



The KNIGHTLY NEWS

Columbia Christian School • PreK-12th Grade

Winter 2023-2024

Holiday Fair



After a 15-year hiatus, the PTF (Parent Teacher Fellowship) at Columbia Christian School was thrilled to bring the Holiday Fair back to campus. PTF President Rici Preuit was happy to share about the event.

What do you think about bringing back this tradition?

Humbled. In the past, this event was a mainstay on campus! The women for Columbia/Cascade prepared for it all year! Holiday Fair brought people from all over the West who had a connection to this special place. This campus has been lovingly referred to as “The NW Corner of Heaven” for decades. Getting back on campus is always a good time! Whether they went to Columbia Christian College, Cascade College, or Columbia Christian School, Holiday Fair was an exciting event where friends and family from all generations could reconnect, make new memories, share in the festive atmosphere, and of course, eat elephant ears! Being part of the crew that brought this back to life feels pretty amazing. God is so good!

What were your favorite parts about this particular Holiday Fair?

Seeing the joy and excitement on everyone’s faces as they entered the Upper JC was really special. The cafeteria was transformed into a wonderland and it was like a reunion! If you looked up “Joy” in the dictionary, you would see a picture of Holiday Fair! It was all smiles, hugs, laughs, yummy treats, the smell of elephant ears, and of course, Santa!

I loved how many students and families from Columbia and area churches had their own booths, and personally, having my son covered in flour as he made over 300 elephant ears! The Holiday Fair crowd likes to eat! Watching people of all ages shop, sample, and explore everything our talented vendors had to offer was so heartwarming. I think the sweetest by far, was all of the wonderful pictures that were taken of families and children with Santa! They all turned out so beautifully!

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Important Dates:

March 25-29

Spring Break

April 6

Auction & Partnership Dinner

April 12-14, 19-21

Spring Musical: Beauty & The Beast

April 25

All-School Music Program

April 26

8th-12th Grade Career Day

May 13

High School Art Show Begins

Holiday Fair (Cont...)



How much did PTF raise?

Surprisingly, the PTF raised over \$2,000 thanks to the generosity of so many! We were thrilled! Every single penny raised goes towards spoiling our faculty and staff throughout the school year (who work tirelessly for our families) and supports the numerous events we help organize, such as Jog-a-thon and Pumpkin Fun Day. These memorable experiences bring together the entire student body. It's an honor to do what we do.



They say many hands make light work, and as the event got closer, several wonderful volunteers helped pull things together last-minute! Without them jumping in the day before and the day of, Holiday Fair wouldn't have gone nearly as smoothly! We thank you! There are some, however, who gave everything for several months in order to get this venture back off the ground and those darlings (who I secretly think have super powers) are Debbie Hinkle, Kelly McLeskey and Christy Barrett. These three deserve gold medals. Period.

What are you looking forward to for next year?

Now that we have some kinks worked out, and one year under our belt, I think we're looking forward to less work! Lol! One thing we will focus on this coming year, that we simply didn't have time/energy for this time, is making sure we have some savory food options available for our guests. We'll also work on getting our volunteers in place well in advance! Be thinking this year, if volunteering or having a booth at Holiday Fair is something you'd be interested in! Let us know! ...and last but not least, seeing the community of people who have called this place home for over 75 years! For that, I can't wait!

Make sure you save the date for Holiday Fair 2024 on Saturday, November 23rd! We hope for this to again be a tradition on campus for many years to come!

Just Another High School Play

Columbia Christian's Drama Department took on a comedy this winter titled *Just Another High School Play*. It included the talents of nine actors/actresses and a handful of crew members as well. The premise of the production? A group of actors have been abandoned by their director and they must fend for themselves to put on the show – of course, hilarity ensues. Including six performances over two weekends in December, it was an entertaining show that audiences enjoyed.

Director Sam Schultz reflected on the program, "Overall the show was a lot of fun! It was a challenge to pivot from the original intended production of *Charlotte's Web*, but the students really stepped up. I was proud of their ability to 'go for it', especially in some of the sillier moment of the play. Special thanks to Pearl Howarth, Nicole Adams, Ann Reid, and Daniel Carver for all their help making the show a success.



Christmas Program

By Anna Carter, Music Instructor

One of the delights of Christmas is gathering to celebrate the day together. To capture that tradition, this year's Christmas program took us on a journey through a *Joyous Christmas Day*, with our fifth-grade students reading a poem to introduce each performance.

