



The

KNIGHTLY NEWS

Columbia Christian School • PreK-12th Grade

Spring 2024

Spring Musical: Beauty & The Beast



Important Dates:

June 4

Pre-K & Kindergarten Honor Night

June 7

Elementary Field Day & BBQ
Middle School Oaks Park Day

June 10

Elementary Banner Awards

June 11

Last Day of School (Half Day)
8th Grade Promotion

June 14

High School Graduation

June 24

Elementary Summer Day Camp
Begins

Audiences raved about Columbia Christian Drama Department's production of Beauty & The Beast! Originally scheduled for six performances over two weekends in April, the shows quickly sold out, so a seventh performance was added. From the well-constructed set and lighting arrangement to the fabulous costuming, and from the energetic choreography to the fantastic singing and acting, it was truly an exquisite show that brought the viewers to laughter, tears, and lots of warm fuzzies. Favorite scenes included the "mob scene" – when the enchanted castle residents chase the invading villagers in a wild flurry of directions, the "Gaston" song – complete with starry-eyed admirers and lots of chest hair, and of course the endearing relationship that develops between the title actress and actor.

Several cast members were happy to share about their experience in this production. Joseph, 11th grade, commented, "It was a really fun show. I appreciate all the work put into the lighting and the set. The environment was really cool." Emrie, 7th grade, said, "It was the best musical I've ever been part of." Brooklyn, 6th grade, added "It was awesome getting to know other students better and meet some new people," Violet, 7th grade, commented "Beauty & The Beast was so much fun. Mr. Schultz is the best!" Skylar, 12th grade, agreed, "It was very fun. I enjoyed it!"

Director Sam Schultz reflected on the program, "Beauty and the Beast was a blast to direct. It's one of my all-time favorite musicals, and I think the kids did an outstanding job. Seven sold-out shows pretty much speak for themselves. I'm so grateful for how committed and hardworking the actors were. There are too many people to thank – the production team of Andrew Diedrich, Pearl Howarth, Aimee DeLap, Terry Franceschi, Erik Walthinsen, and Daniel Carver come to mind. So do all the amazing parent volunteers: Rici Preuit, Nicole Adams, Carrol Jackson, Junko Tuss, and so many more!"



Elementary Read-A-Thon 2024



By Carrie Rude, Admissions Director

At this year's annual Read-A-Thon event, Columbia elementary students were motivated to read, read, read! With a variety of incentives, students enjoyed pelting Librarian Megan Stangland with water balloons and dressing Administrative Assistant Christy Barrett in a zany costume for a whole school day. Individual prizes also included new books, parties, and being the "Librarian for a Day".

Mrs. Stangland shared, "We did it! Our Read-A-Thon reading and fundraising goals were both met. Amazing job, students! You read 86,619 total minutes for the week! Also, a big thank you to sponsoring families and friends for raising \$9,370! Your generosity will help fund new books and other learning materials."



High School Wellness Wednesdays

By Clara Brandt, High School Teacher

This spring we implemented "Wellness Wednesdays" to provide high school students with stress-relieving activities and social opportunities – built into our existing class schedule. Students select from a variety of options including Reading Corner, Gardening, Jericho Walk, and Coloring, just to name a few. They spend half an hour on alternating Wednesdays in small groups enjoying their chosen activity. Overall, students have found this to be a fun way to reduce stress and spend time with classmates.

When asked what they think about this new program, and what activity they enjoy most, many students were quick to comment. Jasper, 10th grade: "I like the options. Jericho Walks are my favorite when the weather is nice." Anda, 9th grade: "Awesome! Saturday Morning Cartoons are the best!" Will, 10th grade: "It's a good opportunity for us to bond together. I like Chess." Bryan, 12th grade: "Taking a break from class is a nice stress-reliever. I enjoy the Jericho Walk." Sophia, 10th grade: "I think it's very fun and calming – especially Coloring."



Faithful Through All Seasons: Auction 2024

By Auction Chair Rici Preuit

This year's auction was a time of great fun and fellowship! The group that was involved in bringing it to life had incredible passion, creativity and energy. The importance of this event was communicated in a way that encouraged lots of participation; we had alumni from every season of this campus's life present and ready to support the continued work for God's kingdom! The legacy of this campus continues to create servant leaders to go out into the community (and the world) post- graduation. We've been doing this for 75 years and our prayer is that the Lord will continue this work and ministry for decades to come!

