

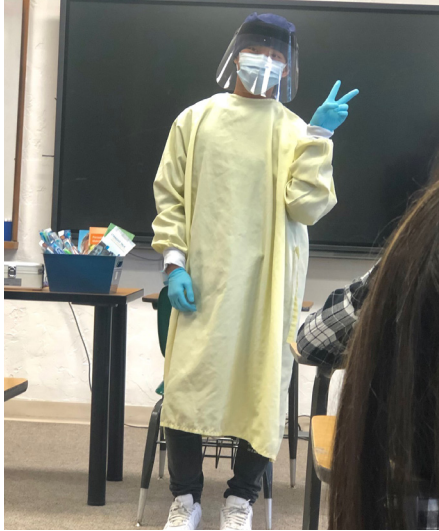


The KNIGHTLY NEWS

Columbia Christian School • PreK-12th Grade

Spring 2023

Career Day: Learning From Professionals



Columbia Christian's annual Career Day, for students from 8th through 12th grade, was hosted on Friday, April 21st. This full day of educational fun was aimed at preparing students for life after high school – helping them broaden their understanding of professions they can choose, and highlighting the steps required to pursue them. Students were encouraged to invite friends from the community, and 18 non-Columbia guests joined the event as well.

The fast-paced schedule made for a packed day as students caught a glimpse of many different ways to use their gifts in the workplace. The morning kicked off with an opening rally in the gym where students received their schedules and an overview of the program ahead.

Four session rotations filled the early part of the day. Each participant attended three different informational sessions and spent one session visiting college and trade booths in the cafeteria. The students enjoyed visiting the various booths to chat with friendly representatives while “scoring” some free promotional

items from colleges and the Army National Guard. The info sessions that made up the other three rotations were facilitated by representatives from careers in cybersecurity, dentistry, ministry/missions, plumbing, finance, and more. Professionals shared an insider's view of their industry, engaged the students in conversations and activities, and answered a variety of questions.

In the afternoon, breakout sessions were conducted with topics like: “Being Your Own Boss,” “Different Paths to Similar Careers,” “What is a Skilled Trade?” and “Making Adult Decisions.” The final session brought everyone back together in the gym for closing thoughts and a charge for the students to find ways to use their God-given gifts wherever they land a job after high school.

Guidance Counselor Pearl Howarth was responsible for planning and facilitating the event this year. Reflecting on the program, Mrs. Howarth shared, “We had great support and involvement in our Career Day this year. Students got

Important Dates:

June 1

Pre-K & K Honor Night

June 3

Night of Knights Athletic Banquet

June 5

Elementary Banner Night

June 6

Last Day of School
8th Grade Promotion

June 9

High School Graduation

June 19

Elem Summer Program Begins

July 5-7

Local Mission Trip

August 6-19

Japanese Summer Camp



Career Day (Cont.)

a first-hand look at some career options that they may not have considered before. We were also able to showcase professionals who took many different paths to their current careers. Some went to college, while others did not. Some knew what they wanted to do when they were in high school, but many changed their minds several times before landing where they are now. High school students need to know that they don't have to have it all figured out right now, but discovering where their individual interests, skills, and gifts intersect can lead to a career worth pursuing."



Elementary Read-A-Thon Results



Reading is fun! At this year's annual Read-A-Thon event, Columbia elementary students were motivated to read, read, read with a variety of incentives including dumping bags of popcorn on Librarian Angie Siler. Students clocked a total of 76,217 minutes and brought in \$8,340 to support their library and classroom resources.

Of the event, Mrs. Siler shared, "Read-A-Thon is a time for students to not only raise money for our school, but also a time to enjoy reading genres they love while discovering new genres they didn't even know they loved. My favorite part of the event is definitely giving out prizes and, in the last couple years, getting buried in popcorn! The kids love that part! I want to especially thank Amy Ngo, who spent many hours popping popcorn and bagging it, and I appreciate all the parents who came in to read to classes!"

Siler commented further, "Writer Anissa Trisdiyanti said 'Reading is Dreaming With Your Eyes Open.' I am so proud of our kids. They not only get to have adventures when they read, but they also get to explore how unique God made each one of us, and all the wonders of this earth that God has blessed us with."

THANK YOU, MRS. SILER!



Did you know Angie Siler is retiring from Columbia Christian? Her family is relocating to Tennessee this summer. Besides being a wonderful librarian, Mrs. Siler is also a beloved teacher, trusted mentor, good listening ear, and décor extraordinaire. She has been a blessing to Columbia for many years and she will be dearly missed.