Kicking off the program, our fifth, sixth, and middle/high school bands reminded us that the holiday season begins as we hear Christmas music everywhere we go. Next, we traveled to the North Pole to watch the elves, our kindergarten classes, prepare for Christmas Day. The PreK dressed appropriately, delightfully singing about mittens and gloves, followed by the third graders sliding their way to Christmas day on a sleigh ride. The sixth grade completed our "trip" to the destination with a comical car ride and a glimpse of a family decking the halls. Continuing the theme, the first and second graders helped us give deserved attention to one of the season's favorite decorations, the Christmas tree, by singing "I'm the Happiest Christmas Tree".

The show culminated by leading us to consider the best gift we have ever been given: Jesus. We ended our *Joyous Christmas Day* with fourth grade singing "Silent Night", coupled with reading the story of Christ's birth, and fifth grade singing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel". After all the students, along with our family and friends, finished singing "Joy to The World", one of our sixth graders led our closing prayer. In the end, it did feel as if we had participated in a *Joyous Christmas Day*!

Jenna Heath, Band Director, commented: "The Christmas program was an enjoyable evening! As a director, I was especially proud of the fifth-grade band performing for the first time, as well as our MS/HS band students stepping up to learn three different songs and being confident on their parts. One of the highlights for me was the early elementary group, from Pre-K up through first grade. The first graders were especially adorable in their Christmas tree costumes. One person who I think pulled this whole thing together is Mrs. Carter! She had such a vision for this program and weaved a narrative throughout the whole thing, tying it together well with readings, songs, and even costumes!"



Grandparents and Veterans Program



By Anna Carter, Music Instructor

Columbia's students joyfully prepared for a day to honor our veterans and celebrate the USA. The morning began with a breakfast for our guests in the Upper Johnson Center, served by our middle school cooking class, as well as a presentation by our school administrators. Then the group moved to the church auditorium where, thanks to the efforts of Christy Barrett and Jenna Heath, the decorations perfectly complemented our performers on the stage, and a Wall of Honor gave recognition to the many family members and friends who have served our country. Each Veteran in attendance was gifted with cards designed and decorated by our art teacher, Ms. Yeager, and her helpers – each one signed by Columbia students.

During the program, many of our PreK and Kindergarten students faced a large crowd for the first time, bravely singing tributes to our flag. The first and second grades brought tears to our eyes with their sweet voices rising in tribute to the sacrifices made by our soldiers. The third graders filled the room with energy as their smiling faces sang about being grateful for the USA. Fourth grade gave us a moment of serious pause as they did a dramatic recitation of "In Flanders Field". The fifth graders chose to perform one of their favorite chapel songs, "Light the Fire", as a prayer a soldier might lift to God. The sixth graders



brought in a touch of tradition singing a medley of some of our favorite patriotic songs. Throughout, a select group from our high school introduced each class with readings that led us through a special occasion of celebration and honor.

Jenna Heath, Band Director, commented: "I think this program went well and did a fantastic job honoring our Veterans. The students were prepared and executed their parts well. A highlight of the program, for me, was the fourth grade's dramatic reading of 'In Flanders Field' as well as incorporating "Light the Fire" into the program. Mrs. Barrett was a HUGE reason this day was so successful. She helped especially with the decorations. It looked so good because of her creative eye."



