



The KNIGHTLY NEWS

Columbia Christian School • PreK-12th Grade

January & February 2022

Elementary Passport Day



Important Dates:

April 1 & 4

Teacher Grading & Prof Dev

April 4-8

Elementary Read-A-Thon

April 14

Elementary Learning Fair

April 15 & 18

Easter Break

April 19

Elementary Music Program

April 21

Middle/High Music Program

April 22

High School Career Day

April 29-May 1

Senior Class Trip

On an ordinary Tuesday in January, Columbia elementary students arrived at school, surprised to find that their whole building had been transformed into a life-sized globe overnight! The Outlaw Center for Academic Excellence was filled with sights and sounds from around the world. On this special "Passport Day", the hallway became the ocean, and the classrooms were the seven continents, as the students were led on an educational journey.

Children were assigned to groups that included their "Big Buddy/Little Buddy" partners and they rotated through various stations together. The day was packed with a variety of memorable activities, including:

- Making snowflakes in chilly Antarctica
- Exploring landmarks in South America
- Creating magnets in North America
- Playing games in Africa
- Becoming artists in Europe
- Researching koala bears and storytelling rocks in Australia
- Learning about Chinese New Year in Asia
- Receiving a Travel Pass from their "Captain" (President Ami Vensel)
- Collecting travel bags, passports, and "souvenirs" along the way

The entire elementary team – comprising faculty, staff, assistants, and volunteers – is to be commended for their extra efforts to organize and execute this comprehensive learning experience. Passport Day was unforgettable for the children and it taught them in ways that go far beyond any textbook lesson.

About the program, elementary staff reflected, "It was fun to explore places around the world through the eyes of children and see students build relationships across grade levels."

Science in Real Life!



What do shovels, fish guts, and drinking straws have in common? These are all tools used by Columbia middle school students to bring science to life. These young learners continue to participate in several “hands-on” lab experiences and field studies to deepen their understanding of various topics.

Some of the specific activities they have enjoyed this year include three labs: Fish Dissection, Bird Identification, and Water Quality, as well as two field studies: Burnt Bridge Creek and Salmon Creek.

These special programs have been facilitated by Nancy Dawkins, who has been instructing at Columbia for over 20 years. Mrs. Dawkins loves helping her students connect what they are learning in the classroom with real-world experiences.

She shared, “Columbia Christian School’s multi-year relationship with Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership is very beneficial to our students, as EP provides free hands-on lab experiences for our students and we “pay them back” by serving the community. I truly believe that through community service we develop character while learning about and caring for God’s creation. Another valuable aspect of these programs is that they allow our students to interact with experts in the field, and it introduces them to possible future careers. In the past, Columbia students have even secured paid internships through these opportunities.”

Beyond middle school, this excellence continues in 9th and 10th grade science as Columbia partners with the Bureau of Environmental Services and Portland Parks and Recs to provide opportunities through their high school program. Many Columbia students over the years will remember donning rubber boots and rain gear for field trips at locations like Kelley Point Park and Whitaker Ponds, and how can they forget the sights and smells from the Waste Water Treatment Facility?



Winter Sports Recap

Reflections from Athletic Director Joey Chapman



High School Boys Basketball:

As the season began, many coaches and media polls were projecting our Columbia Christian Knights to be in "re-build mode." After finishing the 2020-2021 season as the 2nd place team in 2A and only returning 3 players from that roster, the team had a long way to go. Led by Senior First Team All-League, Jordan Tibbets; Junior Second Team All-League, Dawson Vensel; and Junior Third Team All-League, Christian Chapman, the Knights made this season anything but a "re-build".

Determined to get back to the State Playoffs, the boys came together and won 10 of their last 12 games, falling in double-overtime to Mannahouse in the league semi-finals. The Knights ended the season at 18 wins and 9 losses,

finishing 3rd in the 2A Northwest League. Graduating only three seniors: Jordan Tibbets, Nick Brandt, and Samuel Mbuyu, next season is poised to be a special one as we return 6'3 Wing, Dawson Vensel (2nd Team 2022); 5'9 Guard, Christian Chapman (3rd Team in 2022); 6'7 Forward, Colby Getting (Current Freshman); and the rest of our roster in Braden Lawrence, Bryan Millan Santillan, Noah Carver, Jahkoby Brumbaugh, Seth Alvarado, and Hayden Reid. The Knights will be transitioning back into the 1A Valley 10 League in 2022-23, so skill development and culture building is the focus as we plan to pursue a League Championship once again next year!



