



The

KNIGHTLY NEWS

Columbia Christian School • PreK-12th Grade

Summer 2024

The Grand Finales 2023-2024

By Carrie Rude, Admissions Director

Much like the icing on a delicious cake, the 2024 school year wrapped up with a variety of meaningful closing ceremonies.



PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN HONOR NIGHT

Our youngest students took to the small stage in the Upper Johnson Center to celebrate their successful completion of the school year. Mrs. Howarth, preschool teacher, along with Mrs. Haney and Mrs. Austen, kindergarten teachers, presented their respective students with special awards. Each child was recognized for his/her positive traits and contributions to the classroom. Families in attendance enjoyed several songs performed by the students. Perhaps most impressive was the presentation of 26 Bible memory verses that were recited by the children – one for each letter of the alphabet: A through Z.

ELEMENTARY BANNER NIGHT

Always a highlight of the year, first through fifth grade students marched into the Eastside Church auditorium proudly carrying their class banners and placing them on display in front of the stage. (This opening procession is one of the most memorable parts of the annual tradition.) After all the classes entered the building, each elementary teacher called their students to the stage, offered words of reflection and blessing, and then presented special awards to each child. A photo slideshow from the year was also enjoyed before dismissing families to fellowship in the playground courtyard with some tasty frozen treats.



MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS ASSEMBLIES

In the final week of school, students from 6th grade through 12th grade were recognized by their teachers and administration for their academic accomplishments and evidence of growth in faith and character. High school parents were invited to a morning assembly and middle school parents were invited to an early afternoon gathering. Certificates were presented and congratulations were shared. Middle school students also had an opportunity to showcase some of the projects from their “exploration” classes – including Art, Drama, Game Design, Speech & Debate, Movement Arts, and Cooking.

The Grand Finales 2023-2024 (Cont...)

8TH GRADE PROMOTION

Goodbye middle school, hello high school! Our 8th grade class, with the guidance of their faculty advisors and administration, facilitated a delightful promotion ceremony to close out their junior-high experience. From the entertaining photo slideshow they created, to the musical performance and student speakers, it was a quality program that capped their excellent year together. Harmony Hinkle was the recipient of the Morgan Outlaw Spiritual Leadership Award and Lucy Fabbro earned the Chuck Lawrence Christian Service Award. After each of the 20 students received individual recognition, everyone in attendance walked over to the Lower Johnson Center to enjoy refreshments and check out the display boards that the students created.



NIGHT OF KNIGHTS ATHLETIC AWARDS

Columbia's academic programs are complemented by a selection of extracurricular activities – including athletics. This year, the CCS Athletic Department hosted its 3rd Annual Night of Knights Sports Banquet at the end of May to celebrate the accomplishments of all student-athletes for 2023-2024. Coaches and participants (and their families) were invited – from middle and high school volleyball, soccer, cross country, basketball, and track & field. The event had great attendance and energy as awards were presented for hard work, improvement, and embodiment of the department's "3 Cs": Christ, Community, and Culture.

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has been doing through
Columbia Christian School since 1947



Children today **NEED** a quality,
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Class of 2024 High School Graduation

Congratulations graduates! On June 14, the speeches were given, the tassels were turned, and the diplomas were conferred. The class of 2024 officially completed their high school career at Columbia Christian School. This graduating class comprised a small but diverse group of 13 students. Some of the grads were part of the Columbia family since elementary, while others joined through various points of middle and high school. The ceremony was held at the Eastside Church with a reception following in the Lower Johnson Center.

Make sure you read the “Vensel’s Voice” article at the back of this edition for some additional details about this graduating class. May they each be blessed in this next chapter of their journey!

Senior Prank

It’s tradition for the graduating class to leave their mark on campus; this year was no different. High school faculty and students arrived to school in early May to find they were surrounded by some friendly chaos that the 12th graders left behind for them. In Sanders hallway, they were greeted by a colorful collection of balloons, desks in several classrooms were stacked or arranged in unique formations, a few inflatable “wavy dancers” billowed around the Womack fountain, and hundreds of miniature plastic ducks were found tucked away in unique locations (some of which are still being discovered months later)! It was all received in good fun and everyone worked together to put things back into order for classes to carry on.