What did I like about the auction? First of all, I loved the theme: Faithful Through All Seasons! It encompasses God's work here on this campus, no matter which school's name is on the building. I think it's very important to remember and pay homage to all of the faithful faculty and staff and donors who have sacrificed time and treasure to this campus over the many, many years...at times when it didn't seem to make a lick of sense. To the parents who sent their children to Columbia Christian College, Cascade College, or Columbia Christian Schools, I say thank you! Your faithfulness to the vision has made it possible for all of our current students, faculty, and staff to get the honor of doing the same thing!

So many students have walked through these halls, played games in the gym, sang devo songs in the Lower JC, had choir practice in the Rehearsal Hall, engaged in robust discussions in S103, and enjoyed Finals Feast before hours of test-taking; their lives have been changed for the better! This campus and what happens here is incredibly special. Each and every season at 9101 E. Burnside has been unique and impactful in a way that may not be manifested until we are long gone. I'm thrilled and honored that my family and so many friends are now part of this current season, taking the baton to continue the race that has been laid before us.

Another favorite aspect of this auction was the amount of student volunteers who jumped in with both feet that evening! They put in a 7- to 8-hour day, just like everyone else, and when it was time to clean up, they got to work right away, without even being asked. I was so proud and thankful for every single one of them. Young people always bring a fun and vibrant energy wherever they go. From passing out hors d'oeuvres, taking and delivering the fun mocktail orders, to being the evening's entertainment with a cameo of Gaston and Lefou from Beauty and the Beast, the students were just as important to the success of this

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Faithful Through All Seasons: Auction 2024

Continued...

event as any other aspect! I think it was also impactful for them to witness a room full of adults, most of whom they didn't even know, pouring out their time and treasure, to bless the school and fund scholarships, to ensure the vision here at Columbia and this campus continues! Our hopeful prayer is that one day, they too, will take a seat at the table and bless others at this school the way that they have been blessed!

The vibe of the event was excitement, fellowship, camaraderie and lots of LOVE! The positive energy that is created when like-minded people are together to do good for the same cause, is infectious! Just like the Holiday Fair, so many are already excited for next year's auction and have asked how they can be of help. We intend to build off of this energy and momentum and let the Lord bless our efforts how He sees fit!

It took around 75+ people to pull off this event! It doesn't matter to me if you donated 3 hours or 300 to make this happen, every single one made a huge difference! I'm incredibly thankful for the Auction Committee for their support and talent and the faculty and staff helping where needed the day before and day of the event. It was very humbling. There are several individuals who, without them, this event wouldn't have been nearly as successful or fun! They are Ami Vensel, Christy Barrett, Pearl Howarth, Carrie Rude, Bonnie Miller, Jennifer Partlow, Nana Hoerth, Eli and Tracy Dukes, Shelby Traughber, Amanda Himes, Clara Brandt, April Beerbohm, and Karin Cartisser! A very special thank you to Mark Beekman for all of his help and guidance throughout the entire process, Boma Foods, Event Savvy, Arden Event Collective, Dan Frieze (auctioneer), Liz Rusnac Flowers, the friends of Columbia and various alumni who sponsored tables and made generous donations, and to my family who were incredibly supportive of me for the months leading up to the event.

Have a wonderful summer, and we'll see you all at next year's auction!



Winter Sports Recap

Reflections from Athletic Director Ian Hutchins



Varsity Boys Basketball:

The varsity boys basketball team had an entirely new starting lineup from the season before, including one freshman, two sophomores, one junior, and one senior. We were young and inexperienced, and that showed at times, but the athletes learned how to battle through adversity. We ended up finishing 5-18, but our record didn't tell how our season really went. The players stayed committed from day one to the last day, improving in more areas than one. We were led by our two captains: senior Bryan Millan, who averaged 8 points per game, and sophomore Hayden Arthur, who averaged 27.4 points per game. Hayden Arthur earned 2nd Team All-League Honors.



Varsity Girls Basketball:

Our varsity girls basketball team had 14 players, of whom nine were freshmen, three were sophomores, and two were juniors. We were a very young and inexperienced team as well. The girls were never discouraged and never gave up; they continued to put in the work, and it showed. We finished with a record of 2-20, but the future is bright when we return all the players next winter. Freshman Sophia Reed earned an All-League Honorable Mention.



