



# The KNIGHTLY NEWS

Columbia Christian School • PreK-12th Grade

May & June 2021

## Honoring the Class of 2021



With the world still attempting to normalize through the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, a group of 28 Columbia Christian students reached the pinnacle of their high school experience this spring. These resilient seniors endured more than a year of transitions through comprehensive distance learning, hybrid learning, social distancing, mask-wearing, and an abundance of hand sanitizer. They faced countless challenges, disappointments, and new adventures – and they were victorious!

for the hard work of this class was great.

Jake Moody offered a brief welcome, followed by a few wise words from Salutatorian Maliah Aldan and Valedictorian Derek Valentine. Principal Joel Davis presented certificates to standout students in the class including: Spiritual Leadership Award (Alexis Davis), Timothy Award (Austin Fung & Gabi Surbrook), Mr. CCHS (Skylar Conley), and Miss CCHS (Alexis Davis). Beloved social studies teacher Jake Kopra was invited by the class to be the guest speaker, and he took the opportunity to offer a “pop quiz” with a prize. Diplomas were conferred by President Ami Vensel and Board Chairman Robert Gentry. Among the class of 2021 graduates were 10 National Honor Society Members, 9 Scholar Athletes, and 28 young men and women ready to be sent out into the world to do great things for God’s Kingdom. Congratulations class of 2021!

### Important Dates:

**July 26 - August 20**  
Elementary Summer Program

**August 10**  
Free Tuition Open House

**September 1**  
First Day of School

In accordance with state and county health guidelines, and in response to rain showers throughout the day, the commencement ceremony on June 11 was held in the school’s gymnasium on the newly-renovated Jim Flint Court. Each graduate invited up to eight guests to attend the event in-person; all other friends and family connected to the event remotely via Facebook Live. Though the audience was small, the love and appreciation

Many families are exploring education opportunities this year. When you share about your experience, and encourage other parents to check out Columbia, you help the school continue to grow and impact the lives of students.

Don't worry, you don't have to know detailed information to make a referral. Simply encourage your friends, neighbors, and co-workers to schedule a free Educational Success Consultation with President Vensel to have all their questions answered!



# Honoring the Class of 2021 (Cont.)



# Homecoming 2020-2021



Homecoming is always a special time for Columbia. Leading up to the event this year, the high school students selected six princesses who represent the mission of the school by demonstrating strong faith, character, and academics. The ceremony to crown the queen has historically been during the winter basketball season. This year, however, due to delays related to COVID, Homecoming was celebrated during a hot spring season of basketball.

Despite the unusual timing, it was a memorable event honoring Alexis Davis, Emilie Delgado, Emilia Rutz, Gabi Surbrook, Katie Womack, and the 2021 Homecoming Queen - Maranda Brumley. The night also included a fun and exciting game against Portland Christian. The Knights were victorious with a 55 to 48 win over PC. Many supportive alumni, parents, friends, and family joined together for the celebration. It was a blessing to finally all be together again as the Columbia community.

# Anchored by Faith: Auction 2021

*Message from Development Director Jason Housley*

On behalf of Columbia, our auction committee, and development department, thank you for yet another fantastic auction year. We celebrated 28 years of hosting this event, and the Columbia community came together and displayed the power of community by raising over \$75,000. You are amazing!

Auction Highlights:

- We were excited to have celebrity guest speaker Bethany Hamilton (Soul Surfer) join us for the live show that we streamed straight from our student center on campus.
- The live show also featured acclaimed auctioneer Johnna Wells and our own school president Ami Vensel.
- The bidding was fun and competitive with many great winners.
- We held our first virtual raffle drawing – the winner received a Peloton Bike+.
- More than 100 guests participated in the online auction and more than 150 joined us for the live show.
- The decorations for the live show were amazing! Thank you to Christy Barrett and Angie Siler for their creative genius.

The last two years of auction events have been a gigantic trial, but everything came together. With hard work and determination, and ultimately through God's blessings, these important funds have continued to be raised for the school.



# Celebrating Togetherness: End-of-Year Events



*Pre-Kindergarten Extra  
Recess Fun*



*Outdoor Elementary Chapel*



*Elementary Field Day*



*Banner Night  
Drive-Thru Parade*



*6th grade Outdoor School  
Day at Camp Yamhill*



*8th Grade  
Promotion Ceremony*



*High School Field Day 2.0*



*High School Art Showcase*



*All-School Chapel on the Field*

# Campus & Facilities Blessings

*Message from Facilities Director Eli Dukas*

Columbia was recently blessed with the ability to make some major improvements to the campus and the equipment needed to maintain the beautiful location we are stewards of. Check out some of our projects!



