Dear Columbian Families,

Thank you for your incredible parent involvement as we begin this school year! Open House had excellent attendance. Our students enjoyed sharing their classroom and school day with you all.

Thank you also for your amazing support with the Fun Run through your pledges and volunteer hours. What a success!

Please plan on attending Parent Teacher conferences on Tuesday, Nov. 7th and Wednesday, Nov. 8th. The teachers will be sharing assessment results and student work at these conferences. First quarter report cards will be sent home on Oct 27th. It is a great time to hear about your child’s performance and how you and the teacher can work together as a team to help your child reach their highest potential and growth goals.

If you did not get a chance to sign up for a conference time at open house, please call the office to schedule a time at 402-697-1433. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

Sincerely, Mrs. Nanette Beller

LIBRARY BOOK DONATIONS

Thank you, Cooper Richard, Kindergarten, for donating Hotel Bruce by Ryan T. Higgins to the school library.

Please thank Zia Humphries, Kindergarten, for donating I'm Smart! by Kate and Jim McMullan to our school library!

We appreciate your support of the Library!
What’s Happening Around Columbian?

ANNOUNCING THE 2017-2018 COLUMBIAN AMBASSADORS:

4th Grade Representatives:
Kwaku Antwi
Taylor Elsasser
Riley Frances
Alexis Ochsner

5th Grade Representatives:
Miranda Belshan
Lea Hanson
Song Marie
Pavithra Raghavan

6th Grade Representatives:
Anna Bucksner
CJ Deas
Meredith Proctor
Gavin Smith
Jack Townsend
Amelia Vyborny

Congratulations! We are going to have a wonderful year helping our school and community.

A COBRA TO COUNT ON!

In our first two months of school we’ve had many Columbian Elementary students step up to be A Cobra to COUNT on!! Congratulations to the following students:

Libbey Akue  Cole Hanson
Micah Aranda  Lillian Herman
Cherish Bailey  Manuella Lawson
Juliet Baker  Spencer Lordemann
Charlotte Blevins  Charlie Menin
Miles Blevins  Josie Morrison
Jennifer Bonge  Ridwane Moudachirou
Isabella Bowen  Julia Nybakken
Denna Brozek  Alexis Ochsner
Halli Buckley  Julia Petrova
Layla Burmood  Niyati Reddymasu
Aubrey Carder  Joshua Shapiro
Connor Cook  Tommy White

OUR NEXT COLUMBIAN PTO MEETING IS MONDAY, NOV 6th

The next PTO meeting will be held on Monday, November 6th in the library at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and join the PTO. Childcare for school age children is available – contact Kelly Dunning at Columbian.pto.kelly@gmail.com for more information.
**STUDENT SAFETY**

We have been practicing our Fire, Severe Weather, Lock Down and Evacuation drills this year. The student's behavior has been outstanding!

Please be careful at arrival and dismissal that you are watching the crosswalks and supporting our Safety Patrol. Also, when driving in the neighborhoods of Columbian, please be considerate and drive the speed limit or below. We have many students walking to school. Observing all traffic signs and being aware of all our neighbors is a great way to model good citizenship to your students. Thank you for ensuring our students safety here at Columbian.

**STEAM* FAIR & PANCAKE MAN IS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19TH 5-7 PM**

STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, & Mathematics. The STEAM fair is from 5 – 6 PM.

**Grades K-3 will have their projects on display from 5 - 5:30 PM:**

- Kindergarten – Room 5
- 1st Grade – Rooms 1 and 2
- 2nd Grade – Room 3
- 3rd Grade – hallway

**Grades 4-6 will have their projects on display from 5:30 – 6 PM:**

- 4th Grade – Room 15
- 5th Grade – hallway outside Rooms 8 & 9
- 6th Grade – Room 14 & 13

You are welcome to come join us for an evening of just pancakes, OR an evening of pancakes and projects, OR just projects! Please bring the entire family; ALL children MUST be supervised, especially while interacting with the student-created projects!! Thanks so much for your support.

**HALLOWEEN IS COMING OCT 31st**

The Halloween parade will begin at 2:15 PM and may vary depending on the weather. If it is a wonderful day, students will parade down and up 127th Street led by the Burke High School band. Thank you Burke High School!!

If the weather is not so good, we will parade around the building or in the gym. The classroom parties will follow the parade.

