



# Cougar News

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Greetings Columbus School Families:

We started the school year with a new look – freshly painted hallways and extraordinary energy! Now, we are jumping into the winter season having already accomplished so much. Yet, we still have plenty ahead to make a success, together! In this quarter's newsletter you'll have the opportunity to see our schools motto: "Cultivating a diverse community of creative, critical thinkers." come alive on every page. Together we'll do extraordinary things this year, as we've done in the past! But for now, at this moment, take a few minutes to enjoy what we've made a reality for students so far. This is part of our story.

In collaboration,

Mr. Stephen V. Peters, Principal

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## IMPORTANT DATES

- Dec. 5th– Life Touch Picture Retakes
- Dec. 7th– National Elementary Honor Society Induction
- Dec. 8th– PTO Holiday BINGO
- Dec. 12- Barnes and Noble Book Fair at Menlo Park Mall
- Dec. 15-21– Holiday Sale
- Dec. 22– Abbreviated Session
- Dec 25– Jan. 1st– School Closed for Winter Recess



## PUMPKIN PATCH FUN!

On October 18, 2017 the Columbus School PTO sponsored a Pumpkin Patch for our students! The children had an opportunity to visit the petting zoo and interact with baby chicks, rabbits, a pony, a baby calf and goats. Each student was able to choose their own pumpkin and hunt for surprises at the “Haystack Treasure!” They listened to an Autumn themed story and received a snack and a juice. It was a great day!



# THINK TANK!

Welcome to the Columbus School T.H.I.N.K. Tank! Students are linking their classroom experiences with hands-on stem centers. Here learners are beginning to form connections of what they are learning while improving their critical thinking, communication, and collaborative skills in stem related centers. Creativity is also being enhanced in the design and engineering centers as learners build and design with legos and fashion mannequins. Students are making connections of series and parallel circuits while working together in the snap circuit center. Stay tuned, as our fifth graders will be starting to work on coding with robots in the next few weeks!



An Ozobot is a miniature robot, the smallest of its kind. They have 5 openings on the bottom where light shines out. In each of these openings there is an optical sensor that detects the brightness of the paper underneath the Ozobot. This helps the Ozobot figure out where the white is on the paper as opposed to the black lines on the paper. The middle sensor is a color one that can detect red, green and blue. It is through these color combinations that Ozobot gets its coded commands.



Grade 5 students are learning the basics of coding using Ozobots. After calibrating the robot, students are giving it commands through a series of color codes. They are learning that certain colors put together create different coded commands for Ozobot to carry out.



## BIZTOWN PRODUCT CREATORS

Students in Ms. Kaur's class are participating in a lesson on the Free Enterprise System for our new Junior Achievement Biztown program. In this activity, students were broken into small groups. They had to decide on a product to make and create a catchy name for it. They then had 2 minutes to create a prototype. Students were then given specific resources to create as many of their products as they can in only 10 minutes. They learned what it meant to be a producer, how to delegate responsibilities and to create the product efficiently.

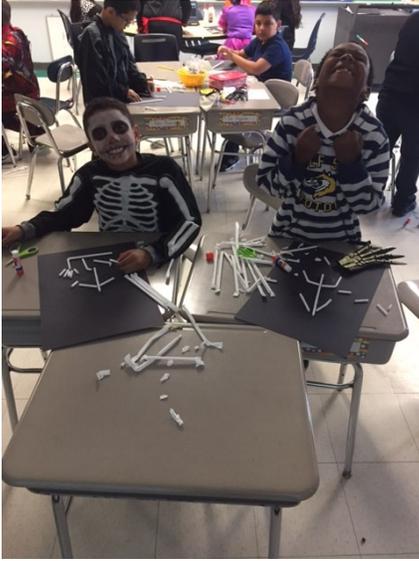


## COMMUNITY COUNTS!

In Mrs. Ali's special education classroom, the students are learning about businesses and landmarks in the community. They have visited the post office, library, and also the RWJ Fitness center for a tour and a short class. They also created a "Carteret Business Directory" poster in which they sorted environmental logos into categories such as: retail, banking, convenience, fuel, automotive, dining, hotel, kids and family, and medical. Currently they are working on a "Categorizing Shoprite" unit in which they practice sorting and recognizing food items into aisles and departments. In December, they will visit Shoprite to purchase items on their grocery list using the skills they have practiced.



