. Tears came quickly as she described her investigation of the district website, where she learned the elementary health curriculum promotes gender choice to children. On a much larger scale, this grandmother's search is about morality and the worldview of secular education.

Every school is religious, including Christian schools, homeschools, charter schools, and public; schools ultimately address the cornerstones of origin, morality, meaning, and destiny. Schools address fundamental questions of life, such as whether there's a God, what He communicates to people, and how we should treat others – in other words - worldview.

So, what is a parent's responsibility in educating a child? God's Word instructs parents to, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). It also specifically directs fathers, who are entrusted with a distinct role in educating children, "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

The Christian school is an extension [partnership] of the home and church. Its purpose is the development of the child in the image of God; this purpose determines both content [biblical Truth] and means of instruction [curriculum and worldview]. The educational philosophy of the Christian school recognizes all truth as God's Truth (Ps. 31:5) and seeks to equip students to discern God's will in all aspects of life.

As you consider and fulfill your role to teach your children "when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise" (Deuteronomy 6:7); recognize that our time of influence and training is short.

While I listened and consoled this grandmother in her

time of desperation, these words came to mind... "Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is" (Ephesians 5:15-17).



Newsletter Staff

Luke Moody
Ami Vensel
Carrie Rude
Mark Beekman
Joey Chapman
Eli Dukes
Deborah Miller

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