



COLUMBIA ACADEMY

Columbia Academy News

Principal Update, June 6, 2017

RISE UP

RESPECT
INTEGRITY
STRENGTH
EXCELLENCE

UNDERSTANDING
PRIDE



Greetings from Columbia Academy,

The school year has flown by! During the last nine months we have watched our students grow physically and go through the changes that happen during the middle school years. We have challenged them to grow their minds and their character. We have emphasized a focus on academics and the value respect, integrity, strength, excellence, opportunity, and pride. We have also reminded students every week that Columbia Academy is a school where everyone belongs and that we work together as one team.

With you, we have celebrated academic achievement, excellence in the arts and athletics, and outstanding character. Our hope is that we have increased students belief in themselves and that they are working each day with discipline for a future that will be brighter because of their hard work today. We have tried to model a growth mindset with our students so they realize that intelligence can grow through focus, effort and courage to make the mistakes that are inevitably part of meeting a high challenge.

With you, we have worked for the long term goal of making sure your child is prepared to reach his/her dreams and have worlds of opportunities as an adult

because he/she prepared well in school. Improving our minds and character may be a lifelong endeavor, but we believe it is critical to set a strong foundation in the middle school years. Thank you for working together with us to support your child. We wish you a wonderful summer!

Principal Berkas

Columbia
Academy

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Principal
Duane Berkas

Assistant Principal
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OUR MISSION

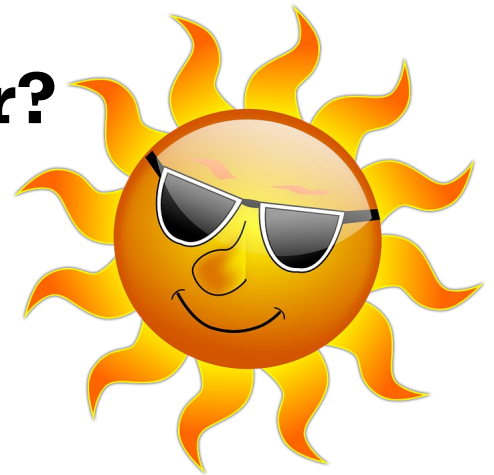
Columbia Heights Public Schools create **worlds of opportunity for every learner** in partnership with supportive small-town communities by challenging all to discover their talents, unleash their potential and develop tools for lifelong success.

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What to do in the summer?

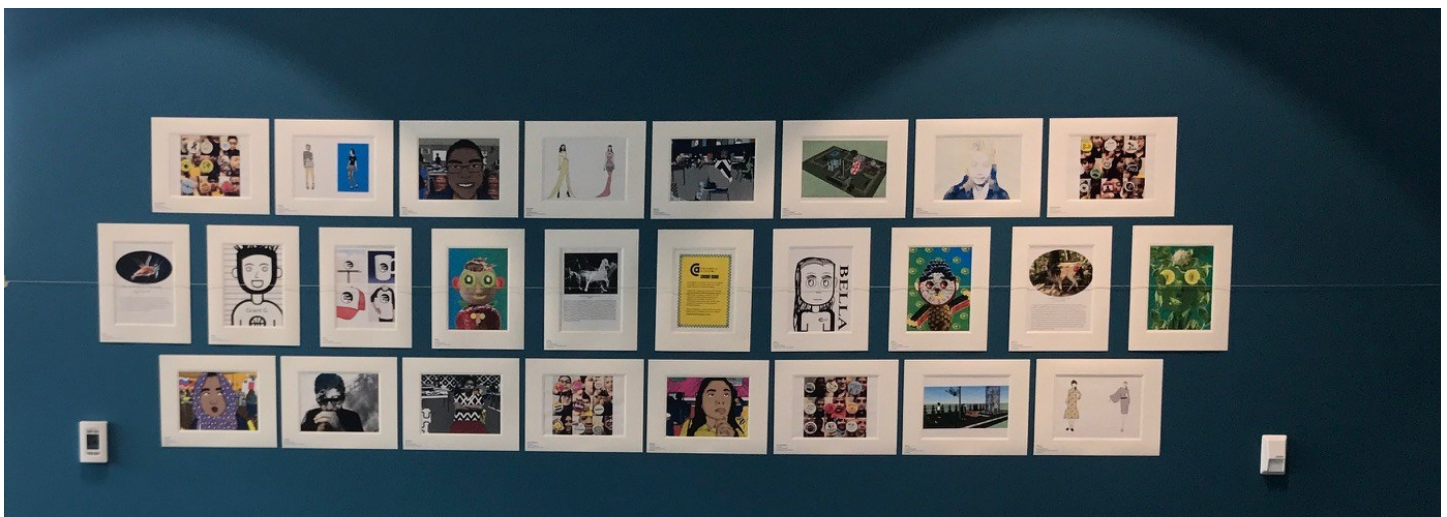
Summer can be a great change of pace, but too much of anything can turn out to be a bad thing. Too much time away from learning can cause students to forget what they learned and to lose some of the skills they have built over the past school year. Here are some suggestions of things you can do to help your child stay sharp over the summer and come back ready to move forward from where they left off in the spring:

