



The KNIGHTLY NEWS

Columbia Christian School • PreK-12th Grade

September & October 2021

Jog-A-Thon 2021: Under Construction



Important Dates:

November 10

Picture Retake Day

November 22-26

Thanksgiving Break

December 3-5, 10-12, 17-18

Winter Drama Show

December 14

Elementary Music Night

December 16

Middle & High Music Night

December 18

Homecoming

December 20-31

Christmas Break

Cheered on by their teachers, parents, and friends, Columbia elementary students had fun clocking more than 1,200 laps around the soccer field (over 150 miles!) at this year's Jog-A-Thon in October. The 2021 Jog theme coincided with the chapel topic for the year: Under Construction – focusing on 1 Peter 2:4-5. This 26th annual event surpassed the fundraising goal, bringing in over \$17,500 for playground improvements including a much-anticipated GaGa Ball pit.

The school wishes to express special thanks to volunteers like Rici and Jason Preuit and Debbie Hinkle for heading up the snack/water tables and providing the energetic music. They also appreciate the many other parents who encouraged the runners around the course and even joined in the jogging. Columbia is grateful to the

corporate sponsors including Harding University, Oklahoma Christian University, Abilene Christian University, Bushnell University, Womack Auto Body, Premiere Property Group, AVI Master Tech, and Davis Landscaping, along with the generous family and friends who contributed. Finally, the biggest credit goes to the children who gave their best efforts and energy!

New Water Bottle Filling Stations!



Thanks to the support of generous donors, Columbia has four new water bottle filling stations around campus.

6th Grade Outdoor School



One of the most anticipated rites of passage for Columbia middle school students is the Outdoor School experience in 6th grade each fall. Under the direction of Carol Davis, Camp Yamhill hosts this 4-day Creation-based environmental education program.

Every year, the participants reflect on how much they enjoy spending time with their classmates in this unique setting. They especially love the challenge course because they get to work together to accomplish a goal. In fact, one of the biggest lessons from Outdoor School is teamwork. Whether it's completing a task in their classes, cooperating during duties, meeting the goals of the various ropes course elements, or just having all their meals together as a class, the students are learning that supporting and encouraging each other is key to everyone having a good time.

Of the October 2021 experience, teacher Doug Moore commented, "There are three things that I most love about Outdoor School: 1) It is the single best event of the year where I can build connections with my students and they build connections with each other. I see the students' personalities so clearly when they interact in a camp environment. 2) It is such a healthy environment for the students – physically, emotionally, and spiritually. They are constantly getting exercise through hiking or playing, they are eating healthy, and they are talking about God as they walk through His creation. The lack of cellphones and computers is difficult for the students the first day, but then they realize that there is more to life than technology. For many of them, they have never experienced life apart from technology. 3) We have the opportunity to openly talk about God's creation and pray to Him while in the middle of a beautiful camp surrounded by God's nature. It's a wonderful opportunity to worship the Author of all Creation!"



Mental Health Seminars



*Holly Block, MA, NCC,
Registered Associate,
Psychology Teacher*

Mental Health is a serious topic. Columbia high school students are participating in a seminar series exploring issues like healthy relationships, dealing with stress, coping skills, and suicide awareness and prevention. They are learning about tools to support themselves and others, and ways to ask for help. Middle school students will also be participating in the program.

The presentations are conducted by Holly Block, Psychology Teacher at Columbia. The intent is to bring awareness to different mental health issues in order to better support and empower children and young adults. Mrs. Block invites parent and student feedback about relevant issues for future conversations: hblock@columbiachristian.com.

If you know anyone who is struggling, there is an abundance of hope. Talk with a trusted adult or contact the National Suicide Prevention Line: 800-273-8255.

Fall Sports

Recap from Athletic Director Joey Chapman

Our Knights were excited to be back on the field this fall! Last year, OSAA had moved to a modified athletic calendar, but this year we saw the traditional Fall Sports schedule return.



Cross Country: Our Junior High and High School Cross Country teams found tremendous success in the development of runners this season. Nearly all of our students were able to set a PR (Personal Record), and one of our High School athletes qualified for the state championship meet. Senior Makena Houston is the defending state champion in 3A, 2A, 1A Girls Cross Country and has her sights on bringing the title back to Columbia this year.