Winter Memories



School Song in the Gym



Keeping the Faith Event



Festival of Trees 1st & 2nd Grade Field Trip



7th & 8th Grade Bowling Party



Ice Storm on Campus



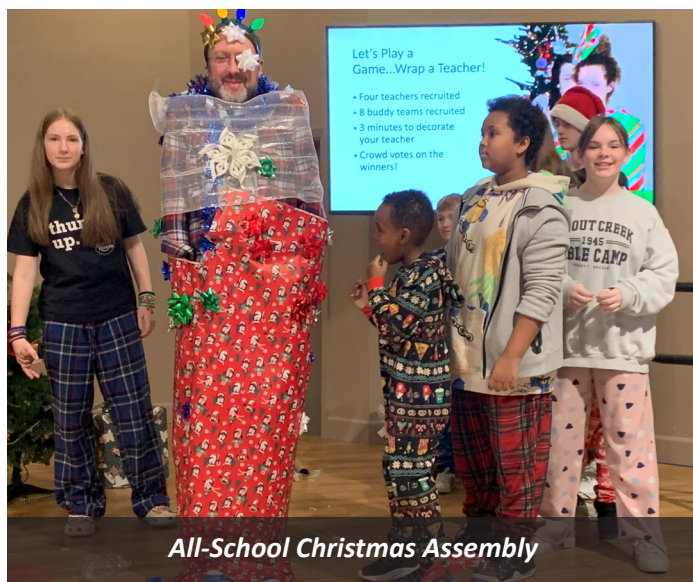
Grandparents Day Activities



Big Buddy / Little Buddy Thanksgiving Party



8th Grade Science Lab w/Portland Water Bureau



All-School Christmas Assembly

Elementary "Got Game" Math Day

By Carrie Rude, Admissions Director

A longstanding tradition in Columbia's elementary program is the annual surprise day of learning. Some years focus on subjects like art (Great Artists Day), geography (Passport Day), reading (Literacy Circus), and Bible (Bible Day). This year, the special topic was mathematics, and our faculty and staff knocked it out of the park with their "Got Game" theme!

The surprise element of the day is a special treat for the students. As they arrived to school one morning in January, they were greeted by two interesting characters: Mr. Moneybags and a "Go Directly to Jail" Prisoner (both from Monopoly). Upon entering the building, they found the hallway filled with game pieces and each classroom transformed into a particular game. Throughout the day, they enjoyed rotating among a variety of activities to enforce math concepts and have fun together. Some of the games included Battleship, Hi Ho Cherry-O, Uno, Clue, and Candyland. As usual, the teachers fully invested – with costumes, elaborate décor, and fun projects.

Of the event, President Ami Vensel commented, "I love the energy, dedication, and creativity of our elementary team! Our objective was for students to experience math activities in a fun and engaging way. What a better way for them to fall in love with math than to provide an opportunity for students to learn math through play! Time and time again I heard students say, 'I love math!' Mission accomplished!"



Homecoming Celebrations



By Carrie Rude, Admissions Director

Third time's the charm. Columbia's Homecoming celebration was rescheduled twice this year – once when the opposing basketball team backed out because of weather concerns, and the second time due to actual icy conditions that made roads treacherous. Despite the disappointing delays, the various activities surrounding the event were eventually enjoyed by all.

This year's queen-crowning ceremony was held during halftime of the boys' varsity game against Trinity Academy on Saturday, January 27. The gym was packed with current families, alumni, and other friends of the school, as our Knights pulled out a win: 66-42. Represented on the Homecoming court were six senior princesses: Ilisa Dolinska, Aliya Kurkinen, Raylin Hartman, Ariana Muffenbier, Skylar Stewart, and Iris Zapp. Each of them was escorted into the darkened gym by a sibling or other special relative as words were read about their memories at Columbia. Finally, the young squire presented the crown and the young lady in waiting presented a bouquet of roses at the announcement of the queen. Congratulations to Iris!

A new addition to the festivities this year was the "After Party" for high school students. This semi-formal event was held in the Upper Johnson Center at the conclusion of the basketball game. Columbia's ASB set up the space with the theme "Night in New York" – including photo backdrop, twinkle lights, and a dining section to enjoy the finger foods, treats, and fancy punch. A professional DJ kept the music flowing and a dance instructor led the group in several favorites like Cotton-Eye Joe, Macarena, Cha Cha Slide, YMCA, and the Virginia Reel.



Winter Service Project



By Deborah Miller, Principal

This year our seasonal school-wide service project partnered with Portland church Imago Dei to create “Restart Kits” for refugee families in the Portland area. Imago Dei staff member Seth King, their Pastor of Justice and Mercy, worked in tandem with school leadership to provide the information we needed to create these Restart Kits. Each classroom chose what kind of kit they wanted to create, from bathroom kits to kitchen kits and new baby kits. Lists were sent home to Columbia Christian school families, who responded generously to supply the necessary kit items. Our goal was one kit per classroom or homeroom/Connections class, and we surpassed that amount!

