

# Columbia Academy News

## November/December 2017

# RISE UP

RESPECT  
INTEGRITY  
STRENGTH  
EXCELLENCE

UNDERSTANDING  
PRIDE



Greetings from Columbia Academy,

You won't find lots of words in this month's newsletter but you will find plenty of pictures from CA. If pictures are worth a 1,000 words, you will learn much more from them than anything I can write. In just a few words, here are somethings I hope you will notice from the pictures:

- Happy students
- Busy students
- Hard working students
- Kind students
- Energetic students
- Talented students
- Smart students
- Good students

We hope you will also notice that CA is a place we want students to know they belong, a place where we expect students to RISE UP, and a place we help students unleash their potential.

As we enter a very busy time of year, please know that we are grateful for the opportunity to work with you to help your child create worlds of opportunities for him or herself.

All the best from Columbia Academy!

Principal Berkas

### Columbia Academy

#### Address

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#### Website

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#### Phone

763-528-4701

#### Principal

Duane Berkas

#### Assistant Principal

Rick Ostby

#### Dean

Matt Miller

#### Dean

Leslee Sherck

### 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.

# Columbia Academy News

## **RISE UP Award Winners**

We are very proud to present our RISE UP Award winners for Quarter One who are recognized for demonstrating what it means to show respect, integrity, strength, excellence, understanding, and pride. Columbia Academy develops character as it promotes academic achievement. We want to recognize these amazing students who help make the world a better place each day.





# Columbia Academy News

## **RISE UP Award Winners**



## Columbia Academy News

### **RISE UP to prevent bullying!**

Bullying is more than being mean; it is repeatedly using one's power through threat or intimidation to cause emotional and/or physical harm to another person. We teach our students that we expect them to raise a hand to bullying—to not do it and to report it if they see it or are the victims of it. We investigate all reports of bullying and use our Social Workers, School Psychologist, and our Administrators to prevent and stop bullying as well as address the needs of those who have been the victims of bullying. We also work with all staff to prevent bullying by promoting a sense of belonging to one team at Columbia Academy and to recognize those who RISE UP in our school.



### **Congratulations to Girls Swim Team!**

The High School swim team included many of our 7th and 8th grade girls this year. We are proud of their effort and contribution to the team's success including being recognized as the Section 3A winner of the Academic Achievement award. 21 of the 24 team members were awarded an Academic Award for maintaining a grade point average of 3.0 or better. This is what we refer to as a high powered and well rounded team!





# Columbia Academy News

## CA in full color

Our hallways came alive in October as STAR classrooms competed for best door decoration under the theme of **Hopes and Dreams**. Here are a few of the doors.



The CA Art Department continues to do amazing work. Our hallways are in full display of our young artists' works. We invite you to come see it in person!





# Columbia Academy News

## Lead with Kindness

Team United had two great trips to learn what it means to lead with kindness. A big thank you to all of the students and our teachers Ms. Bluth, Ms. Kenevan, and Ms. Nelson for organizing these opportunities to build friendship and understanding. We are super proud of Team United at CA!



## Columbia Academy News

### Bond Referendum Statement from School Board Chair

This past June the Columbia Heights School Board unanimously voted to ask voters within our School District to consider passing a Bond Referendum not to exceed a total of \$16 million for safety, security and educational renovations, remodeling, upgrading, equipping and constructing at North Park Elementary School and Columbia Heights High School. We felt then as we do now that the decision to ask our voters to support our schools was the right decision.

The Nov. 7 Bond Referendum election results were obviously disappointing. To those who voted yes, we thank you. To those who voted against the Bond, the outcome has been decided and we honor that decision.

I know our School District was and continues to be transparent, factual and most importantly, acting in the best interests of all of our students. This Bond would have upgraded outdated facilities, including security, which would have better served ours and your students. Without the support of our voters, these necessary upgrades cannot move forward.

Nevertheless, our School District will continue to move forward in accomplishing our Mission of creating worlds of opportunity for every learner. Thank you.

John Larkin

### Nominate a CA Employee for the District Employee of the Year

Nominations for the 2017-2018 Columbia Heights Public Schools (CHPS) Employee of the Year are now being accepted. The public is invited to participate by nominating one or more CHPS employee that fits the criteria for the recognition. To be eligible, a District employee must have served a minimum of three years with the school district; be a current employee of CHPS when the nomination is submitted and Employee of the Year announcement is made; and has not been named Employee of the Year before. Nominees will be judged on the following criteria:

- Demonstrates a strong work ethic.
- Serves as a positive role model for students and staff.
- Extends oneself beyond the basics by displaying initiative and creativity.
- Contributes significantly to improvements at their work site or within the District.
- Demonstrates courage or exemplary performance in an emergency situation or under unusual difficulties.
- Demonstrates Heights Pride by displaying a constant care for the Columbia Heights Public Schools students and the community.

**Nominations will be accepted until 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15. For specific criteria and to submit your nomination, visit [colheights.k12.mn.us/Nominate](http://colheights.k12.mn.us/Nominate). For more information, contact**



# Columbia Academy News

## The sounds of music

If you walk down the east hallway of our building, you will hear music. Depending on which door is open at the time, you may hear singing, a full band, a jazz ensemble, or a combination of drums and marimbas. We believe in the power of music to transform and enrich lives. Thank you to all who have helped to raise money for the purchase of the marimbas pictured here. Our students love to play them!



## Beyond the school day opportunities

Students at Columbia Academy have many opportunities beyond the school day from morning soccer and basketball to ENCORE after school classes that include such things as web design, computer game design, girls' club and much more. In addition, students are practicing for the winter musical and building robots for the upcoming regional competition at Columbia Academy. The school day may be 7 hours long but our building is buzzing for 12. We love seeing the large numbers of students who are finding healthy and fun activities to participate in after school. Pictured are two of our Robotics Team members whose robots won awards in the first competition.





# Columbia Academy News

## 8th Grade A Honor Roll



## 8th Grade B Honor Roll





# Columbia Academy News

## 7th Grade A Honor Roll



## 7th Grade B Honor Roll





# Columbia Academy News

## 6th Grade A Honor Roll



## 6th Grade B Honor Roll





# Columbia Academy News







## Donations

Thank you to **VFW Post 555** for their donation of a box full of apples for our teachers!

Thanks to a generous donation from **Pilgrim Dry Cleaners**, more than 170 Columbia Heights Public School (CHPS) District Pre-Kindergarten through high school students will receive, for free, new or slightly-used warm winter coats to protect them this winter. The coats – combined with an existing CHPS stock of boots, hats, gloves and mittens – will be distributed in the coming weeks and months to students at each of the District's five schools. For questions, please see our Social Workers Ms. Barlett or Ms. Wright.

Thank you to an **anonymous donor** for their kind donation of \$100 to support students in need.

## Important Dates

**November 27:** 7th grade Water Safety begins

**November 29:** PSAT (\*8th graders only)

**December 9,10:** Robotics Tournament at CA

**December 14, 15, 16, 17:** CA Musical

**December 22-Jan 2:** No school

## Holiday Resources for families in need

You can find a long list of resources for families in need during the Holidays on our District website. [Click here to access a link](#) to many different organizations that provide support to families in need during the holiday season.

## Columbia Academy Musical Into the Woods, Jr.

Dec. 14, 15, 16 at 7pm

Dec. 17 at 2pm

\$3/person, \$10 max/family  
Performing Arts Center at CHHS