



Columbus Public Schools Alumni News



Winter 2013

CPS Foundation needs artwork

The Columbus Public Schools Foundation is looking for art. “Discover the Potential: A CPS Foundation Art Extravaganza” will take place on September 28, 2013 at the Elk’s Country Club in Columbus and will include a live artwork auction from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

The funds raised will go to support the CPS Foundation’s mission to enhance student learning and provide financial support for innovative programs that are not covered by the school district’s funding sources due to funding shortfalls or regulatory constraints.

The festival is limited to the first 50 artists, so don’t miss out

on this unique opportunity to help support your alma mater!

All artwork must be original, handcrafted and created by the approved artist. No kits, imports or mass produced items will be accepted. Collector’s prints (reproductions) will be accepted and should be labeled accordingly.

Artist information and photos of artwork contributions will be featured at the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours on August 19, as well as in the event program and reception display.

Registration deadline is March 31, 2013.

See Page 2

CPS Strategic Planning

Dr. Troy Loeffelholz
CPS Superintendent

Strategic Planning is a community-based effort to assist Columbus Public Schools in determining the direction of the school district for the next 15 years. The question is, “What do we want CPS to look like for future generations of students?” Columbus Public Schools is just beginning their strategic planning process, which will involve students, parents, community leaders, board of education, administration, teachers, and classified staff.

We are anticipating this process to take at least six months as we move forward from our December Board of Education meeting where we identified 14 priorities for Columbus Public Schools.

1. Early childhood/preschool in all elementary schools
2. College and career readiness/ career awareness – K-12 plan for career readiness
3. Engagement of all patrons in the process particular in the Latino community
4. Parental support

5. Facilities – potential outcomes for failed bond issue – aging middle school
6. Student success – what measures student success (graduation rate, testing etc) – making decisions on several pieces of data to get the whole picture
7. Technology – 1 to 1
8. Staff support – training, staff development
9. Response to Intervention
10. Cost efficiency (financial stability)
11. Staff climate – ability to recruit and retain the best staff
12. Collaboration among school districts
13. Collaboration with other services agency – learning communities (sharing resources)
14. Keeping kids involved in school and community activities

Following the discussion of these priorities the group, which included the board, administration, and community members who were present, identified three themes that encompass the fourteen

priorities. These three themes for further discussion are:

1. Culture/engagement/collaboration (fits several of priorities)
2. Infrastructure (fit technology and facilities)
3. Student learning/success (preschool, college and career readiness)

We strongly encourage the alumni of Columbus Public Schools to be a part of this process. We will be inviting several community members to be a part of three or four sub-committees of the board to develop action plans and goals based upon those three themes. Because of our Middle School Facility issues, we will focus on both technology and facilities infrastructure in the beginning. But all three or four committees are of equal importance as they set forth the map for improvements at CPS.

We will continue to provide you with updates regarding this project. If you have any questions regarding the project please don’t hesitate to call or email me at 402-563-7000 or troy.loeffelholz@cps-ne.org.

Teachers receive classroom grants

Jessica Kuehler

CPS Foundation Executive Director

The CPS Foundation issued grants for the 2012-13 school year. Funding was provided in part by the **Class of 1987**.

Summer Backpack Reading Program

The Summer Backpack Reading Program, submitted by Melissa Jelinek, ELL Coordinator at West Park, strives to minimize loss of reading skills over the summer break by providing each ELL (English Language Learner) student in grades K-4 with a backpack containing eight to ten books at their reading level. Research shows that students need to read a minimum of eight books in the summer, written at their reading level, to maintain that reading level. The Summer Backpack Reading Program provides students with books on their level, and the participants are taught how to do specific activities, which will get the most out of their summer reading.



iCan – iPads for Special Education

The high needs special education classroom consists of varying aged students with varying abilities and needs. Because the students are unique individuals, a regular classroom setting and curriculum are not used. iPads are used on a daily basis in many different aspects – students, who have never reacted to a book before, sit quietly listening and watching a book on the iPad; students get first hand experience with cause and effect applications like ripping water,



swimming fish, and fireworks; students who are learning to read sight words practice their skills on the sight words flash card application. The project brings the outside world into the hands of students with this special learning tool. The project was submitted by Tonja Lusche, CMS High Needs Special Education.

CMS Ecology Day

The culmination of the life science ecology unit includes an exotic animal encounter, in which approximately 30 vertebrate animals are brought to Columbus Middle School from Magical Paradise Farms from Central City, Nebraska. Animal handlers have access to the unit vocabulary prior to the presentation and are able to tailor the presentation specifically to the instructional goals and the needs of the students. Students are able to handle the animal of his/her choice. Students are able to apply their vocabulary knowledge through an engaging, visual, and tactile encounter. CMS science teacher Susan Bopp-Esch was the project chair.



