

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **All School Tie-Dye Shirt Party**— Friday, 9/10
- **3rd Annual Family Picnic & BBQ**— Wednesday, 9/15 @ 4:00 p.m.
- **Picture Day**— Tuesday, 9/21
- **Island Day**— Wednesday, 10/6 (break out those Hawaiian shirts & Bermuda shorts!)
- **No School**— Thursday & Friday, 10/7 & 10/8
- **Halloween Costume Contest**— Friday, 10/29

## Summer Birthdays



Jonah G.  
7/17 — 6 years

Giana T.  
7/31 — 9 years

Bryan P.  
8/4 — 5 years

Nia K.  
8/5 — 8 years

Izzy J.  
8/10 — 7 years

Micaela H.  
8/16 — 12 years

Nikki K.  
8/21 — 10 years

## Bar-ri-er: Something that blocks passage.

I was completely engrossed in my book. The fugitive had returned to stand trial for murder after 12 years in exile and there had already been two attempts on his life. "As he made his way through the darkness he stopped briefly and listened, to see if someone was stalling him. Blah blah blah twig snapped, blah blah blah Charlie thought about Kate, blah blah blah." I'm hungry. I wonder what time it is. What's for lunch today?

Wait a minute. Why am I thinking about food instead of my book? I don't remember what I just read. Let me go back to the last thing I remember clearly. "Charlie parked at the trailhead. After retrieving the duffel bag from the trunk he started down the overgrown pathway. As he made his way through the darkness he stopped briefly and listened, to see if someone was stalking him." Ah hah! He didn't wonder if someone was **stalling** him, he wondered if someone was **stalking** him! How could someone be stalling him? Charlie was alone. No wonder that didn't make sense! Okay, now I'm back on track.



We refer to this phenomenon as a **misunderstood word**; one of the three barriers to study identified by L. Ron Hubbard. It can happen when a word is read incorrectly (as I just did), when the reader applies the wrong definition (see inset below), or when the definition is not known because the word is not in the reader's vocabulary. When this occurs the material no longer makes sense. The mind gets stuck on the misunderstanding and new information is not processed effectively. The reader may continue through many paragraphs or pages without realizing what has happened.

These misunderstandings occur frequently but often go unnoticed. As a result, many people believe that they do not like to read or that

they do not read well. A friend recently told me that he doesn't read for pleasure because he "can't stay focused" and often can't remember what he has read when he gets to the bottom of the page. How often are students instructed to stop wasting time and get back to their studies when caught staring into space or fidgeting?

Thankfully, all Columbia Academy staff are trained to recognize the signs of a misunderstood word. Rather than scolding students for being off study we help them overcome barriers, so that they fully understand and regain interest in the material. Pre-K through 2nd Grade students are given the definition of new words. Beginning at Grade 3, students complete the *Learning How to Learn* course, which teaches them to use a dictionary as well as identify and handle their own study barriers — a skill that will last a lifetime!

*Recently I watched a student go from reading intently to staring blankly out the window. I sat down with her and asked about some of the things that had happened on the last page she read. She did not remember them. I went back to the last part she remembered clearly and began looking for a possible **misunderstood word**. The story had a farmer putting a yoke over his oxen's head as he prepared to plow. I asked her if she knew what a yoke is and she reluctantly replied, "The yellow part of an egg?" No wonder she was lost!*



## BIRTHDAYS

Elliot R.  
9/2 — 6 years

Logan T.  
9/7 — 5 years

Justin M.  
9/9 — 13 years

Naylah H.  
9/10 — 5 years

Jack T.  
9/25 — 8 years

Lucas M.  
10/5 — 9 years

Ammaar A.  
10/19 — 6 years

Ashley P.  
10/24 — 7 years

Nicholas T.  
10/26 — 10 years

Dylan P.  
10/30 — 7 years



# Notes from the Teachers



work  
hard



play  
hard



get  
results

## Pre-K—1st Grade

The First Grade class will become a Kangaroo Crossing for all of the unusual Australian animals students will be researching. Then it's a jaunt over to the Outback to learn about the Aborigines, their customs, music and art. Watch out for flying objects as we make sure our boomerangs come back and we learn how to catch them! Our science explorers class will do some research into earthy soils and rocks.

The Kindergarten class is getting ready to learn about Hibernation and what makes weather. Our friendly community workers, the mailman and the firefighters, will take center stage in the Community & Neighborhoods unit. Both the Kindergarten and the First Grade class will be taking off for their first fall field trip, over to Heritage Farms to pick apples and watch them make apple cider. Yummy!



Welcome to Columbia Logan, and Happy Birthday!

## 2nd—3rd Grade



Welcome back 2nd and 3rd Graders!! The students will start off with a unit on "Our Solar System," learning about the planets and the importance of our sun. We'll do experiments with gravity and see how it varies on each of the planets. Each student will choose a planet and do a

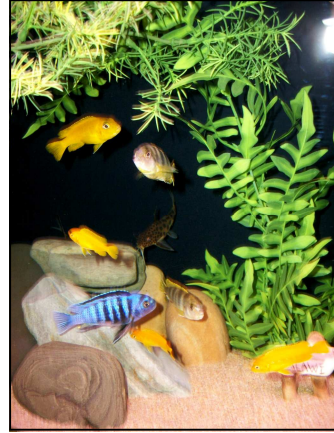
research report to share with the class. We will finish off the unit with a trip to the OMSI Planetarium. Next, we'll learn about how salmon spawn. We will join the 4th-6th Graders on a trip to the Bonneville Dam to check out the salmon and learn more about their amazing trip up the Columbia River back to where their lives began. Halloween is just around the corner so we have some spooky activities to look forward to as well!

## 4th—6th Grade

Our class would like to welcome new student Caty Powell, 7th grader, to the group. For September we'll be jumping back into the 60's a bit, with having a Tie-Dye party and doing some candle making. In addition to our normal studies, we will be visiting the Lelooska Tribal Foundation for some Native American storytelling and dancing. Come October, we will visit Bonneville Dam to learn about the lifecycle of salmon, have our annual costume party, and visit the Haunted Castle in Redland.



## Fishy Fun



The 4th-6th Grade Classroom is home to our 50-gallon African Rift Lake Cichlid Aquarium. The unique species of fish we keep can only be found in Lake Victoria, Lake Malawi and Lake Tanganyika in Africa. These are some of the oldest, largest and deepest lakes in the world; created by tectonic activity millions of years ago. In this ongoing unit,

students learn about the nitrogen cycle and water chemistry, as well as the fascinating reproductive habits of mouthbrooding Mbuna cichlids and the tricky Cuckoo Catfish that use the cichlids as surrogate parents!



Not to be outdone, the 2nd and 3rd Graders upgraded to a 20-gallon tropical aquarium, which brings new life to the classroom in the way of Fantail Guppies, Dwarf Gourami, Cardinal Tetras and Harlequin Rasboras. Students will learn about fish anatomy, the unique behavior and origin of each species, and how our aquarium simulates their natural habitat. It's especially fun taking turns being the daily fish feeder!