## Gym Floor

Most people are aware of the new gym court floor that was installed last summer. Most do not know of the work that went into the project. The floor was so far out of spec that many areas had to be ground down before the vapor-proof subfloor was poured and leveled. A new feature added to the gym floor is the moisture mitigation system. Even though the subfloor was remediated and is guaranteed to be moisture-free, the ambient transfer will introduce moisture between the subfloor and the plywood decking the hardwood is attached to. To combat that, a humidistat-controlled dryer system was installed. Most of the hardware is hidden behind the bleachers. On a quiet, damp day, you can go to the gym and hear the reassuring sound of a well-maintained court floor.



## Roof Improvements

Flat roofs are a challenge to maintain. Old flat roofs are even harder. The Vera Johnson Rehearsal Hall was recently recovered with a new PVC roofing membrane. The existing roof had developed leaks that required constant repair. The new roof system included fixing the existing scuppers, correcting the slope, and installation of the new PVC membrane. A new roof access hatch was added as well. Landreth Hall has also been the source of many roof leaks over the past several years. Half of the roof had completely failed and was no longer able to keep water out. The roof was cleaned and prepped, all seams were resealed, and a top-coat of Karnak 298 Alumin-R was added.



## Ferris Mower and Turf-Vacuum

The facilities department has a history of using equipment well past its useful life. The purchase of the Ferris mower and the turf vacuum was a major improvement.

The mower is an industry leader in operator safety and suspension, making for much faster cutting of the many acres of turf on campus. The turf vacuum has completely

changed the way leaves are picked up in the fall. Columbia is blessed with over 140 deciduous trees that create a lot of debris. With the introduction of this equipment, the labor hours have been reduced significantly and our staff can work more efficiently.



## Outlaw Center Flagpole

Performing the daily flag ceremony has been a middle school tradition at Columbia for many years. After many years of service, the existing flagpole was no longer functional, and a new one was needed to continue the important flag raising and lowering ceremony. A new 25' flagpole was installed in the same location near the playground. Of important note, the new pole has an internal halyard system that will keep any ornery students from running any non-sanctioned textiles or garments up the pole as a prank.

## Sanders Hall Fire Doors

An ongoing building safety project has been the replacement of all the fire doors in Sanders Hall. The fire marshal determined that the majority of our doors were not adequate and needed to be remedied. The fire marshal's office is graciously permitting Columbia to finish this project over the course of many months.

## Outlaw Center Gutters

Any elementary student or family member can tell you the gutters on the Outlaw Center were in need of some attention. The gutters still provided for the function of collecting rainwater shed from the roof, but they quickly deposited it back onto persons standing on the sidewalk below. This important replacement included approximately 70' of new fascia boards installed as well.

*Story Continues on page 6...*

# Campus & Facilities Blessings (Cont.)



## Outlaw Center HVAC

One of the largest projects the facilities department has been blessed to have underway is the complete replacement of the existing HVAC systems in the Outlaw Center. The existing systems were a mix of natural gas and electric heaters. Only a few rooms had air conditioning capabilities. The new system is a mini-split system. Each classroom will be controlled independently from every other room. This provides for the greatest economic savings and teacher/ student comfort. Each unit is also equipped to sanitize the air that is being conditioned in the space through iWave technology. iWave uses needlepoint bi-polar ionization (NPBI) technology to create equal amounts of positive and negative ions. When these ions are injected into the air stream, they break down passing pollutants and gases into harmless compounds like oxygen, carbon dioxide, nitrogen, and water vapor. When the ions come in contact with viruses, bacteria, or mold, they remove the hydrogen molecules – without them, the pathogens have no source of energy and will die. Some of the existing equipment will remain intact and function as make-up air units for the entire building. Columbia was certainly blessed working with contractors, A1-Mechanical, HVAC Inc., and 5 Star Electric to make creative solutions to keep costs as low as possible and have the most efficient and useful system possible. All of the equipment is now installed. The remaining electrical work will be finished sometime this summer. The project is currently waiting on the City of Portland to finalize the approval of the electrical side of the project.