Preschool Handwriting

Handwriting instruction is a critical component of a child's early development, and students who struggle with their

handwriting face numerous challenges as they progress through the education system. The Handwriting Without Tears curriculum is a developmentally appropriate preschool handwriting curriculum that uses a multisensory approach to address different learning styles and promote active participation. The program focuses on students' ability to successfully use shapes to write all 26 capital letters. The project chairperson was Preschool Teacher Lindsay Early.



X-tra Normal Movie Project

Students produce an animated video about a significant event or person from the American Revolution using the website X-tra Normal. This website offers students the opportunity to record their own dialogue and narration, choose background settings, and control the appearance, sound, and movements of their movie characters. The project offers students the opportunity to learn about America's past through creativity and upper level thinking skills. CMS Social Studies teacher Danielle Reinhardt wrote the grant.



Artwork

From Front Page

Registration forms are available at www.foundationforcps.org. Send completed forms to Jessica Kuehler, Columbus Public Schools Foundation, P.O. Box 947, Columbus, NE 68602-0947. For more information, contact Jessica by phone at 402-563-7000 Ext. 1103 or by email at Jessica.Kuehler@cps-ne.org.

Ticket information will be available at a later date.



Come Home to Columbus!

Great Jobs
Great Pay
Affordable Housing
Family-Friendly
Excellent Schools

We've got it all for YOU, here in Columbus!

www.workincolumbus.com
www.thecolumbuspage.com





Meet the Masons

Steve Mason

Graduating Year: 1973

Favorite class and/or teacher? Chris Dixon/Chemistry

CPS teacher that influenced you the most? Bart

Bartholomew- convinced me that I didn't want to smoke.

Most memorable high school experience? Spanish Class trip to Monterrey, MX during sophomore year.

What would you change if you had high school to do all over again? Meet more of folks in my class.

Where do you live? Columbus, NE have lived in Corpus Christi, TX, Boone, NC & West Lafayette, IN.

What are you doing now? Regional Sales manager for company that manufactures electronic components. Covers Midwest part of country.

Sue Mason Greenwald

Graduating Year: 1975

Favorite class and/or teacher? All the outstanding math and science teachers at CHS. Mr. Callan, Mr. Dixon and Mr. Nitsch stand out.

CPS teacher that influenced you the most? Mr. Dixon who taught me critical thinking and how to use a sliderule.

Most memorable high school experience? There were so many memorable experiences: participating in theatre, performing with the band, bus rides with pep club, cinnamon rolls on Thursday nights in the commons, driving around with friends and singing to the radio (in harmony) with no particular place to go.

What would you change if you had high school to do all over again? Cultivate more friends outside of my clique.

Where do you live? Kearney NE

What are you doing now? Pediatrician

Scott Mason

Graduating Year: 1977

Favorite class and/or teacher? Mr. Young (physiology), Mr. Dixon (chemistry)

CPS teacher that influenced you the most? Mr. Dixon. I learned much and he stretched me. His class influenced my degree and career.

Most memorable high school experience? Playing football.



ALL CHS GRADS - The Mason family from left: Sheri Robertson, Sandi Burgess, Scott, Sue Greenwald and Steve.

Very hard work, lots of fun. Taught me about goal setting and teamwork.

What would you change if you had high school to do all over again? Ask more girls out. Study harder.

Where do you live? Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

What are you doing now? I have worked 30 years for some version of what is now called Phillips 66. Currently working on new biofuels and improving current fuels. I have been a plant engineer, done chemicals and plastics sales, have been a commodity trader, project manager, business manager, and procurement manager. The varied roles in various industries keeps me learning and the job interesting.

See Mason on page 5

Let us fix your tax problems

Don't get burned by a big national IRS representation firm. Contact someone with strong Nebraska values.



- End wage garnishments
- Stop property seizure
- Reduce what you owe
- Remove penalties

Call Cruise & Associates today for a free consultation!

402-564-5827 or 800-401-4284

www.cruise-associates.com

President Robert Cruise, CHS Class of 1986



April release date

Alumni Directory delayed

The publication of the Columbus High School Alumni Directory has been rescheduled for April 2013. Due to the high participation rate, it has taken longer than expected to complete the project. The finished master copy was sent to the printers at the end of January. The printing and binding process is currently taking approximately 10-12 weeks. When completed, directories will be shipped via the U.S. Postal Service directly to you from the printer.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact Alumni Research directly at (855) 277-5546. The Alumni Research staff regrets the delay and thank you for your patience. If you experience any problems with Alumni Research, please contact Columbus Public Schools Alumni Association Executive Director Michelle at 402-563-7000 Ext. 1102.

What's happening

Lori Labens French '84 – is an assistant clinic tech at an eye clinic.

