



Upcoming Events

- **No School—**
Monday, 5/26
- **Spring Graduation & Performance—**
Tuesday, 6/10 @ 2:30 p.m.
- **Field Day—**
Wednesday, 6/11 (last day of 2007-08 Academic Term)
- **Summer Term—**
Monday, 6/23 thru Friday, 8/15
- **2008-09 Academic Term Begins—**
Wednesday, 9/3



SUMMER FUN

What will your kids do this summer... watch TV? Play video games? Columbia's summer program is packed with:

Science
Art
Cooking
Swimming
Field Trips
& More

We'll be keeping our academic skills sharp too. Sign up for 1 week or all 8!

A Wise Investment



We never really planned to send our child to private school; it just sort of happened that way. Now that he's in high school, I find truth in the old adage, "things happen for a reason."

As working parents, our toddler needed full-time care. After he outgrew the over-stimulating, unstructured, home daycare environment, we enrolled him in preschool. He was reading and writing at three years old, and loving it. When he hit Kindergarten age, it was apparent that coloring and learning a new letter every week was not going to be enough for him. It had already been suggested by daycare providers and preschool staff that our very active, intelligent and strong-willed son might have ADHD. The last thing we needed was for him to be bored at school. So much for the idea that we would start saving some money when he reached school age!

After searching for the right fit, we found Columbia Academy; a warm little school that would allow him to learn at his own pace and take on whatever he was ready for! It was perfect. He settled in and began making progress immediately, starting at First Grade level math. He was never bored and always treated with love and respect. On top of that, he was learning ethics and responsibility. His self esteem and confidence never faltered. What more could a parent want?

For the first few years, we got the raised eyebrows and whispers from friends and family... "How much does it cost? — If you don't mind me asking." The comments from neighbors... "You drive *that far* everyday? My kids catch the school bus right here on the corner." Even our financial planner wondered why we were using what little "disposable income" we had, to pay for something we could be getting for free... "Wouldn't you rather invest that money in a college fund?" Despite the opposition we forged ahead, content with the fact that our son was safe, happy, making fantastic academic gains, and loving school. We opted to listen to our hearts and do what we felt was best for our son. We drove an economy car and didn't vacation in Paris. And yet, life was good.

Eight years later he moved on to high school. He took with him a solid foundation in the basics, study skills, ethics, tremendous self confidence, and a healthy attitude toward school. He was accepted into a small, college prep high school, and has continued with the same successes he had at Columbia. We are constantly amazed at his level of responsibility. He understands that this is *his* education, and that the effort he puts into it will benefit *him* now and in the future. He learned that at Columbia. He came home one day and explained to me how taking honors classes would boost his GPA, and how his GPA would affect his college plans. After bringing home exceptional grades for the first year and a half, he finally hit the jackpot with straight A's in his Sophomore year. Life is still good.

We are fortunate to have found such a wonderful program all those years ago. Thankfully, at age 15, my son has never uttered the words, "I hate school." In fact, he thrives on the rewards that come with achievement — the pride, the sense of accomplishment. He reads and writes beautifully and tackles advanced math with apparent ease, all while being a grade ahead (age-wise). In contrast, two of his neighborhood friends are currently "grounded" for having bad grades or failing to do their school work. I have to wonder how things would have turned out in our household, had we not made the commitment we did to his early education. Sure, we could have put more money in his college fund, but what shape would he be in (academically and ethically) when he reached college age? Perhaps it's time to schedule a meeting with the financial planner to review our "return on investment." If I had it to do over again I wouldn't change a thing.

