



COLUMBIA ACADEMY

Columbia Academy News

Principal Update, December 4, 2016

RISE UP

RESPECT
INTEGRITY
STRENGTH
EXCELLENCE

UNDERSTANDING
PRIDE



Together we will RISE UP!

This has been a weekend of robotics. Coach Kennedy and his team have competed with six different robots, the most of any team in the tournament. The teams have worked hard to design, build, program, and drive their robots. Robotics is often described as "the sport for the mind" and I have enjoyed watching the young hearts and minds of our students on display this weekend.

One big takeaway for me is the importance of after school activities to reinforce important life lessons. Our students are learning through robotics that there is a deep reward of personal satisfaction in hard work. The teams have put in hundreds of hours since the start of the school year and you can see their pride as individuals and as teams.

Our students are also learning that things happen and you have to adjust. As young engineers, they learn that it is through failure that one gains insight into how to improve. This process is called iteration in engineering but we it is true in all facets of life.

Finally, robotics has a philosophy of gracious professionalism, the equivalence of good sportsmanship in physical sporting events. Gracious professionalism includes shaking hands and

congratulating winners, sharing tools, and speaking courteously with those you are competing against. I know our students will benefit throughout their lives from developing the ability to show gracious professionalism.

I thank Coach Kennedy, the many parents and volunteers who help him, and our students for hosting this incredible event each year! I hope you will enjoy seeing pictures from this event and more in our newsletter. All the best!

Principal Berkas

Columbia
Academy

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OUR MISSION
Columbia Heights Public

Columbia Academy News

Engaging “Installation Art” on display at CA

When you enter Columbia Academy, you will notice some fascinating sculptures at our front stairway and hanging in front our welcoming signs “Where We All Belong.” This medium is called “Installation Art.”

Installation Art is a type of art/ sculpture that is made for a particular space. The first installations were made in the mid-late 20th century and may include sound, light, and movement. Ms. Nowak’s 8th grade sculpture students looked at installation art by Louise Nevelson, Sandy Skoglund, and Mark Jenkins. They practiced drawing figures in gesture drawings and then drew and wrote proposals for figure sculptures. Ms. Nowak chose 6 proposals to have students transform into packing tape figure sculptures. Students’ whose proposals were chosen became the lead artists in a group to complete the sculptures. A variety of additional tasks were necessary to complete the installation for which students volunteered or were assigned. The project took about 2 months to complete in the classroom and the installation is ongoing. The work is a collaboration between Ms. Nowak, artist-teacher, and her wonderful artist-students.

Columbia Academy is fortunate to be in a school district that has “our hearts in the arts!”

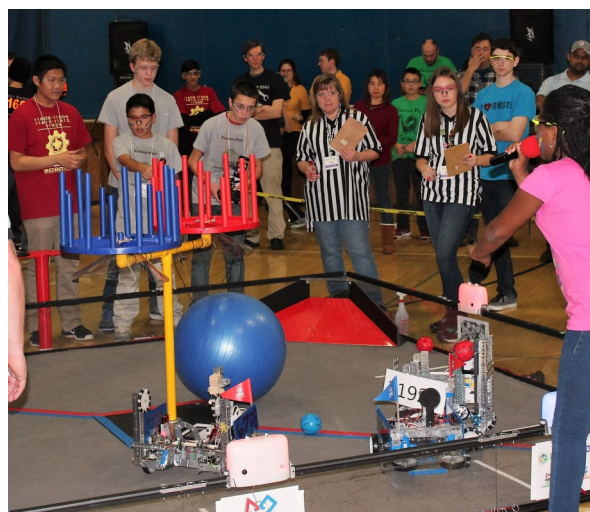


Columbia Academy News

Columbia Academy is Proud Host for Robotics Tourna-

Hundreds of spectators and 48 teams from as far away as Duluth descended upon Columbia Academy to showcase robots for "Vortex Velocity," a Minnesota FTC Regional Qualifier. Our CA students have been working diligently with Mr. Kennedy since September for this competition, and the result is that six teams participated from CA! A big thank you goes out to all of our parent volunteers who took tickets, sold concessions, prepared meals, helped organize, and worked with our teams throughout the fall to pull off an event of this size. We could not have hosted so successfully without their support.

Throughout the event, parents from other districts continually commented on the quality of the facilities and the artwork on display throughout the building. Hats off to all of our students and art teachers for creating such provocative pieces to adorn our hallways. The event was very well organized and enthusiastically attended. Congrats Mr. Kennedy and all of our robotics participants. You made Columbia Academy very proud!



Columbia Academy News

CA participates in Special Olympic Unified Bowling:

Students from Columbia Academy joined other school districts at Southtown Lanes in Bloomington for the Unified Bowling Invitational. This annual event was attended with great enthusiasm from staff and students alike!

Unified Sports is part of Special Olympics. It joins people with and without intellectual disabilities together to be on the same team. It is dedicated to promoting social inclusion, and was inspired by the idea that playing and training together is a quick path to friendship and understanding. Unified offers three sports; bowling, basketball, and track and field.

