

News

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **No School**— Friday, 11/11
- **No School**— Wednesday, 11/23 thru Friday, 11/25
- **Trinity High School Choir**— Monday, 12/5 @ 1:30 p.m.
- **Winter Graduation & Performance**— Thursday, 12/15 @ 2:30 p.m.
- **Winter Break**— Monday, 12/19 thru Monday, 1/2/12



Check out our
Winter Workshop!

- **Baking**
- **Crafts**
- **Games**
- **Music**

Contact Justine for more
information:

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Reptile Rendezvous

Our annual visit from Steve, the Creature Feature guy, was awesome! He brought his traveling reptile zoo, which includes venomous snakes such as the King Cobra, Western Diamondback Rattlesnake and Gaboon Viper (all de-venomized); a Barking Gecko, Monitor Lizard, and a Honduran Milk Snake that doubles as a lovely bracelet, necklace or tiara. If that wasn't enough, he let the students cuddle with a Burmese Python and pet an Alligator!

Thank you, Steve... for sharing your knowledge and love of reptiles with us.



BIRTHDAYS!

- Jack B.
11/7 — 6 years
- Annelise H.
11/14 — 5 years
- Jane T.
11/17 — 7 years
- Ben P.
11/22 — 10 years
- Kayla N.
11/23 — 7 years
- George K.
12/4 — 6 years
- Chad B.
12/16 — 11 years
- Caty P.
12/18 — 14 years



Notes from the Teachers



work hard



play hard



get results

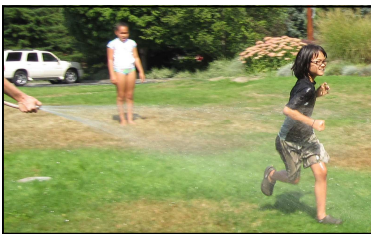
Pre-K—1st Grade

All of our projects for November and December are centered around Native Americans. Rayna's grandmother brought in her regalia, native American dresses, jewelry and purses to share with our class. The turtle shell purse was very interesting and all of the beading was beautiful. We listened to Native American music and learned a song. The students are also working on the winter performance. It's a surprise!



Angelica enjoys the reptile exhibit.

2nd—3rd Grade



Claire helps Jaida stay cool during a heated game of kickball.

It's been a wonderful fall, and we are now ready for the holiday season! We will be doing a unit on the Pilgrims and Pioneers in November, and working on songs and dances for the winter performance. Several of the students are focusing on finishing up their programs. Tracie Davalos kindly arranged to have some

Native American dancers from her tribe come in and perform for us on Tuesday, November 22nd. Also, The Trinity High School choir will be coming in to do some Christmas caroling to get us into the holiday spirit.

4th—8th Grade

Our class has been busy this fall! While the older students are studying *American History* and the *Story of Mankind*, the 4th thru 6th graders are continuing on with the Oregon unit, the emphasis this time being on the Oregon Trail. We will also be having an Energy Conservation assembly and going on a field trip to Do Jump! (a physical theater performance combining acrobatics, trapeze tricks, dance, etc.). A group of Native American dancers will be performing for us, as will be the Trinity High School choir.



Our trip to the State Capitol was fascinating!

“Safer playgrounds, but more fearful kids?”

That was the title of a New York Times article, recently reprinted in the Oregonian. It questions the progressive removal of merry-go-rounds, tall slides and other “perils” from many public playgrounds, to satisfy the concerns of safety advocates and avoid lawsuits.

Critics say these new playgrounds may not only be boring for thrill-seeking children, they may also stunt emotional development. “Children need to encounter risks and overcome fears on the playground. I think monkey bars and tall slides are great!” said one professor of psychology. “Children approach thrills and risks in a progressive manner, and very few would try to climb to the highest point the first time. The best thing is to let children encounter these challenges from an early age, and they will progressively learn to master them through their play over the years.”

One former public official commented, “I grew up on the monkey bars and I will never forget how good it felt to get to the top of them. I said that as long as I was Parks Commissioner, those monkey bars were going to stay.”



Columbia Academy shares the old school mentality and refuses to give in to the over-regulation of kids' play. As staff, many of us *parents* ourselves, we stand by with a watchful eye... ready to step in or help when needed.



A big thanks to George & Heike Johnson for their donation of a Rainbow play structure. It is a great addition to our playground and the children love it!