Parent Sequoia Ranson helped acquire plastic tubs for each classroom while Jen Partlow served as a classroom support liaison to help teachers create lists and organize donations. On the last day before Christmas break, all the

bins were brought to Eastside church to the front of the auditorium, and at the close of our Christmas school-wide assembly, the entire school prayed over the kits and for the families who would be receiving them. Then, with the help of some high school students, the kits were loaded into a truck—and it was PACKED! Ms. Partlow and I delivered the kits to Imago Dei, moving them into their holding area to be distributed by the church. Our donations filled the storage room, much to the delight of Pastor Seth.

It was a joy to know that our efforts were appreciated and would be used to be a huge blessing to families new to the area and the country! Thanks to all those who sacrificially donated items and money to outfit the refugee kits. Your generosity is beautiful!

Luke 6:28 *“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”*

Middle School Exploration

By Carrie Rude, Admissions Director

In addition to their core subjects, Columbia middle school students choose from a variety of Exploration classes that rotate each quarter. Some of the recent offerings include Cooking, Drama, Movement Arts, Speech & Debate, Game Design, and Art. At the end of quarter two, the Exploration courses culminated in a showcase assembly. Parents were invited, awards were presented, and the students shared what they learned and produced. Great work!



High School Excellence



By Deborah Miller, Principal

Everyone knows the cost of higher education is enormous, often making a four-year college experience almost impossible. Sometimes parents choose to send their children to public high schools in order to save money for college. While this choice is understandable on one level, it also subjects young teens to an education that often promotes values and an agenda that is not in line with what the family believes, indoctrinating children into very unbiblical worldviews. Understanding the financial challenges of college, Columbia Christian School is working hard to expand its Concurrent Credit offerings.

What is a concurrent credit? Glad you asked! Concurrent credit classes are courses that have been approved by a college (in our case, George Fox University and Northwest Nazarene University) that we also offer as a high school class. Students (and parents) are given a chance to pay for and receive a college transcript with those classes' earned credits if the child passes the class. Typically, if a child enrolls in a concurrent credit course in September, then around February colleges will ask students/parents to pay for the credits in order to receive their transcript. The best part? The cost of these credits is at a significantly discounted rate – about 90% lower than would be normally paid for those same credits after high school!

Some high schools offer Advanced Placement courses, and Columbia has offered those in the past as well. However, AP classes have some disadvantages that make concurrent credit courses more advantageous. First, the AP curriculum must be followed very closely; second, the amount of credit given to a student is determined by one final test taken in the spring; and third, colleges can choose to honor those AP scores in a lot of different ways that are not

always desirable. With concurrent credit courses, if a child passes the class and pays for the credits, they will receive a college transcript that can be sent to any college of the student's choice.

Columbia has offered concurrent credit classes in the past, but this year, we have greatly expanded our offerings.

During the 2023-24 school year, we are offering:

CC The Bible (3 semester credits)

CC Environmental Science (3 semester credits)

CC World Studies (3 semester credits)

CC College Writing (3 semester credits)

CC Psychology (3 semester credits)

CC Statistics (3 semester credits)

CC Calculus (3 semester credits)

CC Communication Activities—credit given for being in our high school dramatic productions (1 to 3 credits)

We hope to put these classes in our rotation next year:

CC Chemistry (3 semester credits)

CC Criminal Justice (3 semester credits)

CC College Algebra (3 semester credits)

CC Pre-Calculus (3 semester credits)

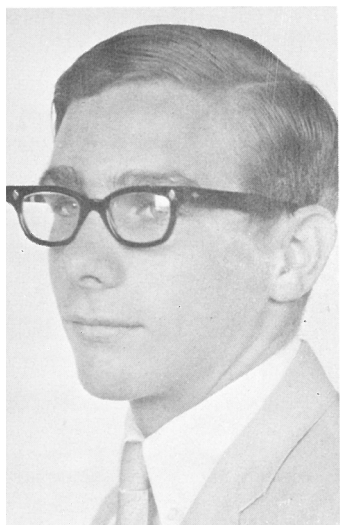
Given that most college loads are 24 semester credits per year, you can see that we now offer enough courses for a Columbia student to graduate with more than a year of college already completed.

As our high school grows, we hope to be able to expand our offerings even more, so that we eventually offer a full two-years' worth of college credits.

If you have questions about the concurrent credit program, feel free to contact our registrar Pearl Howarth at phowarth@columbiachristian.com.



Board & Alumni Spotlight: Shannon Poole



Shannon Poole

Columbia's Board of Trustees recently inducted Shannon Poole as their newest member. Shannon also currently serves as an elder at the Metro Church of Christ in Gresham. Shannon was pleased to share about his connections to the school and love for the ministry at Columbia.

