



The KNIGHTLY NEWS

Columbia Christian School • PreK-12th Grade

January & February 2020

Celebrating the Season



Important Dates:

February 9

Parent Rally & Open House

February 10-18

Read-A-Thon

February 15

High School Snow Tubing Day

March 2

PTF (Parent Teacher Fellowship)
Meeting

March 19

Elementary Musical Extravaganza

March 23-27

Spring Break

[See full Columbia Calendar](#)

December was a month full of excitement; Columbia students and staff especially enjoyed celebrating the Christmas holiday. The children participated in service projects - from packing boxes for Operation Christmas Child in the elementary, to collecting warm winter gear for local clothing banks in the high school. The band, choir, drama, and art departments wowed audiences with their festive programs. A 14-foot-tall noble fir tree was decorated in the Womack fountain courtyard.

Columbia's PTF (Parent Teacher Fellowship) hosted their annual "Parents Day Out/Kids' Christmas Party Event", which included a bounce house and appearances by Mr. & Mrs. Vensel/Claus. Through all the activities and fun, however, an intentional focus was made on the true reason for the season - remembering the blessing of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ - every month of the year!



Homecoming



Congrats to the 2019 Homecoming Court! Princesses honored this year were Katie Womack, Evelyn Barrett, Cassidy Deyoe, Tara Vu, and Alexis Davis. In a surprising and unprecedented move, two queens were announced during the ceremony: Evelyn Barrett and Cassidy Deyoe.

The gym was packed for the event with current students, graduates, families, and many friends of the school. Special thanks to Rosco Pirtle for his photography services and Robert Gentry for hosting the alumni reception.



Memory of a Notable Servant



Kami Lyn Ellenz
March 1967 - April 2019

In the fall of 1985, Kami Ellenz enthusiastically arrived in Portland as a youthful freshman at Columbia Christian College. It was on this campus where she began cultivating many long-lasting friendships. Over the years, Kami demonstrated tremendous loyalty to her friends and to her school.

Kami passionately supported Columbia Christian. She could be seen at sporting events catching up with other alumni and friends of the school. Kami was also frequently involved at Columbia fundraising events where she dedicated her time and talent to ensure their success. Using her financial abilities, Kami was the treasurer of Women for Columbia and WFCC for 15 years. Continually willing to serve, Kami was also an annual volunteer at Christian College Day Northwest and a board member for The Tree of Knowledge preschool. Kami valued using her gifts for the kingdom; she was always eager to help.

Kami had a career as an accountant. During the last 15 years, Kami worked for a philanthropic foundation in Portland. She felt tremendous satisfaction working with the family and its charitable causes. Just prior to her death she was promoted to executive director.

Kami aggressively battled ovarian cancer for four years. While fighting cancer, and through her death, she remained loyal to the long-time friends and institutions she treasured. She is deeply missed by her loved ones and well-remembered as a servant of the Lord.

Vensel's Voice



President Ami Vensel

Recently, I was asked to lead a devotional thought for fellow Christian school leaders at an ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International) District Council meeting. I was happy to share one of my favorite stories of Jesus – one that demonstrates the love and compassion of Christ and challenges us not only as school leaders, but as followers of Christ.

The story takes place in John 4:1-26. John captures our attention as he opens with, “he must needs pass through Samaria” (vs. 4). Jesus *needed* to pass through Samaria because he *needed* to come upon a Samaritan woman. This encounter is significant for two reasons. First, this woman was a Samaritan, and “Jews have no dealings with Samaritans” (v. 9). Second, she was a woman and Jewish men did not speak to women in public. Yet, these two barriers did not stop Jesus.

Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of water. Her response was one of confusion, “How is it that you, a Jew, asks a drink of me, a Samaritan woman?” (v. 9). Jesus, full of grace and mercy replied, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that says to you, Give me to drink; you would have asked of him, and he would have given you living water” (v. 10). Jesus broke the barriers, approached the woman, and asked for a drink of water.

