



The KNIGHTLY NEWS

Columbia Christian School • PreK-12th Grade

September & October 2020

Knights Power Hours



Did you hear it? Did you see it? Did you feel it? Columbia's campus was suddenly filled with overwhelming JOY in late September when the first groups of students were able to return to the school for Limited In-Person Instruction.

support live peer-to-peer interaction, build school community and culture, increase engagement and attendance, and provide social, emotional, and mental health support. These elements are crucial to the learning process. What a blessing for Columbia students and teachers!



After ending last year in Comprehensive Distance Learning, and starting this fall in the same fashion – due to state mandates related to the pandemic, it had been more than six months since many of the children had interacted with their classmates and teachers face-to-face.

Columbia on the News!



Did you see Columbia on the news in October? Their News8 feature included interviews with students, parents, teachers, and administration regarding the success of In-Person Instruction.

Important Dates:

November 3 & 5

Picture Days

November 5

Last Day of Quarter 1
PTF Meeting - Zoom

November 6

No School - Grade Day

November 9

Quarter 2 Begins

November 12 & 13

Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 23-27

No School, Thanksgiving

December 3

PTF Meeting - Zoom

[See full Columbia Calendar](#)



The school is calling the in-person time **Knights Power Hours** because of the great value of those experiences together. Columbia is using these opportunities very intentionally – to provide better academic support, build educator-to-student relationships,

Leading the Way Forward



Since its inception in 1947, Columbia Christian School has operated as a faith-based, non-profit institution governed by a team of capable, servant-hearted Board members. Today, Columbia's Board of Trustees includes nine individuals who tirelessly devote their energy, expertise, and resources to guide and support the school. These are the leaders who are directing Columbia in the Way Forward.



Paul Baldwin

Board Secretary, Serving Since 2005
Lives in Vancouver, WA
Teacher, Washington State School for the Blind

Paul has been in education for over 20 years. He and his wife, Wonder, serve as a Shepherding Couple at VanChurch in Vancouver, Washington.



Arleen Barnett

Board Member, Serving Since 2017
Lives in Wilsonville, OR
Retired Vice President at Portland General Electric

Christian education has always been a foundation in Arleen's life; her family was instrumental in the establishment of Mt. Dora Christian Academy in Florida.



Anne Deidrich

Board Member, Serving Since 2017
Lives in Portland, OR
Director of Membership Cutover and Migration at Kaiser Permanente
Anne has two children at Columbia:

Montgomery in 6th grade and Hudson in 4th grade. Anne is a graduate of Cascade College and also attended Columbia Christian College - both on this campus. Anne's parents also attended the college in the 1960s.



Robert Gentry

Board Chair, Serving Since 2019
Lives in Portland, OR
Certified Public Accountant, Meyers Gentry LLC

Robert is a Columbia graduate of 1997 who has attended most of the graduation ceremonies and auctions since then. His mother, Brenda Gentry, taught English at Columbia for over 20 years.



Alex Hess

Board Member, Serving Since 2020
Lives on Oahu, HI
Chief of Multilateral Engagements, United States Air Force

Alex graduated from Columbia in 2003 and entered the Air Force in 2007 after earning Bachelor of Arts degrees from Lipscomb University. Major Hess has three graduate degrees, completing each with the highest degree of academic distinction.



Julian Hess

Board Vice Chair, Serving Since 2013
Lives in Ridgefield, WA
Sales Agent, Humana
Julian is a 1998 Columbia graduate.

He and his wife Stephanie, also a 1998 alum, are active members of the VanChurch in Vancouver, Washington.



Kevin Lawrence

Board Member, Serving Since 2020
Lives in Jones, OK

Chief Financial Officer at BancFirst
Kevin is a Columbia graduate of 1997, following in the footsteps of his late father, Mike Lawrence, who graduated from Columbia in 1966 and served on the school board for several years.



Craig Moody

Board Member, Serving Since 1996
Lives in Vancouver, WA
President/Founder: Shoot 360, Owner/
President: Northwest Classic Homes
Craig graduated from Columbia in 1982.

Craig and his wife Jan, a 1988 alum, have 3 children who have all attended Columbia: Sarah - 2010 graduate, Luke - 2015 graduate, and Jake - 12th grade.



David Tucker

Board Treasurer, Serving Since 2000
Lives in Caldwell, ID
Professor of Business and Accounting at The College of Idaho

After moving from Arkansas to Oregon as a single parent in 1997, David continued to prioritize Christian education for his children: Peyton - class of 2000, and Kinsey - class of 2004.