Head Coach Kevin Yaws commented about his program this year, "I want to thank all of our parents who have helped this season with transportation, snacks, and all of the encouragement. If you want to support Makena at the state championship meet, you can sign up to ride a fan bus provided by the school to Lane Community College on November 6th."



Soccer: Both our Junior High and High School Soccer teams dealt with tons of challenges this season. Between COVID-related pauses in the season, plus injuries, our soccer program made the most of the opportunities that came their way. From our Junior High Soccer Head Coach David Rude: "This season was an adventurous couple of months. I have been very blessed by coaching this group of student-athletes. Unfortunately, we were unable to play our full schedule this year, but we learned a lot and have some great potential running into next season. Beyond that, I am excited for the upcoming year and the growth that we hope to see over the next few years."



First year Head Coach Matt Scholer had this to say about his High School team: "The idea coming into this year was that Columbia Soccer was going

to be in a rebuilding phase due to a large number of seniors graduating last year. Instead of accepting the rebuilding process, the team set high goals for themselves and finished with a 4-4 league record; one win away from the league playoffs. Team Captain, Christian Chapman (Jr.), was named First-Team All-League and Team Captain, Dawson Vensel (Jr.), was awarded All-League Honorable Mention."



Volleyball: Our Elementary and Junior High Volleyball teams dealt with more adversity than any team this fall, but through it all they brought high spirits and an attitude that we all loved to see. Our 5th/6th grade team played only six matches this season, while our 7th/8th grade team played only seven due to COVID pauses. With so few games, our girls learned to love the opportunity to practice with first year co-head coaches of the 5th/6th grade team: Zoe Skupen and Laura Miller, as well as our long-time 7th/8th grade head coach, Natalie Bishop.

From first year Head Coach Alfred Agcoaili on his High School Volleyball team: "This season included many challenges.

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Fall Sports (Continued)



Our 2021 Knights Volleyball team was young and relatively inexperienced—six new starters from a team that graduated all six starters last season that achieved one of the most successful seasons in CCS volleyball program history. Yet this group was eager to learn, improve, build lasting relationships, enjoy the process, and gain valuable playing and competition experience in the ultra-competitive 2A Northwest League that featured three Top-10 ranked 2A OSAA high school girls volleyball programs in the state. I am tremendously proud of the valuable contributions of each team member towards the overall development, gradual improvement, and ultimate team performance during our journey together.” Sophomore Raylin Hartman and Freshman Elizabeth Adams were both named All-League Honorable Mentions this season.

Elementary Sports Opportunities

K-6th Grade January Basketball Clinics

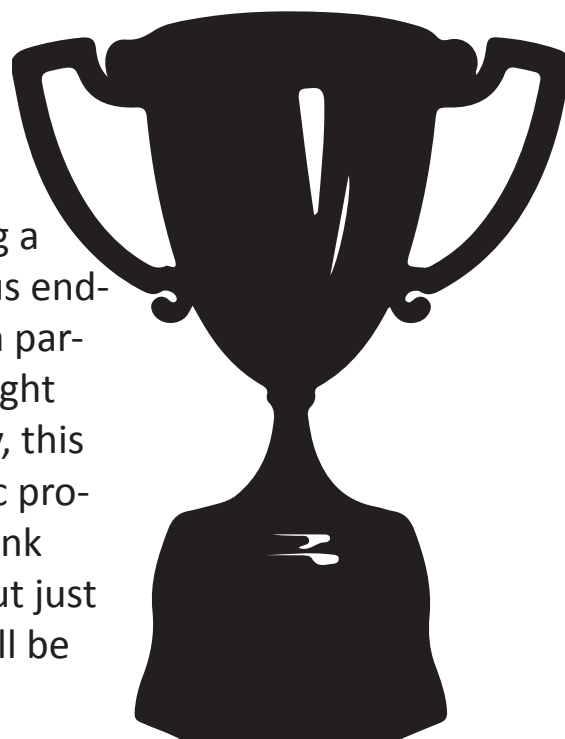
- Columbia students and friends from the community are invited to develop basketball skills and compete in small games with members of the Columbia coaching staff and players.
- January 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th from 9am-11am in the Columbia gym. Sign-up information will be released soon.