Senior Trip

Seattle, Washington, was the destination for Columbia’s Senior Trip 2024. The students, along with faculty chaperones Nancy Dawkins and Eric Estacio, enjoyed three days of exploring different areas of the metropolis with the CityPass. Notable sites they visited included the Woodland Park Zoo, Pike Place Market, Great Wheel (giant Ferris wheel on the waterfront), the Seattle Aquarium, and Chihuly Garden and Glass. Reflecting on their adventures, Mrs. Dawkins commented, “I have visited Seattle multiple times, but had never heard of Chihuly Garden and Glass. The garden and museum were beautiful and fascinating, and we got to see a live glass blowing demonstration.” She added, “We rented a 15-passenger van so we could all travel together. We enjoyed great conversations and lots of laughter! Mr. E was the driver, and he did a great job with a van full of backseat drivers.”

Senior Luncheon

Hosted again this year in the Upper Johnson Center, the Senior Luncheon is a memorable time for each graduating class. This tradition sets aside a time for 12th grade students and their parents to share appreciation and words of encouragement to one another as they prepare for one of life’s important transitions – the completion of compulsory education. Families enjoyed a meal together before taking turns to speak from their hearts. Many in attendance were relieved to have a box of facial tissues provided; this season of life brings forward a variety of emotions!



Graduating Class of 2024



Senior Luncheon



Senior Trip to Seattle



SENIORS

2024



**High School
Art Show**



**High School
Finals Feast**



**High School
"OverKnight" at School**



**Middle School
Midnight Madness**



**Middle School
at Oaks Park**



**1st & 2nd Grade
Zoo Field Trip**



**5th & 6th Grade
Biz Town Experience**



**Elementary
Field Day & BBQ**



**Elementary
Spring Soccer**

SPRING EVENTS

2024

The Power of Music

By Music Instructor Anna Carter

While searching for new music and techniques for this school year, I read a statement from a music teacher who had been called a "glorified babysitter" by her principal. I'm immensely thankful that we do not have that attitude in our Columbia community; it made me even more confident that we chose a good theme for our Spring program!

Music is important. Music is powerful. We discuss with students that music is a gift from God, and looking at all the ways it can impact us helped us create the title: *The Power of Music*. This exciting program included vocal performances by all classes from preschool through 6th grade, as well as band performances from 5th grade, 6th grade, and middle/high school. (Thanks to Jenna Heath for directing our instrumental pieces.) Our 6th graders were our "commentators" throughout the show, narrating the program with fun facts and humor.

Spring music programs can be challenging because we are all starting to think of summer just around the corner. With this in mind, students did a great job rallying for the occasion. Concluding this program with all the students on stage singing "I Love You Lord", was an exciting moment for me as the director. I know God was smiling.



Service/Mission Week



By Carrie Rude, Admissions Director

This summer was the 12th annual Local Mission/Service Week. Facilitated by David Rude, Youth Minister at Eastside Church of Christ, in partnership with Ron Clark of Agape Community Ministries, around 20 Columbia students were involved this year. For one week in July, participants volunteered at Agape Village (a local transitional housing community), a VBS program in Molalla, and on the Columbia Christian campus.

"I was constantly amazed at the ability of the kids to work so efficiently and quickly," commented Mr. Rude. "I struggled to keep up with tasks for them to do. It was great for the students to see different locations and life circumstances. I think it really helps to humanize all types of people, especially when we take time to serve." At Columbia, we are grateful for these students and their hearts of service; we appreciate all their hard work to move furniture and clean up the grounds around the school.

Spring Sports Recap: Track & Field Success

By Kevin Yaws, Athletic Director

We had a wonderful 2023-2024 Track & Field season! There was amazing turnout for our middle school and high school programs. All of the athletes were setting PRs (personal records) and achieving their goals. Fourteen high school athletes went to state at Hayward Field in Eugene, OR this year! Hayden Arthur and Landon Reid both scored at state competition. Hayden was 2nd place in the javelin and Landon was 3rd place in discus. We are so thankful for the hard work and dedication of all the athletes and coaches; we are grateful for all of the parent support throughout the season. Great job, Knights!



Café Donations Support Peru Mission



By Carrie Rude, Admissions Director

The Johnson Center is the “living room” of Columbia’s campus, and lots of activity in this space centers around the Armory Café. That’s where you’ll often find Nicole Adams, our Café Director. Mrs. Adams is grateful to have just completed her second year in this role. “I work with the best people!!!” she exclaimed. “A great group of students

help in the café and give me many good menu ideas. I get to share the café with Ashley (Wojcik) who I am so thankful for! And I get to know students and teachers as they come in to get food or drinks. I am surrounded by lovely people I enjoy talking with!”