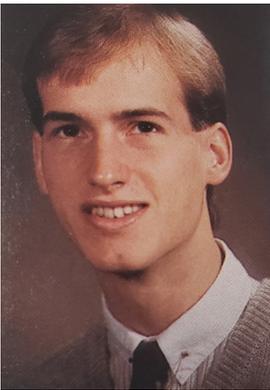
Move-A-Thon



Columbia's 25th annual Jog-A-Thon event was specially adapted for 2020. This year, elementary students participated in a week-long Move-A-Thon event called "Fall Into Fitness". They gathered pledges and tracked all of their movement minutes - including activities like running, walking, jumping rope, bike riding, dancing, sports, and more.

They've made progress toward their \$15,000 goal, but they need your help to raise funds for their classes! Please visit their website to see their achievements and join in: 99pledges.com/fund/FallintoFitnessCCSJogathon2020/

Alumni Spotlight



Devin Spencer
Class of 1986

Devin is the Director of Interfaces & Conversions at Providence Health. Before completing his Bachelor's in Management and Business Information Systems at George Fox University, Devin served in the United States Marines 1986 - 1992.

Devin's family has been connected to Columbia Christian for a number of years and he was glad to share his thoughts about the school:

My mother was a single mom doing the job of both parents trying to find a way to keep her children headed in the right direction. She found that at Columbia in the teachers, coaches, administrative staff, and the children who filled the seats.

My mother had enough foresight to put her children in the way of people who would help form them into faithful people. She undoubtedly had help from the school with scholarships even as she worked three jobs to keep things afloat at home. Who invests in a broken family barely keeping it together with three children who were one hundred percent resistant to the idea of switching schools? The people at Columbia made that investment.

I can tell you without a shred of hesitation that our family would look much different today without the intervention that took place on our behalf. My mother was fond of saying Columbia and our involvement at Church saved our broken little family. It did.

Columbia is the place where the teachers are mentors and they both love and challenge the children who go there. That was my experience. I received grace and structure from the faculty and coaches while being able to get to know people and be known. Who wouldn't want that for their kids?

Devin, and his wife Melissa, prioritized Christian education for their own children – sending all three to Columbia: Meghan – class of 2015, Madison – class of 2016, and Noah – class of 2019.

Devin affirmed: We've had 2 generations walk through the halls at Columbia and Lord willing we'll have many more.

Read more of Devin's story on Columbia's website: www.columbiachristian.com/alumni

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.



SCAN ME!

Access this QR code with your smartphone camera to be linked to resources like our website, videos, images, and everything Columbia.

If you have any questions or need help scanning the QR code, contact Development Director Jason Housley at jhousley@columbiachristian.com.

Vensel's Voice



President Ami Vensel

It's safe to say that this has been a back-to-school season we will never forget!

I meet with families every week who are desperately looking for an alternative to public school. Parents share with me their fears about their child falling behind and concerns about social and emotional issues with their child being in distance learning. Yes, COVID19 has wreaked havoc on our public-school system and parents are desperate to find other options.

I sympathize and agree that these are very real issues. Unfortunately, there are no easy solutions within the public-school system; it's like steering the Titanic when trying to address current health and safety requirements, recover lost learning, combine in-person instruction with remote learning, and support the socioemotional well-being of students.

Online learning is not what is best for students. We agree and recognize that our kids need to be at school with teachers, administration, peers, and coaches – to share in community where they are supported, valued, and encouraged to be thoughtful contributors to the school. Columbia maintains a proactive response by taking advantage of opportunities to support the needs of each individual learner. Students at Columbia have been blessed by our limited in-person instruction: Knight's Power Hours. These opportunities for small groups of students to come to campus are invaluable!

Following all the requirements of the Oregon Health Authority, our students have the advantage of gathering safely on campus with their teachers and peers on a weekly basis. Columbia has devoted this time to nurture relationships with teachers and peers, and to support spiritual formation and the development of Christian character of students. We cherish this quality time together!

My encouragement to parents is to prioritize a Christian education that offers bedrock faith in our Lord and Christian character that our students need to succeed in life. This is best for our kids!

I'm encouraged by the community of Columbia Christian – faculty, staff, parents, students, Board members, and donors who remain faithful to the mission of Columbia Christian. I commend our teachers and parents for their dedication and commitment, for the work they have done and continue to do in support of our students and their spiritual, social, emotional, and academic success.

No, we will not grow weary of doing good, for we know God provides a harvest of blessing (Galatians 6:9).

In Memory of Opal Pruitt



Opal Pruitt

Opal Pruitt, or Auntie Opal - as many knew her, passed away on October 16, in Hood River, OR at the age of 99. Opal was born in Wallowa, OR where she graduated high school and met her husband, Wallace. In 1964 the Pruitts moved to Portland, where Opal began working for Columbia Christian College as a cook in the kitchen. Opal would soon become the head cook and dietitian. Wallace and Opal's two children, Tim and Susan, both attended Columbia Christian School. Opal was a strong, dedicated Christian woman who loved the Lord with all her heart. Her positive attitude always shone bright in tough times. She was a great inspiration and example for many others in her life, and she is dearly missed.

Newsletter Staff

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