

## Columbus Education Endowment

The Columbus Education Endowment is a non-profit organization that supports the Columbus School District. Only the interest is used to fund the grants. Four teachers received grants for the 2016-2017 School Year. The money for the grants funded four different learning opportunities within the District. The teachers that received funding this year have written a brief description of what their grant money was used for.

The Columbus Education Endowment is seeking volunteers to serve on their Board. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Superintendent Annette Deuman at 920.623.5950.

To donate online to the Columbus Education Endowment, go to [www.columbus.k12.wi.us/](http://www.columbus.k12.wi.us/) then District page.



## Technology for Eighth Grade

By Becky Premo, Social Studies Teacher

Thanks to the Educational Endowment Grant, 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies students can visit the world and never leave the room. The grant allowed us to purchase 6 tablets as well as virtual reality goggles. As the technology continues to develop we hope to increase the number of places we can visit and learn about through this innovative technology. Special thanks to the technology department for their continued support and encouragement that allows us to experiment with new technology to engage and educate our students.



## Math Manipulatives & Games

By Holly Knudtson, Math Teacher

The grant that I received from the Columbus Education Endowment, has funded sixth, seventh and eighth grade classes with the needed math manipulatives and games that we were lacking in our classrooms. The grant also allowed for us to replenish old and broken manipulatives. Students have been able to learn how to do linear equations while using math tiles, order of operations while playing a game, will soon be able to explore harder equations using games in the math classroom and so many more opportunities that is making math hands on. The math classroom has turned into inquiry based learning and the math manipulatives and games have helped in this process.

## Classroom Library of Books

By Toni McGee, High School English Teacher

The Columbus Education Endowment grant allowed me to set up a classroom library of books. As I've transitioned into the high school classroom, it was important to have a set of books that were new, exciting, relevant, and enjoyable for all of my high school students. I've been collecting these books and shelving them as I get them.

The students are engaged and enjoy perusing our bookshelves. After conferencing with students, I'm given recommendations of titles to add to my list. Students are the best advocates for a good read!



## French Voyager Re-enactors

By Jayne Schuett, Grade 4 Teacher

On September 15th, a bit Wisconsin's past dominated the front lawn of CMS. French Voyager re-enactors Jean Paul and Jacques of the organization Fox of the River spent time with students of all grade levels outside. They taught about the fur trade in Wisconsin and the French Voyageurs as "truck drivers" of the past, bringing trade goods, including furs, to the rendezvous points along the waterways for trade.

Students had the opportunity to hold some of the animal pelts, hear stories of voyageur life, and listen to storytelling and the native flute. After school, Jean Paul and Jacques met families at the river and offered rides in their 28-foot replica Voyageur canoe. This living history experience was one many won't soon forget, as this hands-on lesson brought history to the students. To learn more about our visitors, visit their website at

<http://foxoftheriver.weebly.com>

Thanks to the generosity of the Columbus School District Endowment who brought us this rich learning experience through a grant. Viva la Compagnie!



## What's New at Columbus Elementary/Discovery Charter Schools

### CES/DCS Kindergarten Info Nights

On January 12th the Columbus Elementary School and Discovery Charter School hosted a kindergarten info night. A presentation was given by Principal Beth Hellpap regarding the similarities and differences between the two schools. After the presentation the children and families were given the opportunity to see the kindergarten classrooms and meet the teachers. There will be another kindergarten info night on Wednesday January 25th at 5:30 PM. If you have questions please contact the Elementary School at 623-5950.

### Learning the Importance of Energy Conservation

Through the financial support of Columbus Water and Light, the elementary students will have the opportunity to see the National Children's Theater present a play promoting energy efficiency. Later in the month of January, the performers will come to the Columbus Elementary School Gym and give a 30 minute, highly enthusiastic performance about the importance of saving energy. This performance will teach strategies as simple as turning off lights to as complex as sustainable energy systems. Thank you to the Columbus Water and Light for this opportunity.

The **calendars** for the next two school years were approved by the School Board on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. You can find the calendars at [www.columbus.k12.wi.us](http://www.columbus.k12.wi.us). District page.

## 4K Parent Orientation Night Tuesday, February 28

Columbus School District is pleased to offer 4-year-old Kindergarten to children who will be four by 9/1/17. Columbus offers a community-based 4K program with options available at several community sites.

