



News and Updates – September 2017



Columbia Christian – Crossroads of Culture

Stepping on to the Columbia Christian campus is almost like walking down Orchard Road in Singapore or Carnaby Street in London – or any other street where people from all over the world cross paths. Columbia Christian has become a destination campus for many students from Asia and Europe.

For several years now, international students have been studying alongside life-long Portlanders and second- or third-generation Americans whose families made their homes in the Portland area.

Most long-term international students are from China, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam, with a few from Europe and Mexico. Many of these students plan to graduate from Columbia Christian and enroll in a U.S. university. Other international students come for a weekend, a quarter, or a semester. These students come from families who want their children to get a taste of American life.

Most of the students live with Christian families connected with the school during their tenure at Columbia. “It’s a great opportunity for our children to get a taste of another culture and for our family to share our faith with our international guests,” host parent Carrie Rude explained.

Columbia Christian’s total enrollment of 335 students includes 28 long-term students representing 6 countries. A host of other international students will spend time on campus throughout the year.

Auction Guest Speaker To Credit Columbia With Changing His Life

Former Columbia Christian student, Dr. Terry Johnsson, who has told three U. S. Presidents that the teachers at Columbia rescued him and changed his life, will share his story at the annual Columbia Auction on October 21.

Dr. Johnsson attended Columbia Christian Schools for four years beginning in 1974 as a second grader. While he later transferred to and graduated from Portland Adventist, it is Columbia Christian that he credits with making the difference in his life.

Dr. Johnsson served as a Presidential Honor Guard for three U.S. Presidents. He went on to earn masters and doctoral degrees from Wesley Theological Seminary of Washington, D.C. After years of ministering to young adults, Dr. Johnsson was asked to be the Senior Chaplain and Operations Manager of WGTS FM Radio Station in Washington, D.C., a position he held for over eight years. Recently, Dr. Johnsson has joined Adventist Health here in Portland as Executive Director of Mission Integration.





Get Your Tickets for the Best Auction Ever!

How about a four-night getaway to Sun River next summer, three nights at Yaquina Bay in December, or spring break in a Long Beach resort hotel? These are just a few of the outstanding items up for bid at Columbia Christian's 25th annual benefit auction, "Once Upon A Time," on October 21.

Maybe you would prefer basketball, with tickets for you and a friend to 30 Portland Trail Blazer games this season, or a Phantom 4 Drone. This year's auction has 25 choice items in the live auction and more than 100 items in the silent auction, something for every taste!

You can preview both silent and live auction items [on the school website here](#). Tickets are \$50 and include entrance to both the silent and oral auctions along with a delicious dinner. Purchase your tickets [here](#) or in the school office. Seats are limited - so secure your spot today!

Middle School Students Dress their Habits for Success

No longer a child and not quite a teenager – middle schoolers are a tribe of their own!

At Columbia Christian, middle school teachers are striving to create an environment to nurture these "tweeners" spiritually while equipping them with the academic and social skills they will need to succeed in high school and beyond.

Teachers have adopted a new curriculum to help students develop mental habits that enable them to take charge of their own performance. Instructors are also using a positive reward system that supports good habits by providing clear expectations, acknowledging appropriate behavior, and enforcing consistent predictable consequences.

In addition, new academic clubs allow 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students to rotate each quarter to focus on Creative Writing, Geography, Leadership, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math). Skills students learn in their clubs are designed to translate to other content areas. Middle School Chapel is rounding out the program by targeting issues that affect middle school students.



The mission of Columbia Christian is to provide a Christ-centered education focused on excellence in faith, character and academics.

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