



The KNIGHTLY NEWS

Columbia Christian School • PreK-12th Grade

July & August 2021

Summer Program: Back and Better Than Ever



Important Dates:

September 30
Picture Day

October 2
Christian College Day NW

October 4-8
Book Fair

October 8
Elementary Jog-A-Thon

October 11
No School, Fall Break

October 28
Last Day of Q1



After a one-year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic, Columbia was pleased to revive their elementary summer day camp in 2021. The theme was “God’s GREAT Creation”, with lessons, crafts, and experiments centering on the Biblical account from Genesis 1. Over the four-week program, about 40 students came to campus for a variety of learning experiences and fun!

Under the leadership of new Summer Program Director Leah Lubke, there were eight teacher assistants (middle and high school students) who volunteered their time. Guest teachers included Kyza Moss and Jonah Strand (singing and devotional), Kathy Wray (instruments), Danae Lindsay (rock painting), and Lisa Boase (mural painting). The beautiful rock art and mural can now be found in the natural playground and garden area at the north end of the school.

Other highlights of the camp:

- Playing on the antique fire truck that Brad Rowe brought from Weston Kia in Gresham, while learning about compassion and taking care of others.
- Observing and handling a selection of reptiles, amphibians, and isopods as part of the unit about the creation of animals.
- Using tools to refract light and create rainbows.
- Learning to sew and creating snake “stuffies” to take home.
- Competing in “Minute to Win It” challenge games.
- Playing outside and socializing with friends – old and new.

Of the program, Mrs. Lubke shared, “I had a blast getting to know the Columbia students and the other guests that we had at camp. I also loved seeing their humor, creativity and imaginations come to life!”

Mark Beekman, Development Director



Columbia Christian is pleased to announce Mark Beekman as Development Director.

Mark was born in South Dakota and moved to Eugene, OR as a young child. In 1987 he married his high school sweetheart, Denise Witt. At the end of 1992, Mark and Denise relocated from Eugene to Portland and currently reside in Gresham. Together they have three children: Alyssa, Andrea, and Andrew, as well as three grandchildren.

Mark and Denise became active with Columbia Christian Schools upon the enrollment of Alyssa in kindergarten in the fall of 1993. In the following years, Andrea and Andrew were also enrolled. Mark and Denise were involved in the Columbia community through their service in the classroom, chairing the annual Columbia fundraiser auction, and service on the Board of Trustees.

Denise is a registered Dental Hygienist and Mark has a dynamic background ranging from developing and maintaining corporate credit reports, to a credit manager in the wholesale fabric industry, Associate Director of Financial Aid, and most recently as an Associate Director of Sales and Membership. Mark and Denise have served at the Metro Church of Christ for the past 30 years in varying capacities.

Back to School BBQ



Faculty and staff served up a free "Back to School BBQ" dinner in the Womack Fountain Courtyard in late August. The weather was perfect for new and returning families to enjoy socializing, while the kids played games on the field and bounced in the inflatable castle. Over 200 people were part of the fun event to kick off the school year!



Joey Chapman, Athletic Director



Joey Chapman, Athletic Director and Varsity Boys Basketball Coach

Columbia's administration is pleased to announce the hiring of Joey Chapman as Athletic Director.

Joey shares: "I am extremely blessed and grateful to have the opportunity to serve Columbia Christian as Athletic Director and Varsity Boys Basketball Coach.

I come to Columbia with 5 years of Oregon high school basketball coaching experience with stops at 3A Yamhill-Carlton, 2A Faith Bible, and 6A McMinnville High School. I also bring a year of Athletic Director experience from my time at Faith Bible. Being a former NCAA DIII athlete, I believe that I have the tools necessary to not only continue Columbia's rich tradition of success (both on and off the court), but to also bring valuable lessons for our athletes looking to pursue athletics at the next level. I look forward to the incredible journey that God has in store!"

From Columbia President Ami Vensel: "We are excited to welcome Joey Chapman to our leadership team. We are looking forward to the energy and passion he will bring to our program!"