- Visit the Columbia Heights Library once a week
- Schedule a daily time for undistracted reading
- Participate in summer school (invitations based on need were sent out to parents.)
- Participate in Columbia Heights Recreation activities; you can access a video of activities here:
- Take a family field trip to a museum or important sites
- Watch science series together on TV
- Play board games that require basic math skills
- Take a hike and have a talk
- Have your child keep a journal



CH Public Library displays CA artwork

When you go to the Columbia Heights Library this summer, check out the CA Media Arts display. Our students do great work with Ms. Fowler and we are proud to show it!



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CHPD supporting CA kids



A big thank you to the Columbia Heights Police Department that once again donated bikes to six very lucky students. The high quality refurbished bikes brought big smiles and generated great excitement. A summer of bike riding awaits six students who have never owned a bike. We appreciate the work our Columbia Heights Police Department does within our school to build community and create strong relationships with our students. This includes the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program that matches many of the CHPD officers to Columbia Academy students. We are fortunate to have so many officers working with our students on a weekly basis. Thank you Columbia Heights Police Department!

Team United stays united to the end

The CA Team United had many opportunities throughout the school year to create bonds of friendship and understanding, including a rousing soccer tournament near the end of the school year. The pride of scoring a goal, the satisfaction of giving a high five, the joy of cheering on teammates and enjoying the company of fellow students promotes the character building that we so desire for our students. We are proud of each member of Team United 2017! Thank you Ms. Bluth, Ms. Nelson, Ms. Jensen and Ms. Ke-nevan too!



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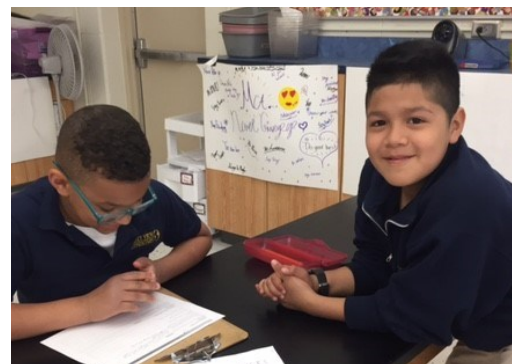
Students attend Latino Youth Conference



Ms. Nelson once again brought a large group of 8th grade CA students to the annual Latino Youth Conference. The theme for this year's conference was social activism and provided an opportunity to learn how they can help their communities become safer and healthier. The conference is organized each year by Latino high school students from around the metro area and hosted at Augsburg College in the month of May. We are proud to support this annual activity that helps strengthen civic and cultural pride and activism that improves lives and communities. Good job Ms. Nelson and all of our students who participated!

CA students travel to Valley View

AVID and Social Studies teacher, Ms. Student, brought two groups of 7th graders to work with 4th grade Valley View students. Ms. Student's AVID students were interviewed by the 4th graders for their project. Her 7th grade Honors Social Studies students had an assignment to write a children's book about the Civil War. They went to Valley View to read their books. Thank you Valley View for being our good neigh-



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Learning beyond the classroom

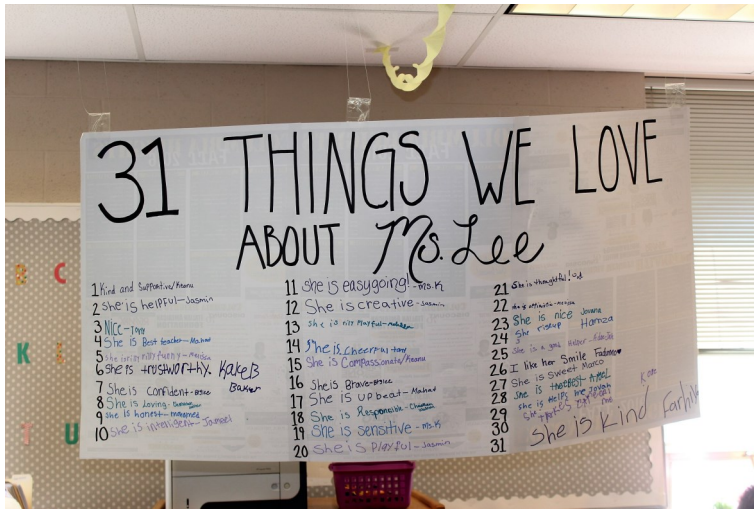
The last month of school provides more opportunity to extend learning experiences beyond the classroom. This year field trips in May included the University of MN School of Engineering, the State Capital, the History Museum, the Science Museum, the Maker Faire, Como Zoo, and Franconia Sculpture Park. All of our field trips are free to students and are connected to valuable learning experiences. One common theme through all of our trips was the positive feedback we received on how well behaved our students were. CA rises up, both in school and out.

