It seems cliché to say, but this school year has absolutely flown by. It is now April and we only have two months left of the 2017/2018 school year. Even though only a short time is left, we have multiple opportunities for achievement, involvement and participation coming up in April and May. Please check out our upcoming calendar dates and mark your calendars.

Students in grades 3-6 have begun taking the new state assessment, NSCAS (Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System). Our teachers have worked diligently to prepare your child to “show what they know.” Our students have also worked diligently to master all of their state standards and be college and career ready. Thank you for partnering with us to support your child. Our Cobras are ready to shine!

While visiting classrooms, I witness children who are engaged and excited about their learning. I am proud of the children and teachers at Columbian Elementary School, and look forward to more great things until the last day of the 2017-2018 school year. We make every day COUNT here at Columbian!

Please come and get involved with us. As you can see by our calendar, we have many opportunities for parent involvement the remainder of the year. We will continue to involve your child in deep, rich learning experiences throughout the entire school year. I hope to see you at our upcoming activities.

Sincerely, Mrs. Nanette Beller
What’s Happening Around Columbian?

OUR NEXT COLUMBIAN PTO MEETING IS MONDAY, May 7th

The next PTO meeting will be held on Monday, May 7th in the library at 6 p.m. Childcare for school age is available – contact Kelly Dunning at Columbian.pto.kelly@gmail.com for more information.

NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Thank you to our very generous Columbian PTO for the new playground equipment! We are now using the front lawn for our playground due to construction. The PTO purchased so many fun items for our students to play with: various balls, jump ropes (different sizes), Frisbee with target game, transportable basketball net, waddle walkers (these are so fun!), hula-hoops and cones. The cones can be used for goals, relay races, obstacle course, etc. The students are having fun and are very appreciative. Thank you to all parents and families who supported our fundraiser. Your money is being put to good use. Thank you also for your flexibility with our limited parking. Arrival and dismissal are going great due to our awesome families!

KIDS CLUB REGISTRATION

Registration for 2018-2019 Kids Club has begun. Registration must be done at Kids Club from 6:30 – 8:35 a.m. or 4:05-6 p.m. There is no waiting list at this time. If you have any further questions, please call (402) 697-1433.

FUN & FITNESS DAY Wednesday, MAY 18th Rain or Shine

PK & Grades K-3, 9:30-11:30
PK & Grades 4-6, 1:30-3:30

Look for the attached flyer to volunteer for Fun Day. Please contact Mr. Minchow or call the office, (402) 697-1433 with any questions.

Each child needs to bring a plain white t-shirt to Tie Dye for Fun Day. The students can use their Fun Run t-shirt to tie dye.

*See attached flyer

CLASS PLACEMENTS 2018-2019

Can you believe we’re thinking about this already? We are starting to prepare for next year. I do want to make families aware that the teachers and I will work together at each grade level to make appropriate, balanced classrooms based on needs, personalities, gender, academics, etc… We are not able to take class or teacher requests. With only 2 classrooms per grade level, it is very difficult to accommodate requests, be fair to everyone and make balanced classrooms.

If you do have concerns about your child’s educational placement for next year that you would like me to consider, I would be happy to visit with you. Please give me (Mrs. Beller) a call, (402) 697-1433. Thank you.
What’s Happening Around Columbian?

LIBRARY BOOK DONATIONS

We would like to acknowledge the following donations to our school library---

Layla Burmood, 3rd grade: 
Towers Falling by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Priscilla Barney, 5th grade: 
Wish by Barbara O’Connor

Hannah Landmark, PreK: 
The Social Butterfly by Beth Bracken

Pyper Swigart, 2nd grade: 
Vampirina Ballerina by Anne Marie Pace

Thank you for supporting the library with your generous book donations.

VOTE FOR PTO OFFICERS

Please plan to attend the next PTO meeting on Monday, May 7th at 6:00 p.m.

We will vote on two new candidates for next year’s PTO officers during this meeting. It is very important that PTO members vote in the election. If you’re not a PTO member, you are also welcome and encouraged to attend ALL PTO meetings. THANK YOU!

