A Note from Mrs. Beller

Thank you to so many Columbian families who attended our music program in November. We had over 500 people here to enjoy the performances! The Columbian Cobras were very proud to show off their talents. We are so lucky to have such great family and community support!

The Columbian Staff would like to wish you all a wonderful winter break! We hope you have a relaxing and joyous time with family and friends. Also continued warm wishes for a happy and healthy NEW YEAR!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Nanette Beller

KINDERGARTEN ROUND UP

Please join us on Wednesday, January 24th at 10 AM for our special Kindergarten Round Up if:

- Your child is turning 5 before or on July 31st 2018.
- You live in the Columbian area.

Please call (402) 697-1433 to add your child’s name to our 2018-2019 Kindergarten list.

SAFETY FIRST

Our construction has begun! A portion of our playground is fenced off to prepare the site. Construction zones are a no trespassing zone for all. Student safety is always a top priority.

Important Dates To Remember

Dec 15  3:15 PM Kindergarten Gingerbread Houses
Dec 22  Report Cards Home
No Pre School
Dec 23 – Jan 8 Winter Recess

Looking Ahead...

Jan 9  School Resumes/3rd Quarter Begins
Jan 16  NO SCHOOL - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan 22  PTO Meeting 6 PM
Jan 24  Kdg. Round Up 10 AM
Band/Strings Concert 2:30 PM

COLUMBIAN ELEMENTARY
a once in a lifetime learning experience...every day!

C... Community Partnerships
O... Optimizing Student Achievement
U... Understanding Citizenship
N... Nurturing Leaders of Tomorrow
T... Tradition of Excellence

COBRAS COUNT!
What’s Happening Around Columbian?

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Please watch for automated calls/emails/texts from OPS, radio and TV announcements if there is severe weather happening or forecast for cancellation announcements. Our district will try to make announcements by 6:00 AM if school will be cancelled for the day.

Also, in the event of an unexpected weather emergency during the school day, schools may be dismissed early at the direction of the Superintendent or his designee. In such situations, schools would be dismissed 2 hours early (2:05 Elementary) unless different times are announced. Afternoon PK classes would be cancelled. Remember – we will follow the directions provided by you on your child’s Student Information Form related to staying at school, going home on the bus, or walking home. And of course, anytime there is threatening weather, you are welcome to come to school to pick up your child early.

BUNDLE UP, IT’S COLD OUT THERE!

We go outside unless the temperature and winds are just too bitter. Please make sure your child is coming to school dressed appropriately for the weather. It is now time for long pants, sweatshirts, socks and closed toe shoes. Appropriate dress would also include winter coats, hats, gloves, etc...

When snow is on the ground, we’ll still go outside unless the temperature and winds are just too cold. We will be on the grounds, if frozen, or do a Walk and Talk if the grounds are too messy. It’s important for our students to get fresh air and exercise as much as possible.

ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS

Organizational skills are skills that are often taken for granted. Students who are disorganized are sometimes thought to be lazy or unmotivated. However, organizational skills must be taught and practiced like reading or riding a bike. Instead of pressuring a student to “get their act together,” adults must patiently and calmly teach organizational skills and allow these skills to develop so the student will become more confident and independent. Here are some strategies that can be done at home to help foster the development of organizational skills.

• Teach how to break down the task: Long-term assignments, or even homework, can be broken down into major and minor steps to make the assignment more manageable.

• Teach strategies: Create a “To Do” list, race against the time and a visual schedule for after school are all ideas that can help get jobs done more easily or quickly.

• Allow for decision-making: Disorganized students are often indecisive. Model your decision-making process by “thinking out loud.”

• Raise their active thinking: Don’t do the task for the student just because it takes longer than you’d like. Use "thinking" words to highlight self-awareness and self-direction such as “Good plan” or "You recognized __.”
The Counselor’s Corner

LIBRARY BOOK DONATIONS


Nate Baker and Juliet Baker donated Captain Underpants and the Sensational Saga of Sir Stinks-a-lot by Dav Pilkey.