7th-8th Boys Basketball:

The focus this season was development and preparation. Coach Frunk had a large number of boys to fit into the rotation and each player was able to experience growth through their opportunities on the court. When asked about his thoughts on the season, Coach Frunk said: "The 7th/8th grade boys team had a great season! I know for a fact that every player got better not only on the court, but also as a person, and that is what I am most proud of! Thank you to our families for all your support throughout the season!" Big shoutout to our leaders and top-performers this year in Russell (7th), Oliver (7th), Landon (8th), Logan (8th), and Tyler (8th).



7th-8th Girls Basketball:

"The hardest skill to acquire in this sport is the one where you compete all out, give it all you have, and you are still getting beat no matter what you do. When you have the killer instinct to fight through that, it is very special." - Eddie Reese The 7th/8th girls acquired this skill this year. In every game they competed as hard as they could. They never got discouraged and they supported each other well. They definitely learned the instinct to fight through to the end. Thank you to our 8th grade leaders: Melody and Eden, and also our 7th grade standout players: Eva, Sophie, and Caeley.

Winter Sports Recap (Continued...)



5th-6th Girls Basketball:

This was one of the most fun teams to watch play throughout the Winter Sports season! Led by Coaches Matt Scholer and Sequoia Ranson, our 5th/6th girls learned the fundamentals of basketball and how to utilize their athleticism. Every time these girls played, it felt like the games would come right down to the wire, and our Knights were able to pull out the victory in most of those! The character of this group of young ladies is special, and their future on the court is just as exciting!

5th-6th Boys Basketball:

The 5th/6th Grade Boys Basketball team started the season with only a handful of student-athletes who were just learning the game of basketball for the first time. Led by Coach Matt Scholer and Jeremy Zimmerman, over the course of the season the team had doubled in size and skill development. When asked about his takeaway from this season, Coach Matt Scholer said: "We ended the season with several wins, but that's not what I'm most proud of. I was most proud of our skill development and the bright future that this group has if they stick together and put the work in."

Elementary Basketball Camp:

This year, the Columbia Christian Basketball program ran a Saturday morning clinic for all ages through the month of January. With a turnout of over 30 student-athletes schoolwide, we were able to build on our fundamental skills, learn the value of having fun in competition, and create excitement for the future of Knights Basketball. Be on the lookout for information regarding the Summer Youth Basketball Camp that will be taking place the last week in June.



Open Enrollment



Registration for the 2022-2023 school year is in full-swing and some classes are already filling! If you know someone who is exploring education options for the fall, have them schedule their personal Educational Consultation with President Ami Vensel. Mrs. Vensel is happy to share about Columbia programs, learn about each child's needs, and answer all the family's questions. Contact the office today to reserve an appointment:



503-252-8577



admissions@columbiachristian.com

Winter Formal "Mystery Tour"



The high school Winter Formal banquet is an annual tradition at Columbia, but this year it took a special twist. The details of the event were kept a secret from the students, as they were planned behind the scenes by student government advisor Kevin Yaws and his team of faculty/staff/parent volunteers. The event was appropriately named the "Fancy/Not-Fancy Winter Formal Mystery Tour: Choose Your Own Adventure". As the students signed up, they selected whether they wished to participate in the "Fancy" or the "Not-Fancy" track for the evening. Surprisingly, every single student opted for the "Fancy" route – perhaps when they saw that was the trend for the rest of their peers.

The event was a 6-hour affair that kicked off in the gym with the boys varsity basketball game against Vernonia. Columbia fans were decked out in their finest duds as they cheered their boys on to a sweet 52-39 victory. After circling up and singing the school song together on the Jim Flint court, the activity moved to the Lower Johnson Center where the students socialized, played on the game tables, and took photos. This transition allowed the basketball players some time to get spiffed up before the party moved to the Upper Johnson Center for the formal meal. Dinner was catered by Buster's BBQ and table service was provided by parent volunteers.

After dining, the guests were directed to Columbia's activity bus where they were shuttled to a top-secret location (Clackamas Town Center). At the mall, the students were assigned a photo scavenger hunt where they were tasked with a variety of challenges to complete in small groups. Staff and parent chaperones were stationed throughout the building to provide supervision and check in with the kids. At the conclusion of the challenge, the winners of that contest received the coveted prize – gift cards from Dutch Bros! The event finally wrapped up back on campus around 9:00pm with dessert, socializing, and more pictures.