# Alumni Spotlight



**Jeremy Poole**  
**Class of 1995**

Jeremy Poole is a true “Columbia kid” who attended CCS for all his K-12 education. Of his experience at Columbia, Jeremy shared the following: *I always enjoyed the fact that the school is a very tight-knit community. There were many connections made during my time at Columbia that have continued well beyond the years I attended. I think the main reason these connections were able to be maintained was due to the fact that we share a faith in God.*

*I received many opportunities at Columbia that I would not have had elsewhere. Some of my best memories from Columbia are centered on my involvement with band. I had several great band directors who helped develop that joy and encouraged me to participate in several different competitions and events. I remember a couple of years when we travelled to Enumclaw, WA where we performed at a care facility.*

After graduating from Columbia Christian, Jeremy attended Cascade College for two years and then transferred to Oklahoma Christian University. He earned his Bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering in 2000, and then went to Stanford University where he received a Master’s degree in Electrical Engineering. Following Stanford, he’s now worked at Synopsys for close to 20 years.

Jeremy commented: *I feel that my time at Columbia Christian helped prepare me for my ongoing education and my eventual career path. I am so grateful that my time at Columbia Christian did not consist of only an academic education, but a Christian education as well.*

**Story Continues on page 10...**

# Elementary Sports Camps



Columbia's elementary students had two opportunities to participate in sports this year. First, a morning basketball camp was offered for 1st-4th grade boys and girls. We were pleased to have 20 young athletes participate. Second, an afternoon soccer program included Kindergarten through 4th grade players. Over 50 students learned new skills, ran all over the field, and had lots of fun together. We appreciate the coaches who volunteered to run these programs!

# Spring & Winter Sports Wrap-Up

## Message from Athletic Director Jared Valentine

*The final sports update of the 2021 academic year covers two full seasons. Our spring sport, Track and Field, took place during season 3 (April - May), and our winter sport, Basketball, ended in late June. Here are the highlights.*

## TRACK AND FIELD

Our track program fields the largest of Columbia's sports teams. The coach, Kevin Yaws, guides 20-30 athletes every year across a variety of events. Track teaches our students discipline, concentration, and the value of hard work. This year's team had several elite 2A performers, and two of our students earned individual state titles! Frank Adams placed 1st in the Para Athlete 100, and Makena Houston won both of her races – setting facility records for the girls 1500m and 3000m. Congratulations to all the competitors from Columbia!

Here are the full results of the state track meet:

Girls: Maliah Aldan: 100m, 9th (13.79), Maranda Brumley: 800m, 11th (2:44.36), Makena Houston: 1500m, 1st (4:52.24); 3000m, 1st (10:34.25, PR)

Boys: Frank Adams: para 100m, 1st (48.15), Cameron Andre-Covington: 100m, 11th (12.12, PR), Blake Klobas: 200m, 14th (25.13), Brady Housley: 200m, 15th (25.35), Jared Doyle: 400m, 7th (54.22); 800m, 2nd (2:05.93), Connor White: Discus, 7th (110' 5"), Cameron, Blake, Brady, Jake: 4x400m, 8th (3:49.40)



# Spring & Winter Sports Wrap-Up (Cont.)



## BASKETBALL

The Knights finished our athletic season by competing in basketball at the middle school, girls varsity, and boys JV and varsity levels. Each team had a successful and enjoyable experience. Here are the details.

**Middle School:** We fielded two middle school teams this year. We had a girls team coached by Natalie Bishop, and a boys team coached by Jake Kopra. Our coaches did a great job teaching skills and helping our young athletes have fun, and our students competed well in their short season. A big thank you to everyone who helped our middle school teams have a fantastic season.

**Girls Varsity:** Our girls varsity team was small but mighty. The timing of the season made it a challenge for most of our senior athletes to play basketball this year, and as a result the team was very young and lacked experience. The team started two freshmen and a sophomore, and although they weren't able to win games, they grew as the season progressed. Two of our girls earned All

Northwest League honors. Maranda Brumley was Second Team All-League, and Tabitha Kinga was Third Team All-League. Congratulations to our girls for a successful season!

**Boys Basketball:** The boys JV team went undefeated this year! It was a short season with only a handful of games, but our boys were fantastic.

The boys varsity completed an undefeated league schedule and progressed to the state playoffs. Although this year's playoffs were not sanctioned by the OSAA, the tournament did feature all of the best 2A teams. Our strong regular season earned the team two home playoff games. In the first game, we matched up with a talented side from Santiam. Our boys went down big early, and trailed by double digits at halftime. But, a switch to full-court pressure changed the game and resulted in a torrid comeback. It took two overtime periods, but some late game heroics helped the Knights earn a narrow victory. Our next opponent was Western Christian – the team that eliminated us from state title contention in the last two seasons. It

was another game that saw our boys go down early, and then manufacture a late comeback. Derek Valentine scored a rare right-handed lay-up to go ahead by 1 point, and Western missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer for win number two.

