



Upcoming Events

- **Picture Day**—
Wednesday, 9/28
- **Pajama Day**—
Friday, 9/30
- **No School**—
Monday, 10/10
- **Halloween Costume Contest**—
Monday, 10/31
- **Late Start**—
Tuesday, 11/1
(9:30 a.m.)



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Welcome Back to School!

Welcome to another great year at Columbia Academy. Our classrooms are brimming with enthusiasm and we're already off to a terrific start!



After saying goodbye to long-time students Emily & Ryan (we miss you both!) we are pleased to have some bright new faces. Fourth grader Hanna joined Kathy's class ("I love this school!" she exclaims) while Asher, Cassidy, Emma M., Henry, Nate

and Sydney joined Ms. Linda's group. Welcome to you all!

We are also excited to host five students visiting from South Korea. What better place for Dawon, Dabin, Jason, Tommy and June to perfect their English skills? In an essay written entirely in English, 11-year-old Dabin explains that leaving familiarity behind and coming to a new country was terribly difficult at first. Now he looks forward to coming to school each day and seeing his new friends.



Lots of other things are happening around here, too! Our new computers are loaded with the latest software — offering students some great tools and resources. We have high speed Internet, and our new website will be up and running very soon. In addition, we hope that parents and students alike will find our newsletter informative and fun.

We have some great field trips and onsite activities planned... mark your calendar for Pajama Day (Friday, September 30th) and start preparing for the Halloween costume contest!

Remember to check your parent pocket for other announcements.

Summertime Fun

There was never a dull moment this summer at Columbia!



From growing crystals to building stilts, hitting the trails at Silver Falls and playing at Oaks Park... there was something new to do everyday.



We baked, we square-danced, and we cooled off with homemade snow cones and a slip-and-slide.

Volcanoes erupted, snakes slithered and enormous bubbles filled our play yard.



Amazingly enough... we still found time to make great progress on math and reading!



Birthdays

Emma H.
9/29 — 6 years

Jason H.
10/14 — 11 years

Dawon L.
11/2 — 13 years

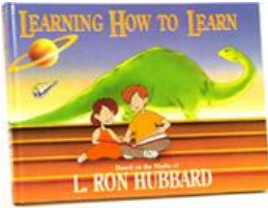
Sydney W.
11/14 — 5 years

**Happy Birthday
to all of you!**

He's not stupid. She's not slow.

Do you ever have difficulty grasping a new concept? Have you ever read a page and felt completely blank? Unfortunately, in a study environment these common occurrences are often seen as an inability to concentrate, or worse yet — a learning disability or behavioral disorder. It is more likely that these students simply don't have the right tools to learn.

Learning How to Learn is a breakthrough course that identifies three common barriers to study, and gives precise steps for overcoming them. It puts students in control by teaching valuable study skills they can use for a lifetime!



Congratulations to Brandon Crane, John Nutter, Sara Tanveer, and Bailey Pfunder for recently completing this powerful course.

"ADHD?" That question was raised by more than one of my son's former teachers. After 5 years at Columbia (having completed the Learning How to Learn course early on) my 7th grader is reading at an 11th grade level and is excelling in his other subjects too. His self confidence is high and he actually likes school!

A Parent's Perspective



Thank you, Thank you!

Sincere thanks to Ingo Wittig for his expertise in setting up our new computers and installing a wireless network, to Michael Gorriarán and Microsoft for providing all new software, to Durham and Bates Agencies for a color laser printer, and to Darla Hanson and Flintile for a laser fax machine. Thanks also to the West Linn Domino's Pizza and all the families participating in our hot lunch program. The children are really enjoying it, and all proceeds go toward school improvements.

Columbia Academy would not be a success without generous support from local businesses and a fantastic parent body. Your contributions are deeply appreciated! If you would like to help out, we can always use cash donations or credit at Office Depot, Office Max, Learning Palace or Michaels Craft Stores.



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Group Highlights



Pre-K - 1st Grade

Our class started with making new friends and learning how to work out those minor disagreements that come with learning in a group. The WAY TO HAPPINESS, a common sense guide to better living, is a program learned at all levels. Written by L. Ron Hubbard, it promotes trust and honesty. This month we are learning how to *set a good example and try not to do things to others that you would not like them to do to you*. Students have become very interested in

helping each other and working together as a team.



Our field trip this month will be to Peterson Farms for apple picking, farm visit and learning about different types of apples.

2nd - 3rd Grade

The 2nd and 3rd grade students are off to a great start. We are currently working on a "magical and mythical creatures" unit, and the students are having fun writing stories and drawing

pictures of imaginative creatures. Next we will learn about the Oregon Trail, which will include a visit to Philip Foster Farms where the students can experience what it was like to be a pioneer. We will finish with a trip to the Omnimax Theater to see "Lewis & Clark: The Great Journey West."



As Halloween approaches we will be doing many crafts and visiting the "Haunted Trail."

4th - 7th Grade

Our class has been working on autobiographical/self-portrait activities, such as their ME booklets. We also started a Lewis & Clark unit in which the students will learn about the Louisiana Purchase, the route followed by the explorers, and the impact of the expedition. Students will research important people and make dioramas depicting special events. We will take a trip to Philip Foster Farms to experience log sawing, apple pressing, building a log cabin, and loading supplies onto a covered wagon. A trip to Omnimax to see "Lewis & Clark:

The Great Journey West" will complete our unit. A look at Russia will be next.



We will also examine the importance of taking care of yourself through skits and comic strips, and have lots of fun with Halloween activities, too.