



Cougar News

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Columbus School!

We are extremely excited about our future here at Columbus School and looking forward to the great work we'll accomplish during the 2016-17 school year together!

In many ways, for our 700 plus students, the elementary school years are about discovery, learning to take positive risks and developing a strong sense of self-confidence. As Columbus School's principal I am looking forward to a dynamic and instruction-focused school year which enables our students to develop these habits of mind!

We are in the midst of a great school year and we'll continue to offer numerous activities and learning opportunities inside and outside of the classroom. As we have done in previous years, we'll continue to build upon the trusting and caring relationships which already exist between teachers and students.

In collaboration,

Mr. Stephen V. Peters, Principal

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IMPORTANT DATES

- Dec. 2nd– PTO Pocketbook Bingo
- Dec. 9th– Life Touch Fall Absentee
- Dec. 15th– PTO Meeting 6:00 PM
- Dec. 19-23 Holiday Sale
- Dec. 23– Abbreviated Session/The PTO sponsored Pajama Day!
- Dec 26– Jan. 2nd– School Closed for Winter Recess
- Jan. 3rd– Welcome Back! Full Day of School!
- MLK Day! No School!
- Jan. 19th– PTO Meeting 6:00PM



PUMPKIN PATCH FUN!

On October 24, 2016 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 baby calf and goats. Also, each student was able to choose their own pumpkin and hunt for surprises in a “Haystack Treasure!” Some parents were generous enough to volunteer to read a story to each class before leaving with a snack.



VETERAN'S DAY ASSEMBLY

Sergeant Jorge Vargas and Sergeant Hilton George of the US ARMY visited Columbus School on November 4, 2016 to talk to the students about Veteran's Day. An assembly program was held where Sergeant Vargas and Sergeant George discussed the significance of Veteran's Day and gave an overview of the US ARMY. Students thanked our guest veterans and asked many riveting questions.



BRICKS FOR KIDS

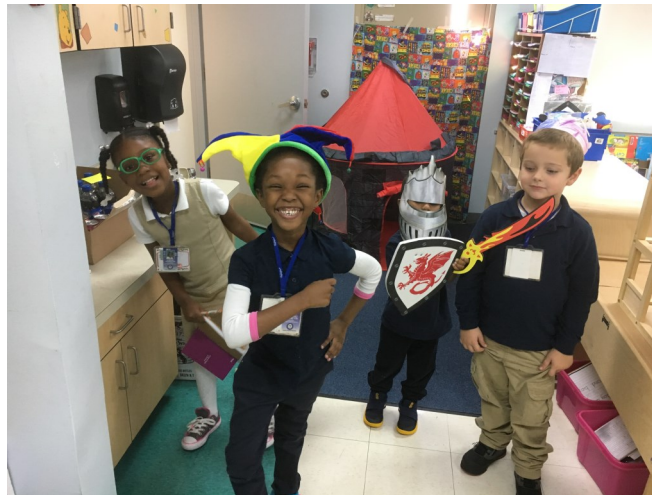
On November 23rd, Bricks for Kids came to Columbus School for an hour workshop with the special education classes. The kids had a great time in various stations enjoyable for all grade levels. In the craft center, the students made a "spin art" turkey. The "feathers" for the turkey came from a "paper crinkler" model figure that was built in a different center. In the next center, students used their imagination and creativity to build objects using Legos. In the last center, the students created a pig from Minecraft and an Angry Bird.





TOOLS OF THE MIND

Mrs. Irving's and Mrs. Greco's Kindergarten class, are piloting a new program called Tools Of The Mind. This program is based around the Magic Tree House series. Every three weeks the children are introduced to a new era and are engaged in the experiences, vocabulary, play planning and role playing of the book. They absolutely love writing their play plans of the day and then using props and costumes to act out the chapters as they unfold.



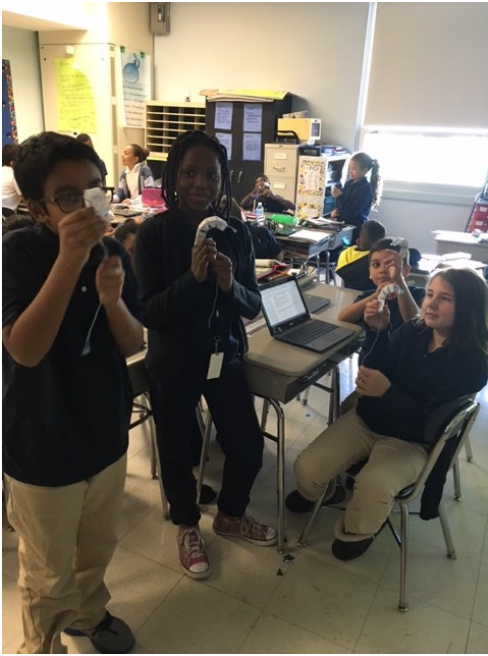
COLUMBUS SCHOOL TALENT SHOW!



Our Annual Talent Show was hosted on November 18th this year, with over 30 students participating in the show. We had a Senior Show and Junior Show. In the Senior show our 1st place went to 5th grader Connor Johnson in Mr. Garcia's class. 2nd place went to Arshia Kasera from Mrs. Rodriguez's and Mrs. Harvey's 5th grade class. 3rd place went to Gissely Munoz from Ms. McDonald's 5th grade class. In our Junior Show, we had Keyaan Haider from Mrs. Profita's 2nd grade class take 1st place. Hassan Quddus in Mrs. Masterson's 1st grade class came in 2nd place. Finally, in 3rd place we had a tie between Evangely Rios from Mrs. Schwartz's & Mrs. Bento's 2nd grade class and Ariana Cruz in Mrs. Nagy's Kindergarten class. As always, we couldn't do the show without the dedication of Mrs. Irving, our annual announcer Mr. Pagan and our curtain person, Ms. Weinberg. All of our students did an amazing job!

Mystery Science Robot Finger!

After learning about vertebrates and invertebrates in science, Mrs. Bergbauer's 4th grade class investigated how their vertebrate bodies move; specifically how muscles control bones. After learning about how their own fingers work, students worked cooperatively in groups to create their own perfectly movable robot finger.



HISPANIC HERITAGE CELEBRATION!

On October 12th, our fifth grade students visited Town Hall! The trip was to commemorate Hispanic Heritage Month. On that day our mayor, Mr. Daniel J. Reiman, raised the Spanish flag. The students created flags of the Spanish speaking countries, read poems, and sang the song: "Fiesta en America." Mr. Reiman, also provided juice and snacks for the students.



COLUMBUS SCHOOL PTO

The Columbus School Parent Teacher Organization is dedicated to facilitating the active and informed involvement of all parents/families to achieve the educational success and well-being of children.

On October 20th, at the PTO general meeting, our newly elected officers were installed. We want to take this time to congratulate the new officers of the Columbus School PTO for the 2016 -17 school year:

Ms. Lisa Saint Juste - President

Mrs. Frankie Bell - Vice President

Mrs. Taqualla Lowman - Treasurer

Ms. Marjorie Momperousse- Secretary

We really appreciate all those who participated in the voting process. And we especially want to thank those who ran for office. Not only does it take a lot of courage, but it also communicates your commitment to partner with us to provide great opportunities for students.

Please make every effort to attend our next general meeting and become members of the PTO. Let's join together, to provide students with diverse, innovative and enriching learning opportunities both inside and outside of the classroom!