The bowling event was a great success, and this is nicely summarized by one of our 8th grade WEB leaders:

"My favorite part of doing Unified is being able to make new friends with people I didn't know before. I learned that no matter how different people are from you, they can be just like you and become really good friends."

The beaming smiles on our students' faces upon returning also summed up a very enriching event for all of our students who participated.



Columbia Academy News

Mock Presidential Election at Columbia Academy

Our social studies department facilitated a presidential election in our Media center that all of our students participated. There have been many government lessons that have been enforced by our election this year, including the different branches of government and the role of the Electoral College in electing our president.

The voting experience provided to our students is unforgettable, and we hope that this will encourage our students to be civically engaged as they become adults.

Thank you to all of our students who cast their ballots, and to all of our CA teachers who are frequently finding ways to engage and interest our students to become better citizens.



Columbia Academy News

CA Student Council Updates

Ms. Scott and Ms. Booker have been busy guiding a robust student council this school year, and they have a number of initiatives and upcoming events that they are planning.

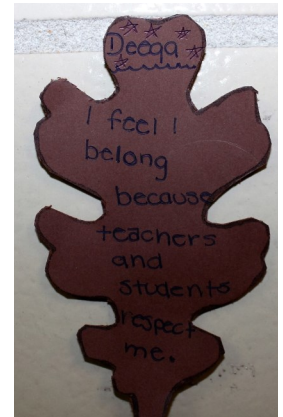
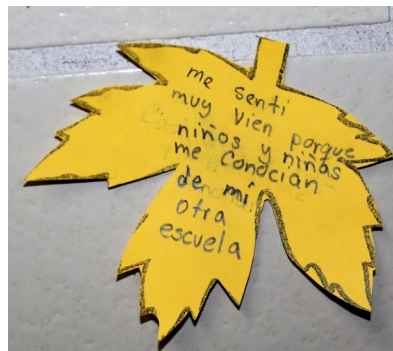
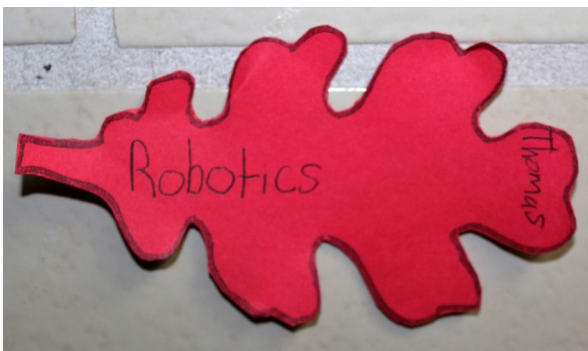
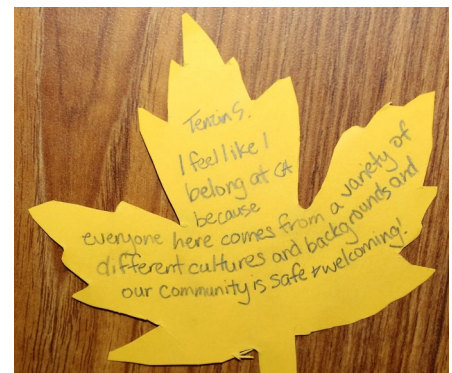
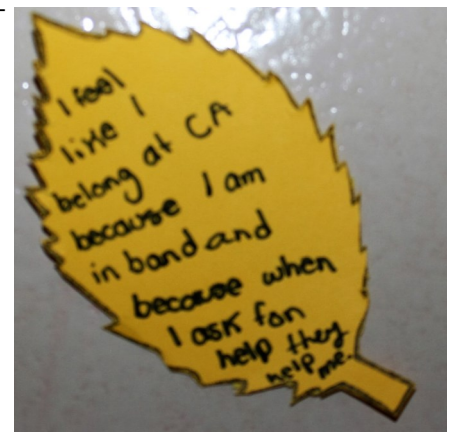
Student Council is working to change the school climate and promote school pride through student leadership. Student leaders do this by working with administrators and teachers as well as other students. Every week, Student Council members meet to discuss ideas for activities that could benefit the school and create a plan to make their ideas into realities.

In November, members of Student Council cut out around eight hundred leaves for all students to fill out with how they belong at Columbia Academy. Members also took a survey created by the Student Leadership Task Force to provide feedback before it was sent out to the entire school.

Starting in December, Student Council is sponsoring a door decorating competition between STAR classes to encourage that same feeling of belonging. It is meant to encourage the school's motto: "Where We All Belong."

The Student Council also sponsors activities that boost school pride, such as face-painting and school dances. Fundraising led by students makes these activities possible. For example, throughout winter, Student Council members will sell hot chocolate before school. Members promote these events by creating posters and showing enthusiasm for them.

Thank you Student Counsel for helping Columbia Academy to "Rise Up!"



Columbia Academy News

Pictures and names of A Honor Roll students are posted in our front hallway. Here are pictures of each of the grade levels for quarter 1.