K-8th Grade Spring Soccer Clinics

- Watch for more details coming soon about this annual program in April/May.

Night of Knights Athletic Banquet

Columbia’s athletic department is beginning a new tradition this year. In place of numerous end-of-season banquets, celebrations, and team parties, the school is excited to present the “Night of Knights Athletic Banquet”. Hosted in May, this event will highlight all of Columbia’s athletic programs in a fun, award show-esque way. (Think ESPN’s ESPY Awards, or even the Emmys, but just for Knight Athletes/Teams.) More details will be coming!



Campus Pumpkin Patch



Columbia's campus pumpkin patch was made possible by a generous donation from Heiser Farms and the efforts of the high school leadership students in setting it up! With the help of their middle or high school "buddies", each elementary student had fun choosing their own special gourd to bring home.

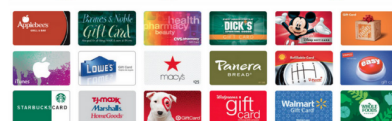


Knight Fest



Columbia high school students kicked off the school year with a 3-day retreat at Camp Yamhill. The goals of this annual orientation event include: getting acquainted with one another, starting/continuing to build relationships, preparing for an excellent high school experience together, and having fun!

ShopWithScrip®



Do you regularly use gift cards? Or are you looking for ideas for presents? Don't forget about Columbia's scrip program! A portion of every gift card purchase goes back to the school. Visit the website to learn more and participate: www.columbiachristian.com/support/scrip.cfm



Vensel's Voice



How are the children?

"And how are the children?" is a traditional greeting of Maasai tribe warriors. The expression signifies that the true strength of a community is determined by the well-being of its children.

President Ami Vensel

At Columbia, we are asking this question. Taking care of students is at the heart of Columbia's mission; we believe in providing a caring and nurturing community where students feel safe, valued, seen, and respected as part of Columbia's school family.

How are the children? – this question must also include the mental health wellness of our students. Over the last 21 months, symptoms of depression and anxiety have increased for everyone, but especially so for students ages 11-18. Even before COVID, mental health issues with high school students have been on the rise.

At Columbia, we are providing opportunity for students to learn about and identify internal and external factors that influence mental wellness, the effects of stress, and healthy and unhealthy relationships. We want to inform, equip, and provide healthy coping skills so that students successfully face these challenges. Our desire is to support all students and their families as they navigate what has become a season of ongoing change and adjustment.

How are the children? We pray this question guides every decision as we support the spiritual, emotional, social, mental, and academic success of all of our students.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult." Psalm 46:1-3

Supporter Spotlight



Rosco Pirtle

If you've attended any athletic events at Columbia, you've likely seen a man on the sidelines with a professional camera capturing all the action. Rosco Pirtle has blessed the Columbia community through the contribution of his photography talents over the past few decades.

Born in Phoenix, AZ, Rosco's family moved to the Portland area when he was in 6th grade. Rosco wanted to attend Columbia Bible School when it originally started in the late 1940s, but he was always just older than the highest grade level that was being offered that year. Instead, he went to Battle Ground High School where he discovered his love for photography in Yearbook class.

Rosco went on to be a pharmacist for Kaiser for 42 years before retiring. He met his wife, Joyce, at Eastside Church of Christ at a Wednesday night Bible class when she was a student at Columbia Christian College. All three of the Pirtles' children attended Columbia Christian School: Kyle (class of 1980), Melody (class of 1982), and Natalie (class of 1988). The family attended the Vancouver Church of Christ / VanChurch – at all three of the buildings.

Rosco started taking photos at Columbia basketball games when Kyle was on the team, but he only captured six shots per game because he was using flashbulb and film at the time. Basketball remains Rosco's favorite sport, and now, thanks to digital technology, he takes 6,000 photos at the events.

Rosco recalls that his favorite memories have been at the state championship games when Columbia has taken the title for boys basketball. When asked what he likes to tell people about Columbia, Rosco shared, "the school has a long history of building character."



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