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Ms. Lee retires after 31 years at CA



May 31st was officially Ms. Virginia Lee Day at Columbia Academy in honor of the 31 years she has worked in our building as an Educational Assistant. Ms. Bluth and Ms. Kenevan helped organize a fun day that included a crowning ceremony, video presentation, and a celebration where she was presented with her retirement bell. We will miss Ms. Lee and her quiet but so very important presence in our school and in the lives of our students who need a little more support to make their day go well. She has been patient, dependable, and so very kind to countless students over countless days. Enjoy your retirement Ms. Lee! You have earned it!!



A big summer ahead for CA 6th grader

Caitlin Kyseth would like to be a scientist someday. As a 6th grader, she has had the opportunity to take advanced classes in math and science. This summer she will continue her learning at NASA Space camp for girls as well as a Computer Coding class through the Girl Scouts at the University of Illinois. Caitlin doesn't think being far from home for long periods of time this summer will be a problem. "I will be too busy having fun to be homesick" she says. We wish Caitlin a great summer and look forward to hearing about her experiences next fall.



Celebrating the arts in May

May was a busy month for the arts with final concerts for choir and band as well as our annual Arts festival Expressions that included art expositions, theatrical performances, and music from our ensembles. We have a strong arts program at CA and this was never more evident than the work of our students this spring. Thank you to all who attended. Thank you to our teachers and most of all to our amazing young artists, whether in theater, band, choir, visual art, or media arts!



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Used Uniforms

If you have uniforms you no longer need, please consider donating them back to CA as loaners for next year. We are always in need of additional uniforms to help students out when they don't bring theirs from home or for have lost their originals.

New Uniforms

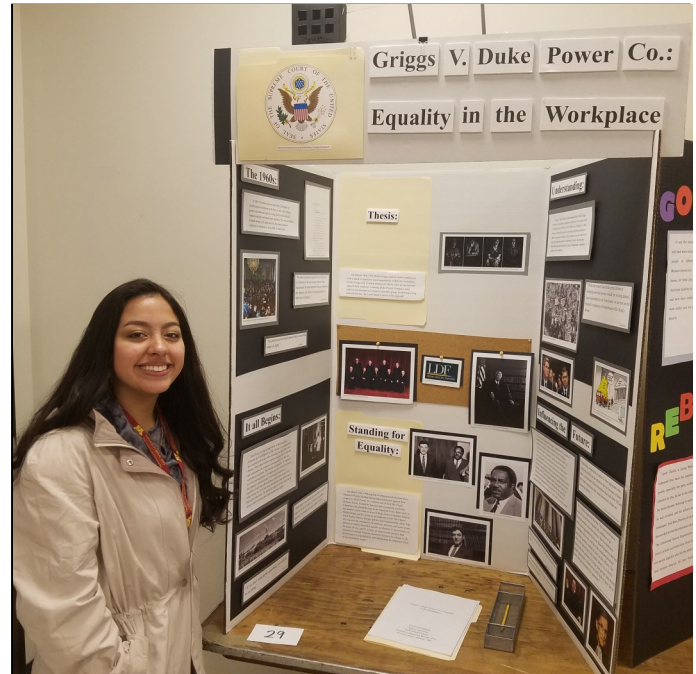
This summer we will be open for uniform sales throughout the month of August from 9:00 to 2:30 on Mondays and Tuesdays. If you would like to beat the Open House crowd, consider coming in during the summer on a Monday or a Tuesday and getting your uniforms early. Prices remain the same as this year for new uniforms:

Polo: \$10

Sweatshirt: \$20

Fleece: \$25

We also have a limited supply of long sleeve shirts for \$15.



MN History Day State Finalist

CA 8th grader Gissel Inamagua was a state finalist in the MN State History Day competition for the second year in a row!

Congratulations Gissel!

Important Dates

6th Grade Orientation: August 24, 9-11:30

CA Open House: August 29, 4—6

First Day of School: Sept 5

MEA (no school): Oct. 19, 20

Thanksgiving: Nov. 23, 24

Winter Break: Dec. 22—Jan. 2

Spring Break: March 26—30

Last day of school: June 7

A big thank you to Jamyang Dolma who helped with Yearbook all three years at Columbia Academy!