— Michele Wittig



Birthdays

Sara T.
5/21 — 12 years

Hanna H.
5/22 — 12 years

John W.
5/28 — 10 years

Anika W.
5/29 — 7 years

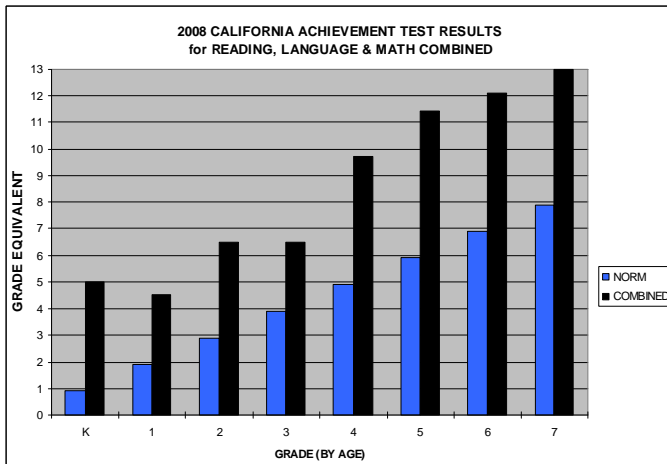
Samuel G.
6/8 — 9 years

KJ J.
6/21 — 8 years

Conlan M.
6/30 — 11 years

Columbia Academy Students Raise the Bar

Each spring, Columbia Academy students (2nd grade and older) tackle the California Achievement Test — our choice for the most straight-forward, nonsubjective standardized test available. This not only exposes them to testing (which they will do more of in middle school and high school), it allows us to measure their academic progress against students outside of our program. Below are the combined results for reading, language and math, with Columbia students graphed (in black) against the norm. Wow!



Pre-K thru 8th Grade?

Columbia is promoted as a school for Pre-K thru 6th grade students, so why do we have 7th and 8th graders here? The individualized nature of our program allows students a great deal of independence, especially at the higher grade levels. The curriculum, including our powerful reading program and specialized checksheets, can easily take a student through 8th grade — a privilege extended only to existing Columbia Academy students. While our 4th thru 6th grade classroom is always full, we do our best to make room for students who wish to finish middle school with us.

Beyond Columbia

Many parents wonder where to send their children after Columbia. Here are just a few possibilities.

The Delphian School in Sheridan, Oregon (www.delphian.org) is a wonderful Applied Scholastics school, which uses the same Heron Curriculum and Study Technology as Columbia. Delphi offers boarding and accepts students from K thru 12th grade. Many former Columbia Academy students have excelled at Delphi.

Locally, Riverdale schools (www.riverdale.k12.or.us) may be another option to consider. As a small district, Riverdale promotes both its grade school and high school as alternatives to larger public schools. With the motto, "smaller classes, bigger ideas" and the goal of attracting new students, Riverdale schools work hard to set a high standard. Out-of-district families can seek district transfers or pay tuition to attend.

Group Highlights



Pre-K - 1st Grade

Our class just finished learning about Japan and China. The students created their own Zen Gardens. We kicked off our unit on Mexico by attending a Cinco de Mayo performance. The students are also excited about their own upcoming Spring Performance!

From our Theater class, students performed a short play called *Lloyd's Milk* for the 2nd and 3rd graders (photo at right).

Lastly, as part of our planting unit, the class planted chives which are starting to grow! We will be making a trip to the World Forestry Center.



2nd - 3rd Grade



The 2nd and 3rd graders have had a lot of fun on their plant unit. They are learning about how plants use the sun to make food and all the different parts a plant has so it can grow. We did some experiments, where the students learned what happens if a plant doesn't get

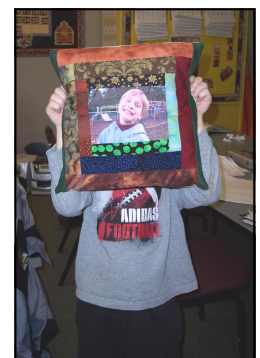
enough sun. Each student also grew their own bean plant. We went to Kasch's Nursery and the students picked out a flower to give to their mom for Mother's Day. We also made leaf print collages.

Now everyone is hard at work learning the songs and dances for our Spring Performance!

4th - 8th Grade

The 4th-8th grade students celebrated Cinco de Mayo by having a Mexican Fiesta. They worked together to create beef and cheese enchiladas, mango and orange salsa, tomatillo salsa, quesadillas, guacamole, and some pomegranate margaritas. It was all delicious!

As well as working on subjects such as *Grammar*, *Story of Western Civilization*, *Circulation of the Blood*, and *Earth & Its Neighbors*, the students are working on gaining strengths and abilities needed to pass the Presidential Fitness Challenge. They are also really looking forward to Field Day on the final day of school!



Samuel shows off his Mother's Day pillow.