Isaac Anderson, 2nd grade, donated The Adventures of Ook and Gluk by Dav Pilkey to the library.

Kemper Englund, 3rd grade, donated Dog Man: A Tale of Two Kitties by Dav Pilkey to the library in honor of his birthday.

Tallis Englund, Kindergarten, donated The Feel Good Book by Todd Parr to the library in honor of her birthday.

Thank you for supporting the Library!

THANKFULNESS

Thank you for all your support with the canned food drive in the month of November. It benefitted the families and children from our community who are in need. We were able to collect many non-perishable goods and are grateful for your help.

A Cobra To COUNT on!

Cobra’s recognized in November were:

- Emanuel Alvarado
- Isaac Anderson
- Shakthi Raghavan
- Ama Asantewa
- Stephan Baker
- Brielle Berg
- Jennifer Bonge
- Nolan Bragg
- Layla Burmood
- Kaylee Colburn
- Claudia Dauner
- Oscar Gerstandt
- Jazleen Guzman
- Tug Hatfield
- Elijah Heady
- Jax Ingram
- Charlie Kielion
- Chase Kilgore
- Elliot Landmark
- Jayden Lawani
- Angela Lawson
- Kooper Menin
- Song Minor
- Delaney Ochsner
- Alea Pella
- Nitya Reddymasu
- Cooper Richard
- Coen Slagenhauff
- A’Zhauna Smith
- Joey Sutton
- Evie Swanson
- Pyper Swigart
- Margaret White
- Quinn Whittinghill
- Payten Wright
- Izzy Wynn

Congrats to our Cobras to COUNT on!

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).
HELP KEEP YOUR CHILD HEALTHY AND FLU-FREE

With flu season upon us, it is important that we work together to keep our children healthy. Viruses spread easily among children in schools, and families with school-age children have more infections than others, with an average of one-third of these family members infected each year. By keeping our children flu-free, we benefit the community as a whole. You can help prevent the spread of flu or help your child get better if he/she does get sick by following a few simple steps:

• If possible, you and your child should get a flu shot.
• Remind your child to cover his/her nose and mouth with a tissue when sneezing or coughing and dispose of the tissue immediately.
• Have your child wash his/her hands frequently with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
• If your child is sick and has a fever above 100.00, keep him/her at home to prevent the spread of illness to others for at least 24 hours after they are fever free. If you are concerned about your child's flu symptoms, call your doctor early. Call your doctor immediately if your child has a chronic disease. Common symptoms of flu include high fever, severe headache, muscle and body aches, exhaustion, and dry cough. Additionally, children often exhibit other flu symptoms that are rare in adults, such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Some children might benefit from an antiviral medication, which can be prescribed by a physician and can help lessen duration of the virus and reduce the risk of complications, such as pneumonia. To be effective, antiviral medication should be taken within 12-48 hours after flu symptoms begin.
• Disinfect frequently-touched surfaces and shared items at least once a day.
• Ensure that bathrooms are stocked with soap, hand towels and tissues.
• Teach your child not to touch his/her mouth, nose and eyes.

If you have any questions or would like additional information about preventing and treating the flu, please contact the school nurse, Stacey Brown RN, BSN at Columbian Elementary, 402-697-1433.

NOTE FROM MS. SCHOENING

I could tell that you appreciated the children’s performances at the program, by your applause. Now it’s my turn to show my appreciation. Thank you so much to:

• the parents and friends that purchased raffle tickets for the front row VIP seats! The money raised last year went to purchase music for this year’s program.
• the audience members that visited the concession stand at the 2 programs. The 6th grade students were very excited to be involved in this event.
• the PTO for the beautiful flowers at the end of the program. They are sitting in a prominent place in my home.
• and last but not least, to the 5th & 6th grade students for their leadership as we send them off to Middle School.

Between the raffle tickets and the concession stand at the program we raised over $200 for the Columbian Music Department.

I appreciate everyone’s support in this venture each year.

Ms. Linda Schoening