



March 2018

Columbia Splash



From the Principal

Hello Columbia Families,

There have been so many great things happening at Columbia this year! One celebration is how we have developed our Columbia Learner Outcomes based on our Bellingham Promise and are inquiring into how to make these outcomes more alive in our school. The staff has been researching and developing a collective understanding of Deeper Learning and how it connects to our outcomes and to the promise. We are finding different approaches such as experiential learning, problem-based learning, and placed-based learning that can lead to Deeper Learning experiences in our classrooms and school. With all of these approaches, inquiry is fundamental to learning. We are now involved in researching International Baccalaureate (IB) and more specifically the Primary Years Program (PYP). Our next step is to visit schools with the PYP and bring all staff and some parents along for the learning. If you are interested in joining this learning journey with us, please email me or call the school and ask that your name be put on the list. The number of people able to go will be dependent on what the visiting school can accommodate.

Columbia is a fantastic school filled with great learning experiences for our students. The staff here is amazing and our learning journey together continues to help us grow and learn. Thank you all for your support by sending your child to school every day. They are truly loved!

~Aaron Darragh



Fourth-grade classes have been studying the relationship between humans and the environment and recently had the opportunity to work with Habitat for Humanity on a stream mitigation project. Habitat for Humanity is building their largest and most impactful project to date, a 24-townhome complex on Telegraph Road. The property borders the North Fork of Baker Creek which is a tributary to Squalicum creek and home to Coho salmon and bull trout, among many other animals. Our students went out to the project site to help plant, mulch, remove invasive vegetation, and plant native trees & shrubs. Not only did students work hard and have a great time, they learned hands-on about how stream mitigation helps the environment. It was a perfect connection to their studies in the classroom.



Sunday, March 11th, set your clocks forward 1 hour!



Family Dance & Auction
March 23rd
6:00-8:00 PM

SAFETY

Bellingham Public Schools has a safety reporting system at bellingshamschools.org/safe. Students, families, and staff can report safety concerns via this website, as well as text or phone:

844-310-9560; and email: 1491@alert1.us. The system allows us to have anonymous, two-way communication when needed, and can be used for providing information on any unsafe situations, behaviors, or threats.

Columbia Student Outcomes:



- Learners who possess strong character - *Character*
- Learners who seek to understand self and others - *Perspective/Equity*
- Learners who are prepared to positively impact their local and global communities - *Action/Impact*
- Learners who develop a compelling passion for learning and knowledge now and forever - *Passion/Knowledge*
- Learners who pursue all options for a healthy, fulfilling, and productive life - *Balance*

Thank you to our CPA for the learning focus on diversity and equity for Columbia and the Bellingham community. We appreciate all that you do for us!



Cooking & Gardening with Common Threads

This month, we will complete our Garden Stir Fry lesson and move back into gardening! If you're interested in getting involved with garden lessons please contact: clara@commonthreadsfarm.org. If your student enjoys gardening and cooking, check out Common Threads Spring and Summer break camps! Need-based scholarships are available! Visit <https://commonthreadsfarm.org> for more info!

The Global Refugee Crisis

Room 12's 5th graders have been learning about The Global Refugee Crisis. To help refugees in our community, we will have a personal hygiene drive at Columbia March 26th-30th. We will be sending a flyer home soon with more information.



Thank you, Columbia, for participating in another great food drive! We were able to collect 1,330 pounds of food to donate to Bellingham's Food Bank! Great job, Columbia!

Kindergarten Registration for Fall 2018 is Now Open

Registration for kindergarten begins March 1st. Please register as soon as possible. We offer a full-time kindergarten program at no cost to district families. Students attend kindergarten on the regular elementary school schedule. Children must be 5 years old before Sept. 1st to attend kindergarten. Columbia's kindergarten open house is scheduled for Thursday, May 17th.

To find out more about registration and required immunizations, please visit bellingshamschools.org/kindergarten