## Spooktacular Halloween Fun!



Mrs. Bubbico and Ms. Chavers' class had a spooktacular Halloween this year. The students transformed into Spider-Man, a skeleton, Iron Man and so much more! Throughout the day, the students participated in Halloween/fall activities. The students created their own skeleton out of straws, danced to the Monster Mash and marched in the school parade.



## HISPANIC HERITAGE CELEBRATION!

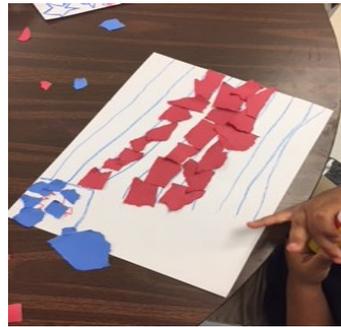


On October 12th, the fifth graders took a trip to Carteret City Hall for the raising of the Spanish flag to commemorate Hispanic Heritage month. The students created flags of the Spanish speaking countries, read poems and performed Fiesta en America to conclude the event. Mayor Reiman greeted the students and provided them with snacks. The students had a great time!!!!



## VETERAN'S DAY ARTWORK

During art class, kindergarten and first grade students created artwork to commemorate Veteran's Day. Kindergarteners and first graders worked on drawing lines and shapes to draw our flag. Kindergarteners created patriotic ripped paper collages, while first graders used crayon resist as a water color technique to complete their artwork. Artwork was brought to different Veteran groups as a way to thank our Veterans.



## PARTY IN PINK ZUMBATHON!

On Friday, October 27, 2017 Columbus School hosted a "Party In Pink" Zumbathon to help raise money towards the Susan G. Komen Foundation for Breast Cancer Awareness! This was our first annual event, and it was a huge success! A Party in Pink™ is a global movement dedicated to raising funds for the fight against breast cancer. Through our school's first Zumbathon™ charity event, we were able to celebrate and honor our friends and family navigating breast cancer, one shuffle at a time. Parents, students, and staff members all came together to dance for this fantastic cause. With the amount of tickets sold, and donations received, we were able to raise \$885.50 in total! It was truly an amazing evening shared by all, and a fantastic way to share the power of giving with our students. We look forward to hosting it again next year!



# COLUMBUS SCHOOL HAS TALENT!

Once again, our annual Talent Show was a huge success, from the students dedication, all the teachers helping with practices and the night of the show, and our dependable judges. The students showed up wearing amazing outfits and ready to perform. Congratulations goes out to all the performers. The talents of singers, dancers, comedians, and karate filled the night with laughter and many oohs & aahs.



The show was broken up into two parts, a Junior Show featuring students from kindergarten to second grade and the Senior Show which featured students from third grade to fifth.



Our winners of the Junior Show were:

1st place: Matthew Bennett

2nd place: Thiago Perez

3rd place: Allenyse Caba

4th place tie: Hassan Quddus & Yaris Cano



Our winners of the Senior Show were:

1st place: Mackenzie Castor

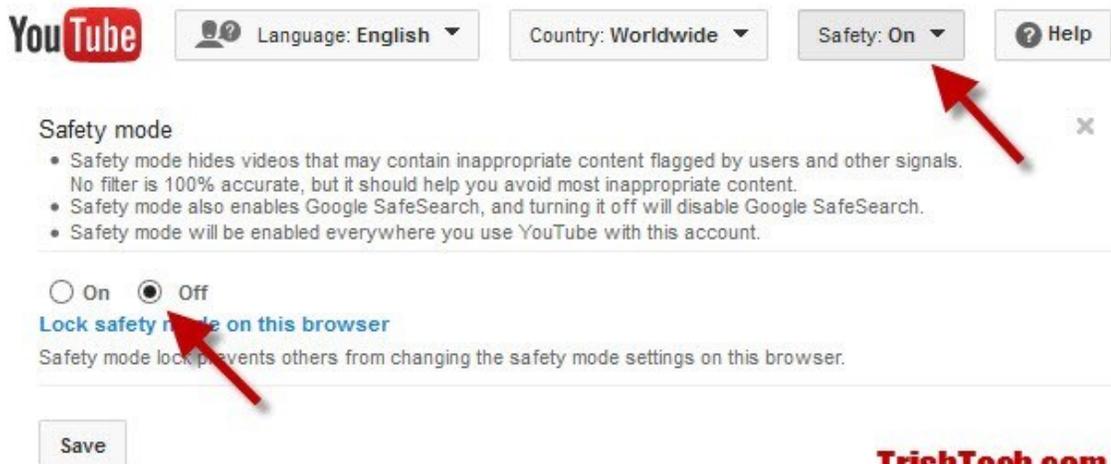
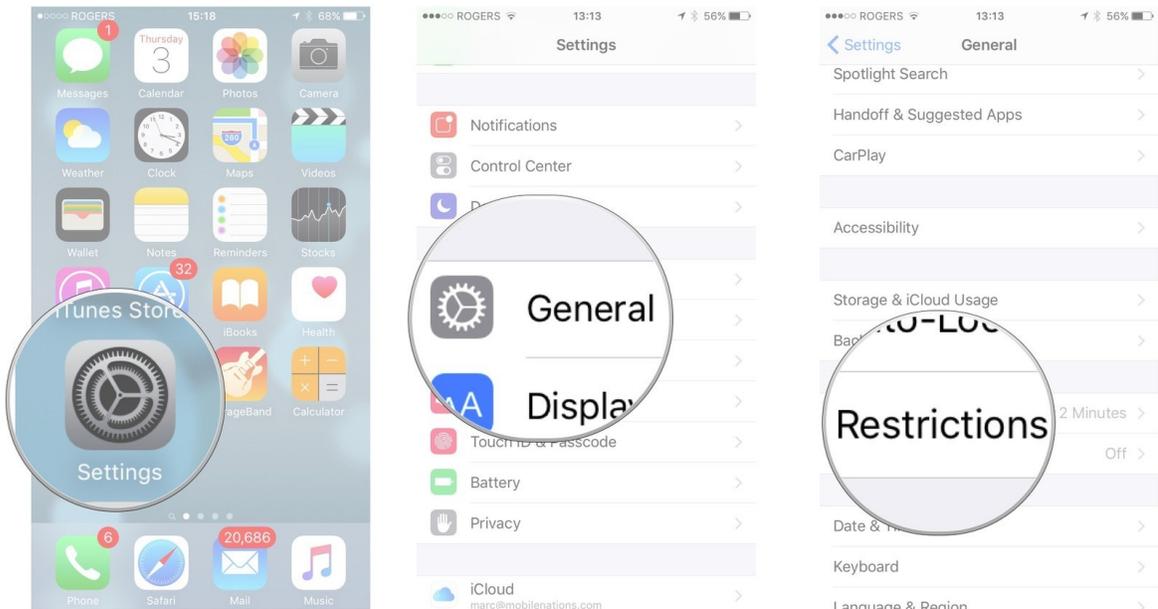
2nd place tie: Eric Thompson & Jahaysia Ledesma

3rd place tie: Duaa Sheikh, Cherish Pope-Williams & Ivanni Villegas

4th place tie: Daniela Portillo, Isaiah Santana, & Valentina Lemos-Espinosa

# COUNSELOR'S CORNER

As we approach the holidays and school breaks, students may be spending more time online. We have been working hard at Columbus on teaching our students ways to make positive choices on social media and how to stay safe online. As parents, it can be difficult to stay on top of you child's online activity. Here are a couple ways to restrict your child's online access on an iPhone or Youtube. For more helpful tips on internet safety settings, visit [www.ProtectYoungEyes.com](http://www.ProtectYoungEyes.com).



## Columbus School PTO News

# Holiday Shopping Bazaar At Columbus School

The PTO is sponsoring our annual holiday gift shop from  
December 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>.

If you would like to help support the PTO and allow your child to do some shopping, please fill in the form that will be sent home and return it to your child's teacher.

**Some items for sale include:** Costume jewelry, pens, toy cars, make up, wallets and key chains. **All items are between \$2.00 and \$10.00**

## The P.T.O Polar Express Pajama Day



Support the Columbus School P.T.O by wearing your favorite holiday pajamas to school on **Friday, December 22nd**. Please make sure your pajamas are school appropriate. No slippers are permitted. If you would like to participate, please fill out the form that was sent out and return the form along with your payment to Mrs. Irving. The cost for Pajama Day will be \$1.00 without a bell and \$2.00 with a bell.