Spring Drama: Student Cabaret



Drama instructor Sam Schultz introduced a new format for this year's spring show: "The Student Cabaret was a chance for participants to express their creativity as they chose their own songs to sing, dance, and act in. With an MC (McKenna Apple) to pull the audience from one number to the next, it was a variety show full of fun." There were 17 students involved in this show: 15 in the cast and two helping with tech. They entertained the audiences in six performances over two weekends.

Mr. Schultz commented further, "The kids did an incredible job bringing each song to life and telling a dozen mini-stories that moved the audience. A special shout-out to my wife, Christine Schultz, for choreographing the dance numbers, thanks to Zach Frunk for helping teach music, and a big thank you to Aimee DeLap for helping the kids backstage." Bravo!



Spring Music Programs

By Music Instructor Zach Frunk

The Elementary Spring Showcase was a musical delight featuring performances from each elementary grade. This year, our program highlighted our current chapel theme: "Created by God." Each class performed songs that connected to one of our monthly chapel topics. One of my favorite parts of the program was the performance of "Amazing Grace" by the 4th grade recorder group. The kids did a great job and worked diligently to be selected for that group. I am extremely proud of all the students who performed at the program; they all worked very hard leading up to the program and did an excellent job.

I would especially like to thank Mrs. Jenna Heath for her help with the planning and preparation of the program, and for the directing of the Pre-K and Kindergarten grades. I would also like to thank Christy Barrett for beautifully decorating the space and for creating the programs. I appreciate Dr. Miller for her help in creating a vision for the space, and for her and Mrs. Vensel's support of the program.



By Music Instructor Zach Frunk

The Middle and High School Spring Music Program was a great evening showcasing the work that the students have been doing in class for the past semester. Each choir and band performed in front of many parents, grandparents, and other friends and family. It was a marvelous night full of joyful music. The concert as a whole was one of my favorite things that happened this year; each group did very well. I especially thought that the MS/HS band did an excellent job in their portion of the concert.

I would like to thank Teri Parente for her help in accompanying the choirs on piano. Thank you to all the parents who continue to support their student in the music program – it is greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank Dr. Miller and Mrs. Vensel for their support of the MS/HS Spring Music Program.

All the students who performed have learned and grown so much in this school year, and I am very proud of all of them for the progress that they have made. I hope that they will continue to deepen their love for music in the coming years.



Snapshots of Spring



The March Leadership Lunch for 8th-12th grade students featured Attorney-At-Law Mike Starapoli.



Sunny weather = outdoor classes and picnic lunches.



Middle school students in the drama elective class performed in chapel.



2nd & 3rd graders enjoyed a field trip to the zoo.



Senior Lisa Hartwich received a full-ride scholarship to Multnomah University.



Band students competed at a festival in Sandy.



Big Buddies & Little Buddies had prayer time together.



High school Biology students tested water quality on a field trip to Whitaker Ponds.



Elementary students helped lead worship at Honor Chapel.



New library resources are a blessing from Read-A-Thon funds.



High school art students were honored for winning the photography contest.



1st graders explored the outdoors during their field trip to Tryon Creek.

BizTown



Sixth grade teacher Doug Moore has been leading students through the BizTown program for 11 years. Of the experience this year, Mr. Moore shares, "BizTown is a wonderful opportunity for the students to learn about entrepreneurship, personal finance, and civic values. My favorite part of the program is the simulation day (where the students get to go to Junior Achievement headquarters) and they run the 'town' on their own for the day. It is a bit chaotic, but you can see the students realizing that there is a lot of teamwork needed to run a business and run a town. This year was our first year including the 5th grade in BizTown and I was very proud of both the 5th and 6th graders for working together as a team. We especially want to thank the 15 parent volunteers who assisted us this year – the most we've ever had for Biztown!"

Spring Soccer

Columbia Christian's
SUMMER CAMP

KNIGHT'S QUEST 2023
KITCHEN
SCIENCE

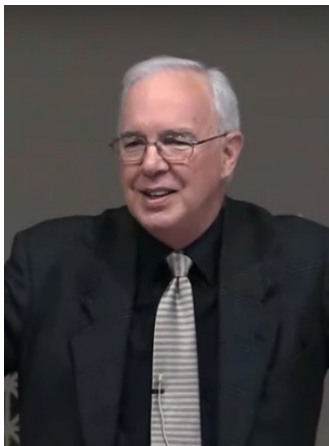
JUNE 19 - JULY 21
5 WEEKS, COME TO ONE... OR ALL FIVE!
9:00 AM-1:00PM
EXTENDED HOURS AVAILABLE
\$160 PER WEEK
This FUN and educational summer camp is designed for children who have completed Kindergarten thru 5th Grade

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Spring Soccer is an annual tradition for Columbia elementary students. This year, 48 participants, from Kindergarten through 4th grade, took to the field for six afternoons of games, drills, and fun. The weather cooperated for most of the season (only one soggy day diverted the players into the gym) and it was an enjoyable experience overall. Athletic Director Joey Chapman appreciates the support of the high school students who volunteered their time to help coach the program.