7th & 8th Grade Boys Basketball:

The boys team was led by head coach Jeremy Zimmerman, who ended up having 12 boys come out and play. With an even balance of 7th and 8th graders, they were able to battle and compete in almost all of their games played, finishing with a record of 7-9. We saw a tremendous amount of growth, not just on the court but off the court as well. We are very excited to have the strong group of 8th graders move up and play high school basketball for us next season, while the 7th graders move up and lead our 7/8 team next year.

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Winter Sports Recap (Continued...)

Reflections from Athletic Director Ian Hutchins



7th & 8th Grade Girls Basketball:

Our girls basketball team was led by head coach Sequoia Ranson, who was very familiar with these girls as she also led our 5/6 volleyball team. Coach Ranson had 12 girls on the team, and many of them had never played before. They worked on the basic fundamentals of the game, learned how to work hard, and grew to play together as a team. This group never gave up, and we are extremely proud of how they competed.



5th & 6th Grade Boys Basketball:

Head coach Steve Partlow found himself coaching a team of 14 boys, with 12 of them being 6th graders. This was one of the most talented teams we have seen at this level. The boys worked hard, learned how to play as a team, and improved in so many ways. All 14 boys finished the season scoring at least 2 points, which was awesome. They wrapped up their season with only one loss on the books. We are excited to see those 6th graders continue to play and move up.



5th & 6th Grade Girls Basketball:

Alisha Jones was ecstatic to lead this team this past season. She had 10 girls, most of whom hadn't played before. She taught them the basic fundamentals of the game, taught them how to work hard, and led them in playing together as a team. All the girls ended up scoring at least two points. We saw a tremendous amount of growth on the basketball court. We hope to keep them interested and to continue to develop as athletes and basketball players.

LET'S GO KNIGHTS!

Spring Fling 2024

By Admissions Director Carrie Rude

Bringing back an old tradition, high school students celebrated "Spring Fling" on March 9th. Participants came dressed in their best for the enjoyable night together. The ASB student-leaders created a memorable evening complete with amazing decor, a fantastic catered meal, and the after-dinner entertainment of an escape room around the south side of campus. When (most of) the teams solved all the puzzles and clues, everyone reconvened in the Student Center to socialize and partake in a delectable dessert spread.



Fun Fair & Open House Recap

By Admissions Director Carrie Rude

We want to offer a heartfelt THANK YOU for all the hard work that went into our Open House & Fun Fair event in February. From planning and set-up, to facilitating the event and cleaning up afterwards, the efforts of our faculty/staff, parents, and students truly made it a successful and memorable event. It's a blessing to be part of the Columbia team!

Current families and new families alike were invited to bring their children to the event – participating in a variety of traditional carnival-style games and activities. From the beanbag toss to the hoop shoot, there were lots of opportunities to score prizes. Guests also enjoyed the bounce house, face-painting, popcorn, and raffle prizes. An estimated 275 people came to campus that day – including more than 8 new families. At least 7 other new friends came to the event with current students. Also in attendance were 8 younger siblings who are looking at Fall enrollment. A FUN time was had by all!



If you know a family who is looking at school options – it's not too late. They can contact us today to schedule a personal appointment to get a campus tour, receive a packet of information, and have all of their questions answered: 503-252-8577 or admissions@columbiachristian.com.

Spring Memories



High School Photography
Contest Winners



Middle School Track & Field



High School Track & Field



Day 100 of School



Leadership Lunch: Portland Police Chief Bob Day



College Credit Environmental Science
Turtle-Hunting Field Trip



Outdoor Classes on Sunny Days



4th Grade Potlatch



8th Grade Japanese Exchange Students

Korean Winter Camps

By Laura Walthinsen, Administrative Assistant

Korean Winter Camps bring so much fun and energy to our campus.

This year we had the joy of hosting Vision Classical Christian School (VCCS) for the first time. Five of their students came over for three weeks in January. Four of the students joined our middle school classes, while one student was partnered up with one of our twelfth-grade students for his schedule. Though small, this group was a true delight. Unfortunately, Portland experienced an ice storm while they were here, which resulted in less time on campus. Their agency worked hard to make the best of the inclement weather situation by organizing field trips to locations such as Sky Zone, a Blazers game, and even a trip up to Seattle.