What is your history with Columbia Christian Schools?

My wife and I came to Columbia Christian College, which shared this campus with CCS, in 1969. During my first year, intramural basketball allowed students from the high school to participate. I got to know some of the students and over time some of my best friends graduated from the high school. In 1976 I started dating my wife, PattySue, while she was teaching 2nd grade at CCS. Once we got married and started our family, she retired from teaching to take care of the kids, but our association with Columbia would continue once the kids were ready for school.

How would you describe your experience at CCS?

We raised 7 children and decided early on that we would be sending them to Columbia. The early years required some financial sacrifice, but we believed it was worth it. All 7 of the kids attended Kindergarten through 12th grade, with one of them starting in Junior Kindergarten. Our daughter Angela (Miss Poole) has been working at Columbia for the last 12 years in the roles of teacher and student support.

What is your best memory related to Columbia?

The number one memory would have to be that Columbia is where PattySue was teaching when we started dating. Lots of other memories include concerts, plays, sports activities, and field trips. One of my most memorable field trips was traveling to the coast and going out on a whale-watching boat. A good size pod of killer whales swam right next to the boat.

Why is a Christian education important?

Getting to know God and the love of Jesus is more important than anything that can be learned from a textbook. It is important that students know that the teachers truly want what is best for the student. It must be a quality education, which we feel Columbia provided for our kids, with each one earning scholarships that allowed them to earn a college degree. Some of our children even decided to get their master's degree.

What advice do you have for the current students at CCS?

Work hard, make lots of friends, and don't be afraid to try out for drama, sports, music, student leadership, or in some other area that pushes you out of your comfort zone.



COLUMBIA CHRISTIAN High School

CAREER DAY!

Friday, April 26th

To raise awareness about different career pathways and apprenticeship opportunities, Columbia is hosting its Annual Career Day.

8th-12th grade students will hear from industry representatives throughout the event and learn about various avenues they can pursue after they graduate from high school.

9101 E. Burnside St. Portland OR 97216 www.columbiachristian.com 503-252-8577

COLUMBIA

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PRESENTS

Beauty the & Beast

THE MUSICAL **Jr.**
Disney



Ticket Information

- 🌹 Adults \$12
- 🌹 Children \$10

ON CAMPUS - stop by the high school office to pay by cash/check
CARD/ONLINE - visit www.columbiachristian.com under "Latest News"

Friday, April 12, 7:00PM
Saturday, April 13, 7:00PM
Sunday, April 14, 2:00 (Matinee)

Friday, April 19, 7:00PM
Saturday, April 20, 7:00PM
Sunday, April 21, 2:00 (Matinee)

🌹 Six performances over two weekends 🌹 Doors open 30 minutes prior to showtime

Performances at the Vera Johnson Rehearsal Hall
9101 E Burnside Street Portland, OR 97216

Vensel's Voice



President Ami Vensel

I recently attended one of Pepperdine University's Restoration Initiative events featuring guest speaker Tod Bolsinger - Congregational Strategist, Author, and Associate Professor of Leadership Formation. The aim of the initiative is to strengthen Christian congregations, deepen relationships with God, strengthen relationships with each other, and contribute to the flourishing of local communities.

Bolsinger focused attention on one of his books, *Canoeing the Mountains*, challenging leaders to consider what effective leadership looks like in our rapidly-changing world. He speaks to one very basic principle seen throughout Scripture – trust: No one is going to follow you unless they trust you. This leads me to reflect on one of the most known and referred to passages in the Bible – Psalm 23:

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me. Your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Jesus the good shepherd provides everything we need – we lack nothing. He offers nourishment and leads to rest. He provides guidance to his sheep, who are by nature, apt to stray or wander. He is intimately involved with the flock and concerned for the safety of each one. The rod he carries offers guidance, but is also used to protect the sheep from predators who would seek to devour. The relationship between the shepherd and the sheep is one of trust.

How do leaders (shepherds) develop trust with followers? How do we develop and nurture relationships that invite followers to experience peace, direction, discipline, provision, and anointing? We look to the good shepherd. Our humility is seen in following where He leads, while our confidence comes from knowing that He is going before us (John 10:11-18).

Trust.



Homecoming Ceremony Queen Crowning



Homecoming Basketball Game



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