Fall Sports, New Coaches



Alfred Agcaoili, Head Girls Varsity Volleyball Coach.

A Hawai'i native, Agcaoili brings 30 years of extensive volleyball coaching experience and accomplishments at the high school prep, junior club, professional indoor, and NCAA collegiate levels. Coach Agcaoili has trained and coached 21 volleyball All-Americans, 68 high school prep and collegiate all-conference award winners, 17 Volleyball magazine "Fab 50" national honorees, and 7 junior national championship medal teams.



Matt Scholer, Head Coed Varsity Soccer Coach

Columbia welcomes Matt Scholer to the Knights athletic staff (and the middle school faculty team)! Coach Scholer has previously coached at Roosevelt HS, Milwaukie HS, and at Portland Christian HS. Matt played collegiate soccer at Warner Pacific University and he brings a wealth of playing and coaching experience to the Columbia program.

Agape Service Week

As part of the annual Service Week 2021, Columbia middle and high school students volunteered to finish building tiny houses at Agape Village transitional housing community. The site is ready with 15 units to help folks who are working to get back into traditional housing.



Vensel's Voice



President Ami Vensel

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year at Columbia Christian!

To those returning and to the many new families joining the Columbia community, I am thrilled to extend a warm welcome to each of you as we enter the year together! The beginning of a new school year always brings great excitement – no matter if you are starting your first day as a kindergartner or your

last year of high school as a senior. We share your excitement as we welcome students to campus and support them as they take next steps in their spiritual and educational journey with us.

What's Different at Columbia? We understand the challenges before us as we incorporate students back to school who have each uniquely experienced the effects of the pandemic. At Columbia, the social, emotional, and spiritual wellness of your student(s) is of utmost priority.

Settling into the structure and routine of school will be a process and we recognize for some students this will be challenging. Yet, establishing routines and schedules helps to provide a sense of stability. Columbia will extend empathy and patience in a safe and nurturing environment as students adjust to new habits.

Activities and exercise are important. Columbia is dedicated to incorporating movement and play into the school day to provide students opportunity for exercise and to connect socially and emotionally with peers.

For some, the pandemic has increased stress and feelings of anxiety and apathy; some families have seen behavior changes in their child. Columbia faculty and staff understand the importance of nurturing emotional connections and partnering with parents to help students through crisis. Communication is key! Columbia believes in partnership with parents; this partnership encourages communication

between parents and teachers.

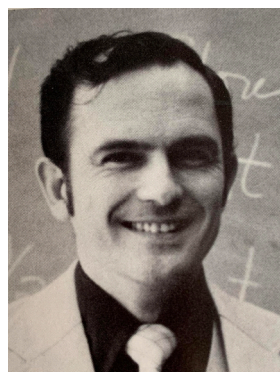
Our agenda is Christian education. We understand the distractions in our culture weigh heavily on our students. Everything that happens in a Christian school is an opportunity to develop character and share the Gospel message of love and compassion for all people.

We remain steadfast in our mission of providing a Christ-centered education, while partnering with parents to equip students spiritually, mentally, physically, and socially to become devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

And above all else put on love, which binds everything together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body and be thankful. Colossians 3:15

In Loving Memory



Mr. Lonnie Breninger circa 1982

From Board Chairman Robert T. Gentry:

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Lonnie Breninger. Mr. Breninger served Columbia Christian Schools in various capacities, including as a teacher and vice-principal. He was famous for his "Typing" classes and never shying away from any topic

during "Family Living". He taught us not to take ourselves too seriously!

As Vice-Principal, Mr. Breninger supported his staff and faculty with ease and quick wit. He helped lead Columbia Christian through difficult times; including separating Columbia Christian Schools from Columbia Christian College.

Mr. Breninger's gentle spirit was only second to his wife June's. They led by example, showing humility and concern for others. They are together again.

We send our condolences to his son Andy (class of '95), daughter-in-law Lisa, and grandchildren, Judah and Greta.



Newsletter Staff

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