The semi-final and final were played in Redmond. Our team was matched up against a disciplined team from Oakland in the semis. It was another close contest, but our Knights earned a hard-fought victory to progress to the finals against Salem Academy. In the final game of the tournament, our Knights played a fantastic game. Some hot shooting earned us an early lead, but our opponents had a size and physicality advantage that helped them pull away. That plus the stellar play of Sr Bennett Bos proved too much for our Knights to overcome. But, what a fantastic playoff run for our seniors. There were several All-League accolades earned by our boys: 1st Team All Northwest League - Derek Valentine and Dawson Vensel, 2nd Team All Northwest League - Cameron Andre-Covington and Jordan Tibbets, and Honorable Mention - Jake Moody.



**COLUMBIA CHRISTIAN** PRE-K - 12<sup>th</sup> GRADE



# OPEN HOUSE



TUESDAY, AUGUST 10 @ 7:00 PM

## ONE Campus, ONE Community

Come FEEL the Difference

Parents, are you comfortable with your school choice for the fall? Are you looking for a program and environment that supports the goals and priorities you have for your child? Columbia Christian invites you to hear about

## The Columbia Difference.

A private Christian education that focuses on a Biblical worldview, excellent academics, character building, and skill development can happen for your family. Find out how!

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FAITH • CHARACTER • ACADEMICS

We are giving away a semester of **FREE TUITION** for one student!

Free Tuition Drawing Open To:

- Families not yet enrolled for the 21/22 school year.
- Currently enrolled families who bring a new, non-enrolled family to the event.

Each eligible adult who attends will be entered in the drawing.

Bring more people and your chance to win will increase!



# Vensel's Voice



**President Ami Vensel**

The 2020-2021 school year has come to a close and we celebrate the success of an extraordinary year! We feel gratitude, joy, thankfulness, and pride in our students, faculty, staff, and families for their dedication this year in a journey of courage...

We were hopeful to begin our year together on campus – offering full in-person instruction, yet, the ever-changing ODE guidance required all Oregon schools to launch the school year in comprehensive distance learning (CDL). By mid-September we were excited to begin implementation of the Limited In-Person Instruction (supplemental guidance), which allowed us to welcome students to campus for up to 2 hours each day. Our focus during this time was the emotional, social, physical, and spiritual development of our students; rekindling friendships and nurturing community.

When we returned from Christmas break, planning began for the implementation of a soft opening – to welcome students back on campus for full days of in-person instruction by the beginning of February. Weekly communication was provided to families with updates regarding the impact of changes to guidance. We were excited to offer athletics with a modified schedule; students were thrilled to be able to participate in sports. Events and activities took on a different form as we maintained health and safety protocol requirements; providing students and families with opportunity to nurture relationships and come together as a school family was paramount to maintaining positive school culture.

Our final weeks of school focused on celebrating and honoring students for their determination, grit, and courage throughout the year, “So let us not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up” (Galatians 6:9).

Thank you! Thank you for your commitment, patience, flexibility, and courage to journey through challenges with your Columbia family!

*The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26*

# Alumni Spotlight

*Continued from page 6... My time at Columbia helped me as I developed my own faith in God. The Bible courses provided me with a greater understanding of scripture, helped me understand how to apply it to my life, and explained some of the reasons why the church looks the way it does today. I developed many of the tools I needed to defend my faith and remain strong in it.*

*Columbia Christian continues to play a very important role in my family. My children are currently attending Columbia and are gaining many of the same benefits that I had as I was growing up. My children have developed strong friendships with others who encourage them in their walk with God. Rather than being indoctrinated by the ways of this world and many of the falsehoods being portrayed as truth these days, they are being filled with knowledge of God’s ways and an understanding of God’s truth. The other thing that I have greatly appreciated about Columbia is the way they have partnered with my family to help educate my children. Columbia has truly worked with us to understand the needs of our children and help meet those needs in the educational environment.*

## 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.



## Support Excellence at Columbia

*Donations from friends like you ensure the continuation of our ministry and mission at Columbia Christian School. Can you help us with a gift today? Simply mail a check to 9101 E Burnside Portland, OR 97216 or text CCS1947 to 366283. Your contribution makes a difference in the lives of students.*



## Newsletter Staff

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