Our second group were returning students from Bethel International School. I can't begin to tell you how fun it was

to see faces that we recognized and to reconnect with their teachers. What a blessing to have friends around the globe! Bethel brought fourteen students ranging from first through tenth grade. These children are incredible and we are always thrilled to host them. In addition to spending time in Columbia classrooms, they too got to take many field trips. Their excursions included shopping, a Blazers game, and sledding on Mt. Hood.

We can't wait to see these partner schools again next year!



Winter & Spring Clubs



By Laura Walthinsen, Administrative Assistant

Launched in the fall of 2023, Columbia's pilot program of After-School Enrichment Clubs continued into the winter season with offerings such as Chess, Cookie Club, Robotics, and Explorations of Art Mediums. It is always a joy to walk past these clubs while they are in session. The students are excited to be trying something new and playing with friends. Chess brought out the competitor in students with weekly tournaments. Explorations in Art Mediums allowed some younger students to use art supplies and tools that would normally be reserved for the older students, such as Ms. Yeager's light box. According to Aidan Walthinsen, "I didn't like it, I LOVED it!" New to the winter lineup was Cookie Club with middle school teacher, Aimee DeLap. Students got to

head over to the kitchen in Landreth Hall to whip up tasty treats each week.

This spring we brought in two new clubs: Fiber Arts and E-Gaming. Leading Fiber Arts is Laura Walthinsen, our Administrative Assistant in Sanders Hall. The students in Fiber Arts have been energetic and hard-working with various projects. Their introduction to the world of crafting with fiber began with a session on friendship bracelets. The most important takeaway being that a pattern is just a suggestion. The point is to learn, practice, have fun, and make it your own creation! The students next spent three weeks learning the art of embroidery with some following patterns and some following their own creativity. Still to come will be a couple of weeks of knitting, cross-stitch, and crochet!

In E-Gaming, Mr. Alcatraz, our Trig teacher and IT Director, has been overseeing a competitive and enthusiastic group of students. The competitions and video games can sometimes be heard all the way in the office. We always get a giggle out of hearing the joy of our students and their playful banter.

After-School Enrichment Clubs are proving to be a great extracurricular opportunity for our students, particularly those whose interest is outside of sports. Thank you to all of the club leaders for sharing your passions and talents with our students! We look forward to expanding the offerings next school year.

Career Day



By Pearl Howarth, Guidance Counselor

Reading about a career in a textbook is very different from learning about a career straight from someone in the field. Career Day provides an interactive and dynamic learning experience, where students can ask questions directly to professionals and presenters can invite students to tackle real-world problems.

Columbia's 3rd Annual Career Day was held on Friday, April 26th. This day is set aside for business partners from a variety of companies to come together on campus to share information about their workplace, their job, and the education and skills that are required for success in their careers. As they form opinions on which types of jobs they might like, students can understand the concept of job matching—how one chooses a career that suits their interests, talents, and personality.

Career Day takes place during a regular school day and offers all 8th through 12th grade students an opportunity to listen, receive information, and ask questions of professionals about various fields of work. An 11th grade student commented that this year's presenters were "...engaging, allowed for questions, and answered everything with detail and understanding."

Representatives from the following careers made presentations this year: tree-trimmer/arborist, helicopter pilot, professional singer, independent tool distributor, missionary/minister, data migration specialist, plumber/

pipefitter, and police officers from multiple departments. We also welcomed an engineering specialist who spoke about many different design-related careers.

One of the highlights of the day was an inspiring worship service which featured acapella renditions of contemporary worship songs that included 4-part harmony and vocal percussion. One student stated, "You could feel the love of God in the room as we sang." Another one added, "This was the best worship service I've ever seen, and I enjoyed it very much."

High school teachers planned a host of STEM exploration activities to end this year's Career Day. Students were presented with several hands-on challenges that required them to adapt, think critically, collaborate, be creative, and communicate effectively with one another to complete specific tasks. Many students agreed that the best part of the day was the STEM challenge...and the snacks, of course!