When asked about their favorite part of Winter Formal this year, students were happy to share:

"The scavenger hunt at the mall."
(Malaya, class of 2022)

"Spending time with friends." (Anthony, class of 2025)

"The basketball game." (Lexie, class of 2025)

"Going around with the different activities on the scavenger hunt." (Nick, class of 2022)

Band Honors



In January, Columbia senior Connor Dukes performed as part of Oregon Music Education Association's All-State Band 2021-2022. Connor has been playing the clarinet for seven years and previously received the honor of playing with the all-state ensemble in both middle school and high school as well. Connor was selected from among hundreds of applicants as one of the top high school band musicians in Oregon.

Connor traveled to Eugene, OR for the performance, along with his parents and Zach Frunk, Columbia Band and Music Instructor. Mr. Frunk participated in the conference that was hosted in conjunction with the concert, which included professional development specifically for music education.



Of the experience and Connor's honor, Mr. Frunk commented, "Connor spent the weekend at All State playing in a band made of some of the best high school musicians from our state. Learning from a master conductor from Idaho State University, this was an invaluable musical experience for him. I am very proud of him, not only for playing in this wonderful ensemble, but also for representing our school in the best way possible."

Congratulations to Connor on this achievement!

Columbia Christian School's Drama Department

PRESENTS



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PERFORMANCES

May 13-15

May 20-22

SAVE THE DATE



Alumni Spotlight



Cameron Stark
Class of 2020

Cameron Stark is proud to be another Columbia Christian “lifer” – attending from preschool all the way through his graduation in 2020. Cameron had a lot to share about his years in the Columbia family: “My experience at Columbia Christian gave me a foundation in my faith and as a person to be successful in whatever I decided to do after. I am very grateful for the teachers and staff who go out of their way to see all students succeed. I participated in our school’s basketball, soccer, track, and drama programs. I was a chaplain from my sophomore to senior year and was in student Government my junior year as well. I couldn’t ask for a better schooling than what I was blessed with at Columbia.”

When asked about his favorite memory, he responded, “There are many because I participated in a lot of activities but I think my favorite memory is my sophomore year where I led my first Chapel and found out what I wanted to do for the rest of my life.” Regarding his favorite teacher, he shared, “Mrs. Valentine is my favorite teacher. I watched her help so many students become better all-around people and would always be willing to go out of her way to support students in many ways.”



Cameron had some advice to share with current Columbia students: “Whatever you put into Columbia, the more fun you have. I watched classmates of mine not participate in events or programs and they graduated wishing they were more involved. So, to all students, high school is a place to mess up and make mistakes and have fun with your friends or teammates. Take advantage of the time you have in high school because you can’t have the time back. Columbia Christian School is one of my homes and I hope you can find a place there as well!”

What is Cameron doing now? “After graduation, I entered a mission program called AIM. In this program I studied in Lubbock, Texas for 8 months before moving to Mexico City in May of 2021. I will be finished with my time as a missionary in December of 2022. After I finish AIM, I plan to move to Lubbock, Texas, to start school at Sunset International Bible Institute.”

2022 Homecoming Court



Congratulations to Linh, Malaya, Bergen, Lyndi, and Makena!

Vensel's Voice



President Ami Vensel

Glen Schultz, Founder and Director of Kingdom Education Ministries (KEM), was a keynote speaker at the National Christian School Association (NCSA) conference this year. Hundreds of Christian school leaders from around the country gathered at the Georgia Aquarium to participate in NCSA's *Next Conference*. Schultz was fervent in his message of our responsibility in forming the next generation. Our young people are being discipled – by design or by default. "The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher" (Luke 6:40). Who are our children following?

KEM research provides a snapshot of Christianity in the United States today: there are 380,000 churches; 1,500 mega-churches (average membership

of 2,000), 4,000 church plants every year, 15,000 Christian schools (K-12), 5 million in homeschool, 900 Christian colleges and seminaries, and the US has the largest number of Christian institutions and resources in the world.

Conversely, we live in a nation where abortion, murder, suicide, drug deaths, mass shootings, school shootings, and violent protests are at an all-time high. We are raising our children in a culture that promotes same-sex marriage, gender preference, and the removal of historical monuments and plaques. There are 2.3 million in our criminal justice system, 60% of millennials prefer a socialistic and communistic society, and 3 out of 4 millennials believe that all faiths have the same value.

If this is our reality, then we must understand Kingdom education only takes place when God reigns in the whole educational process. Schultz challenges that we must understand education is not schooling, rather, education is multi-faceted and includes home, church, and school. Most importantly, we must understand education prepares a child for life and eternity.

Unfortunately, there are no shortcuts when it comes to offering a Biblical worldview education to our youth. Jesus said, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32). Our children need Truth.



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