Nicole shared further, “When it comes to biggest sellers, the most popular drinks are our slushies, and there is a lot of buzz around matcha.” Sales at the little shop were consistent throughout last school year and the tip jar was never empty for long. Portions of the donations were set aside and designated for charitable purposes. This past spring, \$160 was gifted to a mission team whose focus is in South America. Supported through the Eastside Church of Christ and Keizer Church of Christ, Jon and Yellmi Rawlings regularly visit Yellmi’s home country of Peru – to work with small churches and humanitarian efforts there. The Rawlings were grateful for the donation toward their ministry.

Campus & Facilities Projects



By Eli Dukes, Facilities Director

The summer months on Columbia's campus are a whirlwind of activity for the facilities department. Each school year, as the last day of school comes to an end, the facilities team begins the countdown to school starting again. The focus of summer projects at Columbia is student and staff safety, maintenance deferred during the school year, and the deeper cleaning that is possible with emptier buildings. Columbia summer projects range from large-scale contracted construction projects to the tedious and mundane task of removing gum from the underside of desks.

One of this summer's projects was extensive masonry work at the Landreth and York Halls. York and Landreth Hall are CMU block construction with a brick veneer. Due to the age of the buildings and water intrusion, several areas were in need of repairs to the brick veneer. The structural integrity of the building is sound, but some of the cosmetic issues with the veneer had created safety issues that needed to be addressed. This project required high pressure washing to remove all organic matter, removal of several hundred bricks from the south side of Landreth Hall, the removal by grinding mortar that had deteriorated around the entire structure, repointing all of the removed mortar, rebuilding the south wall with the removed bricks, and a masonry sealing on the entire building

to protect from future deterioration. All of Columbia's masonry buildings are on maintenance schedule to have the brickwork treated and repaired in the future.

After the masonry repairs were completed on York and Landreth Halls, the roofing project began on Landreth Hall. The existing roof material and a portion of decking are being removed. A correct roof slope will be rebuilt to facilitate proper drainage and a new membrane roof will be installed. Columbia has been very blessed to partner with MVP Commercial Roofing for many years. Chris is always repairing or replacing our roofs at great discount, but never sacrifices the quality of the end product.

Another project this summer has been the construction of a new restroom facility for faculty and staff use in the Morgan and Judy Outlaw Center for Academic Excellence. That building had been without a dedicated restroom for faculty and staff for many generations. A closet area adjacent to restrooms outside of the kindergarten and 1st grade classrooms has been remodeled into a small, beautiful space for faculty and staff. The project costs were kept very low as the location of the new bathroom was previously a bathroom! The project was able to utilize existing water supply lines and plumbing drains that had been terminated in the walls and floor.

Additional savings were achieved with repurposed materials already available on campus including the flooring, sink, cabinet base, and paint, electrical, and plumbing supplies.

Columbia was also greatly blessed with volunteers completing summer projects around campus. These projects include Thomas Carter rebuilding the entry to the Farris Johnson Student Center, Dan Carver moving the junior and senior high lockers to the Student Center, The Park Church of Christ from Tulsa Oklahoma rehabbing classroom S103 in J. P. Sanders Hall, and various outdoor projects from regular volunteers like Jim Brown and the summer mission trip youth.

Along with the larger projects and our team of volunteers, summer work also includes many fresh coats of paint, new carpet, 1000's of square feet of carpet cleaned, an old furnace room converted to a new custodial center in the Outlaw Center, new whiteboards installed in some classrooms, restrooms and classrooms deep-cleaned from top to bottom, and windows cleaned inside and out. Summer also requires that the year-round tasks are kept up as well. From constant grounds maintenance to keep the campus beautiful, to the cleaning and management of our third-party campus rentals, summer is busy and productive!

In Memory of Ida Partlow



Ida Pearl (Mathews) Partlow, age 85, passed peacefully from this life on July 6, in her Portland home following her battle with pancreatic cancer. She was born on December 20, 1938, in Post, Texas, to Fred and Stella Faye (Blossingame) Mathews. Ida moved to Ontario, Oregon, as a child and was a founding member of the Ontario Church of Christ. After graduating from Ontario High School, she relocated to Portland where she lived out her adult life. She met and married Dean Partlow and they raised their five children primarily in the purple house on Oak Street while also opening their home to many others.