UPDATED SLATE OF PTO EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS FOR 2018-2019

President: Melissa Shapiro
President-Elect: Kerri Buckley
Treasurer: Deidre Ochsner
Corresponding Secretary: Sarah Hanson
Recording Secretary: Kelly Dunning

TEXT MESSAGES FROM OPS

Want to Stay Connected To Your Student’s School? Opt-in to Receive Text Messages!

Omaha Public Schools is excited to add text-messaging capabilities to our mass notification system this fall. Adding text message capability will allow OPS to more quickly update parents/guardians and staff with emergency notification information, including weather related cancellations and important reminders.

Before OPS can begin sending text notifications, parents/guardians and staff must first opt-in to receive text messages. Stay connected with OPS and opt-in by receiving more information on text messaging at http://district.ops.org/textmessaging.

GOLDEN SOWER CLUB

We are SO PROUD of our Golden Sower Trivia Contest team! They were awarded SILVER MEDALS at the competition on Friday, March 23 at Girls, Inc.

Congratulations Team Cobra: Dillon Birge, Alexis Grams, Vivian Dauner, and Alexis Ochsner! Way to represent!!
What’s Happening Around Columbian?

CONSTRUCTION at COLUMBIAN

Construction is on its way with our new general contractor, Hausmann. Please read the information below to get to know them better.

Hausmann is a construction management, design build and general contracting firm. Incorporated in 2003, we have steadily grown to become one of the most competitive and quality-oriented construction management firms across the Midwest. We provide services and expertise to a wide variety of clients across the state. From healthcare and educational facilities to commercial and corporate business offices, our diverse client base has provided us with the knowledge and ability to work on an array of projects. These services include pre-bond support, cost analysis, scheduling and systems analysis. Our reputation comes from our commitment to excellence, which is evident in the areas of safety, productivity and workmanship. We pride ourselves on our innovative management style and will service the needs of our clients with a highly proficient, safety-oriented and cost-efficient management team.

Project Team

Site Superintendent: Don Ellenberger
Project Manager: Paul Hoebelheinrich
Senior Project Manager: Jared Bemis

Similar past projects:

OPS, Bryan Middle and High School, O’Neill Public Schools, Junior Senior High School Gering High School Columbus High School LPS, Marilyn Moore Middle School & Copple YMCA Scottsbluff High School LPS, Humann Elementary LPS, Park Middle School Arapahoe Public Schools OPS, Benson High School Crete Middle School Crete High School Norris Public Schools LPS, Kloefkorn Elementary School West Point Public Schools

NSCAS SUMMATIVE TESTING WINDOW OPENS SOON!

The NSCAS Summative testing window for grades 3–8 is here! Testing dates are March 19–April 27, 2018 and make-up week is April 30–May 4, 2018. Don’t forget to make sure your child(ren) get a good night’s rest, eat breakfast on the day of the assessment, and stay positive!

The NSCAS Summative is a new computer-based adaptive assessment replacing NeSA that is built from Nebraska’s College and Career Ready standards. It adapts dynamically based on each student’s ability, challenging top performers without overwhelming students whose skills are below grade level.

Results from the spring 2018 administration will be available in the fall of 2018. Starting in 2019, results will be available shortly after the close of the testing window, giving parents and educators valuable information about student performance ahead of the next school year.

Learn more about the NSCAS Summative assessment at:
https://www.education.ne.gov/assessment/nscas-system/

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).
Fun and Fitness Day 2018
Friday, May 18th

We need your help to make Fun and Fitness Day a great day for the students.

Fun and Fitness Day is split into two sessions. Students rotate through game stations. Each station needs at least two volunteers. The game instructions will be provided, so your job will be to teach the kids how to play the game and them watch them play and have fun.

We also need each child to bring a plain white T-Shirt to tie-dye for Fun and Fitness day. Please send them by Friday, April 27th to your classroom teacher. If you are able to donate extra T-shirts, it would be greatly appreciated.

Please fill out the volunteer form below and return it to the school office by Friday, April 27th.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Minchow at 402-697-1433

Fun and Fitness Day 2018 Volunteer

Name__________________________________________________________

Phone Number_________________________ Email _____________________________

[ ] Yes, I will volunteer for the Morning (PK & Grades K-3) 9:30 -11:30 AM

[ ] Yes, I will volunteer for the Afternoon (PK & Grades 4-6) 1:30 – 3:30 PM

[ ] Yes, I am able to volunteer all day