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First Quarter 6th Grade B Honor Roll



First Quarter 7th Grade B Honor Roll



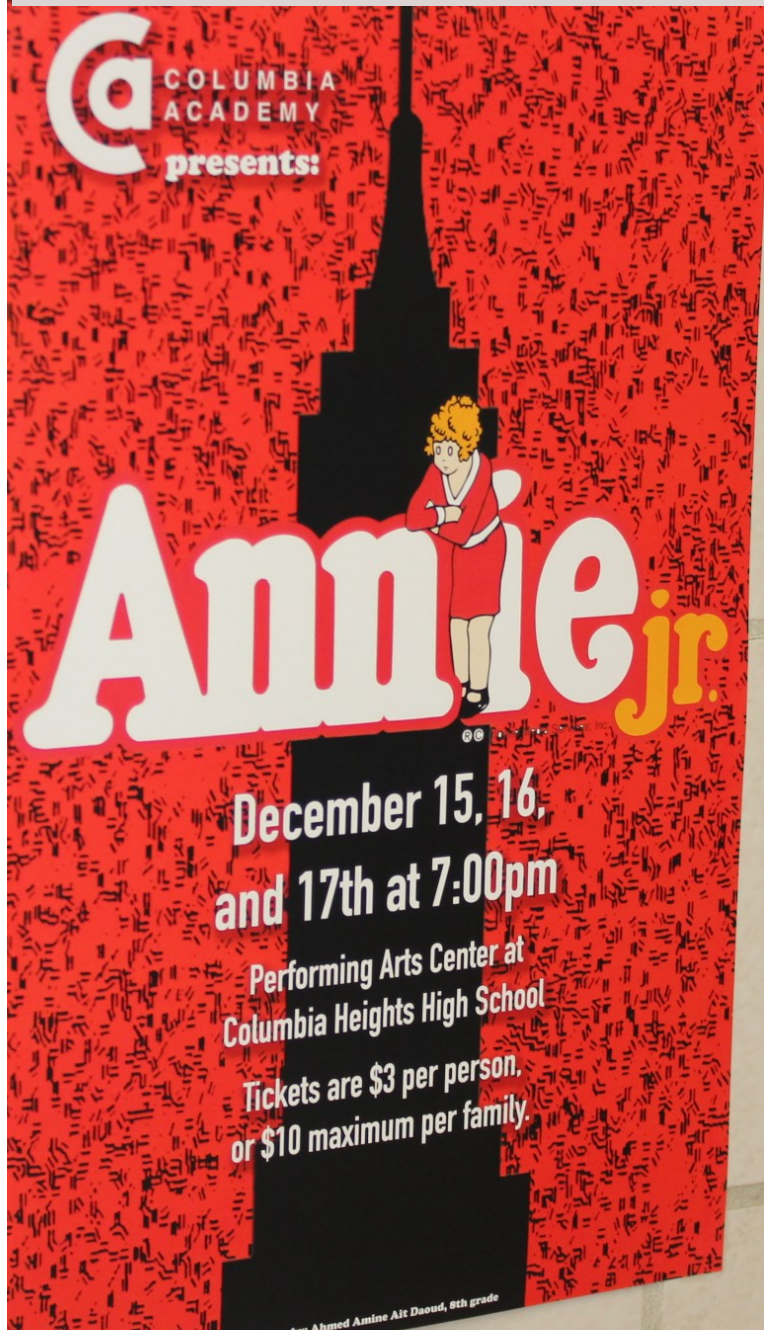
First Quarter 8th Grade B Honor Roll



The Columbia Academy PTO
will host a spaghetti dinner
fundraiser before the CA per-
formance of **Annie Jr.**
on Friday, December 16th.
***Come join us for a fun family night
out!***

Spaghetti dinner 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. in the High School caf-
eteria \$3 per person (maximum of \$10 per family)
Annie 7:00 p.m. in the High School auditorium
9\$3 per person (maximum of \$10 per family)

Come see the CA 2016 Musical



Important Dates for December/January

Dec 3 and 4 Robotics Tournament All day
 Dec. 15 Anne Jr. 7:00 pm at High School
 Dec. 16 Spaghetti Dinner 4:30—6:30 at HS
 Dec. 16 Annie Jr 7:00 pm at High School
 Dec 17 Annie Jr 7:00pm at High School
 Dec. 23—Jan. 2 Winter Break
 Jan. 3 School begins again
 January 9 CA Choir Concert 6:30 at HS
 January 16 No School, MLK Day
 January 17 No School, District Inservice
 January 19 CA Band Concert 6:30 at HS
 January 26 Quarter 2 ends
 January 21 No School, Grading Day
 January 30 Third Quarter Begins

Columbia Heights Public Schools is hiring for positions in the food services department. If you are interested please visit the employment website at <https://www.colheights.k12.mn.us/> and click on the employment tab or call HR at 763-528-4421.

Interested in helping CA students improve academically? Consider volunteering to help tutor students during the day. For more information, please call

Principal Berkas

763-528-4705