In order to provide more information about 4K and options available at each site, an overview of Columbus 4K will begin promptly at 5:30 on Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> in the Columbus Elementary School gym.

Immediately following the orientation, from 6:00 – 7:30 PM, each site has scheduled an Open House to allow parents to learn more about their 4K program.

Parents with children living outside the Columbus School District that are interested in sending their child to Columbus can apply for open enrollment. Visit the District website at [www.columbus.k12.wi.us](http://www.columbus.k12.wi.us) for information on open enrollment dates and how to apply online.

If you have any questions, please call Karin Westlake at Columbus Elementary School at 623-5950.

## Seussical the Musical

The Columbus High School's music department is hard at work preparing for their yearly musical. They have been reviewing lines and working on the songs since before winter break.



This year they will be performing *Seussical the Musical*, a musical based on a number of Dr. Seuss books that is fun for people of all ages. It originally debuted on Broadway in 2000 and will include over 25 CHS students in various roles, including the pit band.

The performances at Columbus High School will be March 17-19. Tickets will be available for purchase as the dates approach.

January, 2017

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## Launching a New Legacy Update

The School Board wanted to provide an update to the community from the conversations and work completed during the Launching a New Legacy event in October 2016. The three-day conversation identified a list of twenty-four priorities, of which six received highest priority voting from the group of over one hundred community members. The School Board during a retreat in December interpreted the top six priorities for further action planning by the administration. The administrative team has been completing three-year action plans for the six priorities over the past month and will present these plans to the Board at the regular School Board meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. In addition, the administration has been working to show how the School Board's Ends of Mission, Academic Achievement, and Citizenship, along with identified District commitments and the Launch Priorities come together as the united focus for student success. The meeting will be held at 7:00 pm at City Hall.

After presentation to the School Board, the Board and Superintendent, Annette Deuman, will then present the priorities and action plans to various groups, clubs and organizations as linkage presentations during the months of February and March. In addition, the District will share the priority action plans in electronic flyer format to the participants of the October event and all community members. The action plan will be available in paper format if requested.



### Update on School Calendar / Make-Up Days

Due to January 3 and January 17 being canceled for both staff and students, staff in-service in February will switch to Monday, February 20. The first cancellation day was built into the calendar for students, but since there were two, February 21 will be a normal school day for students and staff.

Staff will make-up the 2<sup>nd</sup> day missed on Friday, March 10. Students have Friday, March 10 as a recess day; this means, students will not have school on that day. If there are any future cancellations this winter, the next make-up day for both staff and students will be June 2.

### Message from Superintendent

I was told earlier this year that the Farmer's Almanac called for a massive amount of snow this winter. I was worried that we would have many delayed starts or cancelled days due to massive snow storms. Instead, we are experiencing, thus far, one of the strangest winters I can recall in my lifetime in Wisconsin. Many may wonder what goes into determining delaying or cancelling a school day? Well, let me tell you...

The decision begins as early as 4:15 am, if not the evening before. I speak with a Riteway representative, who has already spoken to County Highway reps and city police and sheriff departments to hear reports on road conditions for our bus routes. I then conference with three separate area networks of superintendent groups, representing areas northeast, south and northwest of Columbus. A return call is made to Riteway and then I make the final decision. Please call with any questions regarding the process to determine school delays or closings. I would be happy to discuss the process with you. Safe winter travels! Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow.

ANNETTE DEUMAN



## Upcoming Events

### January, 2017

- 23 School Board Meeting – City Hall – 7 PM
- 25 School Board Retreat – Superintendent's Office – 6:30 PM
- 25 Kindergarten Information Night, 5:30 PM at CES/DCS

### February, 2017

- 1 Late Start – Classes begin at 10 AM
- 6 Parent Conferences K-8 11 AM – 7 PM
- 6 **Open Enrollment** period begins.
- 13 School Board Meeting – City Hall – 7 PM
- 15 Late Start – Classes begin at 10 AM
- 20 In-Service Day for Staff only; No School for Students
- 21 Normal School Day for Staff & Students
- 22 High School Parent Conferences – 5 – 8 PM
- 27 School Board Meeting – City Hall – 7 PM
- 28 4K Parent Orientation Night & Registration – 5:30 PM at CES

*Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow*



### Mission

Columbus School District empowers students to be community, career, and college ready.