Guidance Counselor and Career Day Coordinator, Pearl Howarth shared, "Our aim is to prompt students to be inspired about career opportunities available to them. Students should not feel stressed about deciding on a career while they are still in high school, but they need to be aware that there are options that they may not have previously considered. Each person's God-given talents can make a difference in some career."

In Memory of Jim “Coach” Flint



By Carrie Rude, Admissions Director

James (Jim) Edward Flint, better known in Columbia circles as “Coach Flint”, passed from this life on April 18, 2024. He was in the ICU at Peace Health Medical Hospital in Vancouver on “comfort care”; he went peacefully as he left this world. His wife, Lynette, shared, “Out the hospital window we watched the sun rise over Mount Hood in so many radiant colors.”

Coach Flint, and his family, had a long history with Columbia Christian School and Columbia Christian College. Jim served as the head boys basketball coach for the high school for one year in the 60s (1968-1969), and then he came back later for a much longer stint: 1995-2012. He coached for the college 1979-1993. (In between he also worked at Arcata High School, Madison High School, Lane Community College, and Linn-Benton Community College.) After “retiring” in 2012, he continued to assist and support the basketball program at Columbia.

Coach Flint’s accomplishments are many. For Columbia Christian High School, he holds a career record of 360 wins and 137 losses. In his 18 years as head coach, his team made the OSAA state playoffs 17 times. They finished as state runners-up in 2003, 2004, and 2005. Victory was sweet when they won the state championship in 2010! Jim’s leadership was demonstrated in the fact that he was named “Coach of the Year” at least 10 times.

Most important, however, was the impact he had on people. Many friends voiced their appreciation and love for Coach Flint.

“He was a wonderful mentor and coach to our children.” Kim Endresen

“Your legacy continues to live on through me as well as through 100s of other players that you coached.” Mark Brown

“You were always there. It was so much more than basketball.” Peyton Tucker

“I am thankful I got to know and work with him!” June Andersen

“He knew how much he was admired in the Worrell family and he was so kind to us.” Gail Worrell

“Lives well-lived deserved to be honored. Play Hard Play Smart forever.” Landon Lynn

“I always knew that Jim was going to tease me about something and I actually looked forward to it. I knew it was his way of letting me know I was his friend and was loved.” Mona Watson Ruland

“Very few people have this kind of impact, leaving their fingerprints on the lives around them. I always loved talking with Coach. He made me feel like I was so important and he was genuinely interested in what was going on in my life. I truly will miss him.” Janet Hailey



In Memory of Jim “Coach” Flint



“I really appreciate what you did for the team and just coaching us into not only basketball players, but men as well.” Matt Eary

“It’s heartbreaking to think about a world that doesn’t have coach Flint in it. I have so many memories that will always be with me.” Sara Gray

“There are no words to express what a beautiful example Coach Flint was to my family.” Robyn King

Coach Flint’s legacy lives on in Columbia Christian’s gymnasium today. There is a large dedication sign on the wall just inside the gym door, and the floor has appropriately been named the “Jim Flint Court”. Despite the fact that he is no longer with us in body, his impact on the campus continues.

“I appreciate the love you showed me and the impact you had, not just on the basketball court, but just making sure I was doing okay every day and checking in on me throughout the years.” Luke Moody

“I will always miss his humor, his smile, his laugh.” Raynette Lawrence Fouts

“I appreciate everything I learned from you. You’re a good man.” Clayton Pewitt

“He lives on in all the lives he helped nurture.” Sharon Houte

“Those wonderful memories back at Columbia were the best with all of us there together.” Corinne Davidson

“Your generosity goes back a lifetime, a life well lived. You will be missed but never forgotten.” Patty Cobb

“Life well-lived, Coach! Wish I could have told him one more time what an example he is to me! Tough yet gentle, loved him for the man he was! You are missed Coach by all who had the pleasure to be coached by the legend!!” EW Buckelew

“His legacy lives in the many lives he touched. Until we meet again, Coach.” Judy Buda-Nervo