As you plan your costumes, please remember to have something easy to put on at school. Students will change after lunch. Students should not wear their makeup or costumes to school. Limiting the “blood and guts” would be greatly appreciated. Please remember, NO GUNS, KNIVES, SWORDS, CHAINSAWS or other WEAPONS. (Even the toy ones!)

*If you would like your child to do alternative activities during this time, please contact your child’s teacher and let them know. Thank you!*

**HALLOWEEN COSTUME DRIVE**

Please donate any used costumes of any size to the Halloween Costume Drive. Donations are needed by October 25th. A box will be outside of Mrs. Fogleman's office for drop off items. We thank you for supporting our students and Cobra Spirit!
Columbian Attendance Incentives

Columbian Attendance Incentives for Students

At Columbian, we are implementing two new attendance incentive programs, the A Team and Timely Attendance award. Students with perfect attendance for an entire quarter will be on the A Team. Then at the end of the school year we will continue our tradition of celebrating the A+ Team, the students with perfect attendance all year.

The Timely Attendance award is for the class that has the fewest tardies monthly. To help eliminate tardies, the winning class will have a special lunch that will include a variety of special items such as a tablecloth, soft music, outside seating (if weather permits) and an additional recess.

Attending school every day has a huge impact on a student’s academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Tardiness affects not only the student who is late for class, but also the other students in class and the teacher instructing the class. Arriving late to school on a consistent basis can have long-term academic effects. If showing up late to school becomes a habit, students may develop the notion that tardiness is an acceptable behavior. This belief can negatively impact their future work ethic and employment opportunities.

We hope the A Team and Timely Attendance awards will help us reach our goal of improved attendance and fewer tardies. Let us know how we can best support you and your children so that they can attend school every day on time. We want your child to be successful in school! If you have any questions or need more information please contact Abbie Vlcek, SSL, or Diane Fogleman, School Counselor.

*Please remember our doors open to the Columbian Cobra Family at 8:35; the students enter the cafeteria and can receive their Grab and Go breakfast to eat in their classroom until the school bell rings at 8:50 to formally start our day.

Omaha Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy), marital status, sexual orientation, disability, age, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, citizenship status, veteran status, political affiliation or economic status in its programs, activities and employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following individual has been designated to accept allegations regarding non-discrimination policies: Superintendent of Schools, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (402-557-2001). The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Director for the Office of Equity and Diversity, 3215 Cuming St, Omaha, NE 68131 (402-557-2790).
PARENT TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS

Kids are more successful in school when parents take an active interest in their homework — it shows kids that what they do is important. Of course, helping with homework shouldn’t mean spending hours hunched over a desk. Parents can be supportive by demonstrating study and organization skills, explaining a tricky problem, or just encouraging kids to take a break. And who knows? Parents might even learn a thing or two!

Here are some tips to guide the way:

1 **Know the teachers — and what they’re looking for.** Attend school events, such as parent-teacher conferences, to meet your child’s teachers. Ask about their homework policies and how you should be involved.

2 **Set up a homework-friendly area.** Make sure kids have a well-lit place to complete homework. Keep supplies — paper, pencils, glue and scissors — within reach.

3 **Schedule a regular study time.** Some kids work best in the afternoon, following a snack and play period; others may prefer to wait until after dinner.

4 **Help them make a plan.** On heavy homework nights or when there’s an especially hefty assignment to tackle, encourage your child break up the work into manageable chunks. Create a work schedule for the night if necessary — and take time for a 15-minute break if possible.

5 **Keep distractions to a minimum.** This means no TV, loud music, or phone calls. (Occasionally, though, a phone call to a classmate about an assignment can be helpful.)

6 **Make sure kids do their own work.** They won’t learn if they don’t think for themselves and make their own mistakes. Parents can make suggestions and help with directions. But it’s a kid’s job to do the learning.

7 **Be a motivator and monitor.** Ask about assignments, quizzes, and tests. Give encouragement, check completed homework, and make yourself available for questions and concerns.

8 **Set a good example.** Do your kids ever see you diligently balancing your budget or reading a book? Kids are more likely to follow their parents’ examples than their advice.

9 **Praise their work and efforts.** Post an aced test or art project on the refrigerator. Mention academic achievements to relatives.

If there are continuing problems with homework, get help. Talk about it with your child’s teacher. Some kids have trouble seeing the board and may need glasses; others may have attention needs. Make sure to share your concerns with the school staff and /or your family doctor.

Kids Health, January 2015