Ida and Myron Dean Partlow, Jr. (1936-2003) married in 1957 and had four sons: Steven (Kalene) of Oregon City, Oregon; Timothy (Angie) of Mt. Juliet, Tennessee; David (Jeanie) of Oregon City, Oregon; and Jonathan (Cile) of Lucasville, Ohio; and adopted a beautiful girl, Deanna (Jack) of Washougal, Washington. Ida and Dean have fourteen grandchildren: Alexander (Kaylin), Lynn (Steve), Joshua (Stephanie), Aaron (Lauren), Abigail (James), Taylor (Derek), Anna (Connor), Alydia, Jonathan Jr., Timothy, Matthew (Joanna), Thaddeus, Ava, and Ariel. Ida has eleven great grandchildren, and many others who called her “mom” or “Aunt Ida.”

Ida was passionate about ministry and moving the gospel forward. Not only did she serve her church in Ontario, but she was a member of Central Church of Christ when their building was constructed in southeast Portland. Since it was just a few blocks from her home, the family often walked to church services and activities. Later, as a longtime member (nearly 50 years) of the Eastside Church of Christ, Ida devoted her time to teaching, building the library, helping in the kitchen, and supporting the Mien congregation that met in the basement of the church building during its early years. The Mien congregation affectionately gave her the name “Dutv Seng” which could be translated “Lovely Big Sister.” Not only did Ida teach Bible classes in churches for over seventy years, but she also taught many students from around the world through World English Institute (WEI). In addition, in her “retirement” she made WEI mission trips to Albania and Cambodia.

Ida’s ministry went beyond church-specific activities. She served for 10 years (1974-1984) as the librarian for Columbia Christian School. Many former students and teachers have fondly remembered the library as a safe place where they felt accepted and encouraged. During that time, she served as the time-clock official for the high school basketball games. Even before her involvement as an employee, Ida was an active member of Women for Columbia. A passionate seamstress, Ida used her talents to sew clothing for various charitable organizations. She often altered or created clothing for people at a cost that they could afford. She knitted and crocheted hats, and was a member of Eastside’s quilting group.

Ida’s memory lives on today in many ways, one of which is the dedication above the doors of Columbia Christian School library: Dean & Ida Partlow Library.

Summer Memories



Elementary Summer Day Camp



Playground Play Dates



Open Gym & Field Sessions



Campus Youth Rally

Vensel's Voice



President Ami Vensel

"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ". 2 Corinthians 4:6

Light. Can you imagine our world without it? Light was the first thing God created, "And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the

light from the darkness." Genesis 1:3-4

I can't think of a better theme for our school year together than to challenge students, staff, and our community to be the light of Jesus, "so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16b). We celebrate the closing of the 2023-2024 school year by honoring the many 'lights' that shone brightly this year:

Our Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Honor Night is one of my favorite events at Columbia as we recognize and celebrate our youngest children; they are truly a gift and blessing from God (Psalm 127:3). I am always excited and proud to hear our 'littles' recite a Bible verse for every letter of the alphabet – amazing! They are not only cute – they are so smart!

1st through 5th grade students held to one of Columbia's cherished traditions of celebration – Elementary Banner Night! Teachers shared a blessing with their class and recognized each student with a character award, as well as academic honors.

8th Grade Promotion Ceremony included a special music performance by 8th grade students, Grace Jackson & Isabel Cartisser (I'll Always Remember You), and inspiring messages were shared by classmates Harmony Hinkle and Mikaela Kurkinen. Well done, good and faithful students!

And, for the grand finale – the Columbia Christian High School Class of 2024 Commencement Ceremony. Don't let the size of the class deceive you... these thirteen graduates are amazing!! Honor Diplomas were earned by 54% of the graduates (GPA

of 3.5 or above, earned 4 credits in English, math, science, and social science, took two years of foreign language, and took 4 or more college credit or AP classes); 69% of the senior class graduated Cum Laude (3.5 GPA or higher); and five of our graduates earned a 4.0 GPA or higher. Special awards this year went to Seth Alvarado (Mr. CCHS), Aliya Kurkinen (Miss CCHS), Jonathan Ngo (Timothy Award), and Bryan Millan Santillan (Spiritual Leadership Award). Class of 2024, we pray in hope and expectation, that God will continue the great things already begun in you.

"In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:4-5

May our light shine brightly at Columbia Christian School!



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Kevin Yaws

Important Dates

September 20
Back to School BBQ

September 27
Elementary Jog-A-Thon

October 11-14
No School, In-Service/Fall Break

November 1
No School, Grading Day

November 8
Veterans & Grandparents Day

November 11
No School, Veterans Day

November 23
Holiday Fair

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