COLUMBIA CHRISTIAN SUMMER KNIGHTS



Elementary Day Camp: Students entering 1st-6th grade



JUNE
24-28

Let Your
Light Shine
Matthew 5:16

9:00-1:00



JULY
1-3

Let Freedom
Ring
John 8:36

9:00-1:00



JULY
8-12

CREATED
TO CREATE
EPHESIANS 2:10

9:00-1:00



JULY
15-19

Super Hero
Training Camp
Joshua 1:9

9:00-1:00



JUL/AUG
29-2

The Summer
Games
Hebrews 12:1
9:00-1:00

**REGISTER
NOW!**

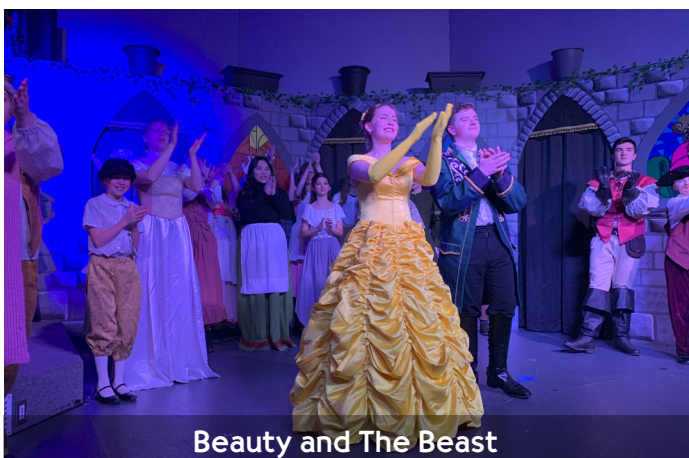


\$180 per week, Early Registration Until Fri. June 14

\$200 Per week, Regular Registration

*Extended Day available until 3:00PM; additional cost -
1:00-3:00 Scheduled \$22/day of \$24*

PARTICIPANTS BRING "READY TO EAT" LUNCH AND SNACK EACH DAY



Beauty and The Beast



Read-A-Thon

Vensel's Voice



President Ami Vensel

Each spring, the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) hosts a Leadership Roundtable & Retreat in Seaside, Oregon. This time of connection and fellowship with other Christian school leaders provides opportunity to step away, to be renewed, encouraged, and strengthened in the work and ministry of Kingdom education.

This year, keynote speakers Julie Adams (CEO of Adams Educational Consulting) and Roger C.S. Erdvig (author, leader, and scholar) not only challenged, but inspired leaders to reflect on their roles of raising up the next generation of culture-shaping leaders.

Julie Adams specializes in neuroscience, mental health and wellness, positive culture, social-emotional learning, and best practices for literacy, critical thinking, and engagement. Roger Erdvig serves as Director of Worldview Education at Summit Ministries. His role with Summit involves speaking and writing to support and equip schools, churches, parents, and Christian universities as they strive to cultivate

a Biblical worldview in the emerging generations.

Adams focused attention on her research on brain development and strategies that cultivate mental, physical, and spiritual health. We spent time examining how the young brain differs from the mature brain, and to consider the implications for teaching and learning. Adams provided strategies to implement that increase social/ emotional/ cognitive success in everyone throughout our schools.

Erdvig challenged leaders to cast a vision for moving beyond Biblical integration to central teaching commitments of Biblical worldview immersion. Starting with: What is worldview? "A commitment, a fundamental orientation of the heart, that can be expressed as a story or set of presumptions which we hold about the basic constitution of reality, and provides the foundation on which we live and move and have our being" (definition of worldview by James Sire). What is a Biblical worldview? "Believing that absolute moral truths exist; that such truth is defined by the Bible; Jesus Christ lived a sinless life; God is the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe and He stills rules it today; salvation is a gift from God and cannot be earned; Satan is real; a Christian has a responsibility to share their faith in Christ with other people; and the Bible is accurate in all of its teachings (definition of Biblical worldview by Barna). If we are going to align our schools with how a Biblical worldview takes shape in a person, we must understand that process.

What do we do next? Good question!

I'm glad you asked. At Columbia, we must SEE what we do (in the classroom, on the soccer field, in the lunchroom, in the gym, on the playground, etc.) to determine if it resonates with the Kingdom of God. We must ENGAGE whenever we have the opportunity, to pursue maximum student engagement in everything we do. And, we must RESHAPE to develop a reflective habit of evaluating and refining how we teach. In all this, we strive to be a shining light of hope; that we truly equip our students to develop a strong Biblical worldview and not turn from it.

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."

Proverbs 22:6



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