This example of Jesus is profound as we consider our position as school leaders and the opportunities we are given in leading students and families to Christ. These opportunities begin with ‘meeting at the well’. We extend relationship, break barriers, approach, and offer ‘living water’.

At the heart of Columbia’s mission is a community who desires to extend relationship and this simply begins by Christ’s example of ‘meeting at the well’.



NED's Mindset

Columbia’s elementary and middle school engaged in an interactive chapel performance that has been traveling the globe – NEDS’s Mindset Mission. Presented through storytelling, puppetry, and yo-yo tricks, the students were taken on an entertaining journey to reinforce the lessons: **Never Give Up** – to understand the power of **Yet** **Encourage Others** – spark courage in other people **Do your best** – always be learning and growing.



The program was provided to Columbia at no cost by All for KIDZ, Inc. in connection with the NED-shows.com. The show is enhanced through free lesson plans, videos, and activities that connect to common learning themes such as: preventing bullying, building relationships, achieving excellence, test preparation, and making healthy choices.



Yo-yos, like the ones used in the performance, were made available for families to purchase through the school office. The money collected from those sales “pays it forward” to allow the group to keep traveling to other schools. Students are enjoying learning to “yo” and have a tangible reminder of NED’s messages. While practicing their skills, the children will make mistakes, try again, and improve.

Equipped for Excellence

For over 70 years, Columbia Christian has been blessed with an exceptional teaching staff. Established in 1947, and dually-accredited by ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International) and AdvancED since 2000, Columbia is intentional in the hiring and placement of faculty members. The success of a school and its students depends on this essential ingredient.

Columbia faculty are highly-qualified, well-trained, and credentialed. They each maintain certification, with a majority of them holding advanced degrees. All teachers engage in ongoing professional development; the current emphasis is Biblical Worldview integration throughout the school curriculum. Additionally, because the school is in a renewal year for accreditation, teams of faculty are presently working on assigned self-study reports. This crucial work is being conducted in anticipation of the site visit team coming to campus again in the fall of 2020.

Beyond academic and training qualifications, Columbia hires individuals who have a strong commitment and involvement in Christian faith. In line with its mission, Columbia prioritizes FAITH, then CHARACTER, and finally ACADEMICS. Students at Columbia are mentored and challenged in ways that go beyond a textbook. Columbia teachers serve in their positions, not because of a lucrative paycheck – far from it, but because they feel called to this particular ministry. They have found it to be a joy to embrace an important role in the growth and development of young minds.

Are you grateful for teachers you have known at Columbia?

Please join us in appreciating them by sending a brief email to ccs@columbiachristian.com with your thoughts. We will share some of the responses on social media; respondents can choose to remain anonymous, if they wish.



Columbia Christian
FAITH • CHARACTER • ACADEMICS
BIGGEST enrollment event of the year!
PRE K-12TH GRADE • EST. 1947

Parent Rally & Open House
2020
Date: Sun. Feb 9th
Time: 2PM
9101 E Burnside St. Portland OR 97216

Who Should Attend?

- Currently enrolled families
- New families
- Anyone who wants to learn more about the programs, growth, and changes at Columbia



PRIZE DRAWINGS:
FREE Tuition*
Blazer Tickets
Knights Gear

Must be present to win prizes. Chance of winning increases with each adult guest at the event- bring relatives, neighbors, and friends!

*FREE MONTH of tuition for one student for the 2020-2021 school year

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Alumni Spotlight



Tyler Ellis
Class of 1998

"We are pleased to share that our own Tyler Ellis (class of 1998) is making a difference! An award-winning author who has been in ministry since 1999, Tyler recently presented a powerful TED Talk on the Gospel. In less than 15 minutes, Tyler gets to the heart of the "Good News" and reminds us that salvation through Christ is a gift. You can find more information and the complete presentation on the school's website on the Alumni page." - Jason Housley, Development Director

Do you want to be on the next Alumni Spotlight?

The "Alumni Spotlight" is a regular feature in the Knightly News. Contact Jason Housley in the Development Office if you are interested in being included.

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(geared toward High School)