Alumni Spotlight

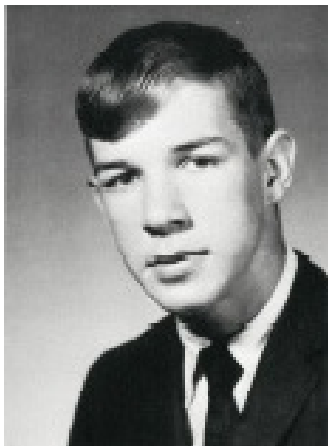


William W. Roberts
Class of 1968

Excerpts from an interview with Bill Roberts...

What years did you attend CCS? I was at Columbia Christian High School for only my senior year of high school. After being at public schools for my entire schooling, it was refreshing to be on a small campus with small classes taught by dedicated Christians. I was Salutatorian of the class of 1968 and enjoyed that year very much. Friendships from that year continue to this day -- I still worship with classmates, and my son married the daughter of two other classmates. Columbia really is a family!

How would you describe your experience at CCS? It was a very positive experience. One thing that happened was that two of my teachers were able to convince me



that I was capable of more than what I was doing at the time. Previous teachers had said the same thing, but the teachers at Columbia took the time and effort to facilitate a real transformation in my work ethic. My grades improved significantly, and my participation in my education improved as well.

What is your best memory? Social interactions between classes, during lunchtime, and after school. With such small classes, one can't help but be drawn into close relationships.

What did you do after high school graduation? I moved across campus to Columbia Christian College, where I spent my freshman year convincing my wife-to-be to become my wife. After a 9-year-long "spring break" my sophomore year, I returned to Columbia in my late twenties, completing my undergraduate degree in Interdisciplinary Studies.

What do you do now? I'm teaching English and Economics at CCHS, in addition to wrapping up duties as office manager at the Eastside Church of Christ.

Why is a Christian education important? Christian education contextualizes all knowledge within the overarching realm of God's creation. Knowledge in the secular world is compartmentalized and disjointed. Excellent Christian education ties all academic subjects together into a cohesive system centering on its Source and ultimate Object.

Spring Service Projects



Columbia students have been busy volunteering this season. The high school Spanish class packed food boxes and helped distribute them to a predominantly Spanish-speaking community. One of the high school Bible classes also recently moved a stack of firewood for a widow in the school's neighborhood. Additionally, fifth grade students have been helping Mr. Dukes and the facility team with landscaping projects around the campus. Great work, kids!



Vensel's Voice



President Ami Vensel

I'm excited to share the official launching of Columbia's President's Advisory Council. On Friday, May 19th, we welcomed 18 council members to campus for the President's Advisory Council Inaugural Breakfast. The purpose of the Advisory Council is to promote partnership, to create opportunities for stakeholders from diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise to offer their knowledge, ideas, and experience in support of the mission and vision of the school and its flourishing.

The primary objectives of the Advisory Council:

- To promote and enhance communication between stakeholders and administration
- To provide an institutional forum through which stakeholder ideas and desires are formally communicated to the administration in the interest of building and maintaining strong partnerships to further the mission of the school
- To be a vehicle by which the administration provides information to stakeholders and solicits their input on educational issues and decisions, creating opportunities for dialogue during the decision-making process

Our first meeting provided an opportunity for council members to introduce themselves to one another, review the history and mission of the school, and learn current goals and ambitions of the administration and the Board. Some of our current students were invited to briefly share, "What I like about my school," and roundtable conversations encouraged members to collaborate, think, and dream about what continuous growth and expansion of mission and vision might look like going into the future.

I consider it a joy to strengthen relationships, build partnership, and invite people to see what God is doing at Columbia and what He will accomplish through our efforts.

"Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard." Malachi 3:16

Hosts Wanted!

We are looking for host families!

August 6-19

2 Students minimum per home

\$100 Host Stipend per pair, per night



Shukutoku Sugamo school in Japan is sending 40 students to Columbia for a two week summer camp!

We would love to have families willing to host a minimum of 2 students for these two weeks.

Hosts provide a room, 3 meals a day, transportation to/from Columbia each weekday, and the integration of your students into your family life.

Contact Laura Walthinsen
LWalthinsen@ColumbiaChristian.com

ESTABLISHED 1947

Columbia Christian is **HIRING**

fall 2023 positions

- ✓ Preschool Director
- ✓ Elementary Teachers
- ✓ Secondary Math/Science
- ✓ Secondary English Teacher
- ✓ Substitute Teachers
- ✓ Bus Drivers

APPLY NOW

<https://www.columbiachristian.com/about/employment.cfm>



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