Jennifer Zoucha Hill '93 – Moved to Omaha in December. Three children: Madison (10), Evan (7) and Cooper (2). OB/GYN physician at Omaha OB/GYN Associates.

Braden Cielocha '02 – Research analyst at Tortoise Capital Advisors in Leawood KS since January 2011. He graduated with highest distinction with a bachelor of science in business and finance from the University of Kansas in December of 2010.

Jessica Zimmerer Prokupek '03 – Married Scott Prokupek. She is starting a graphic design business.

Clarence (Jack) Spitz and Ruth Bisson Moser '43, '45 – Retired. Found each other at Kramer High 60th Class Reunion after both having previous 60 year marriages.

Wayne Schild '48 – celebrated his 60th wedding anniversary on August 4, 2012 with his wife Darlene and immediate family at a private lodge in southwest Oregon near the entrance to the Crater Lake National Park. In late February early March of 2012, they made a trip to Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad with Adventures Abroad out of Blaine, Washington. Their next overseas trip will be March 25-April 5, 2013 with Vantage Travel of Boston MA to Holland and Belgium on a riverboat.

Columbus Alumni Association

Please use this form for address corrections or changes, what's new information, or if you wish to pay dues.

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Class of _____
(Please include maiden if applicable.)

Spouse _____ Last Name _____ Class of _____

Address _____ City, State Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

What's New (job, degrees, comments, suggestions etc.) _____

I/we would like to become an annual member(s) for the year 2013.

_____ Annual Single \$10 _____ Annual Couple \$15

or

I/we would like to become a lifetime member(s).

_____ Lifetime Single \$200 _____ Lifetime Couple \$300

Return to: Columbus Alumni Association * 2508 27 St. * PO Box 947 * Columbus, NE 68602-0947



Mason Family

From Page 3

Sandi Mason Burgess

Graduating Year: 1981

Favorite class and/or teacher? While I had many outstanding teachers, I particularly remember Mr. Luebbe's math classes and Ms. Dryer's marketing class.

CPS teacher that influenced you the most? I guess I would have to say that Ms. Dryer influenced me the most since I chose Marketing as a career.

Most memorable high school experience?

There were many memorable times in high school. Selling concessions for DECA at the football games; square dancing in P.E.; and hundreds of people showing up for a party at the river with just a few hours notice. Also, working at Safeway was the best high school job. We had so much fun both during and after work.

What would you change if you had high school to do all over again? If I could change anything about my high school experience, I would probably get more involved in sports activities--maybe golf or tennis.

Where do you live? I live in Overland Park, Kansas with my husband, Jay, and our 13 year old son, Chris.

What are you doing now? I am currently a stay-at-home mom and run a small, home-based business.

Sheri Mason-Robertson

Graduating Year: 1983

Favorite class and/or teacher? I had 2 favorite teachers. Mr. A(Anderson) for English. He was a great teacher and an even better person. I also loved Mrs. U(Uhrig) in Marketing. She made class and DECA a lot of fun.

CPS teacher that influenced you the most? It's the little things that you pick up - like typing class. I use that every day. Mrs. Wobig taught me how to sew on a button. Mrs. Uhrig showed me how to make coffee for the concession stand at a football game. My first attempt at coffee consisted of pouring coffee granules into the big coffee pot of water, stirring and plugging it in. Mrs. U just shook her head.

Most memorable high school experience? How do you choose one? I

have to go with the band trip to Disney World on a 36-hour bus ride. We really had a great time. Fortunately, I got to stay a few extra days and fly home with the family.

What would you change if you had high school to do all over again? I might study a bit more the second time around, but I'm guessing everyone thinks that. I had a great time in high school. I'm not sure I would change a thing.

Where do you live? I live in Lincoln, NE
What are you doing now? I worked in the corporate world for 20 years in the Group Benefits industry. I started my own insurance consulting business six years ago. Thanks to Obamacare, my world is changing daily. I may be permanently working on my golf game sooner than planned. Other than that, I have a usually-good husband of 20 years, and the coolest 12-year old daughter on the planet.



"Optimizing the future of all Discoverers"

More than \$55,000 was given back to CPS in 2011-2012!



Get on the Bus!

Contact Jessica Kuehler at
(402) 563-7000 x 1103

Visit www.foundationforcps.org today!

The School District of Columbus Foundation is a qualifying 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are deductible as allowed by law.

Columbus Alumni Association

2508 27 St. ~ PO Box 947~ Columbus, NE 68602-0947

Phone: 402-563-7000 Ext. 1102 ~ Fax: 402-563-7005

Alumni Association Board of Directors

Steve Anderson `68, President
Bob Markham `76, Vice President
Gayleen Oppliger Hingst `60, Treasurer
Jim Schaefer `70, Past President
K.C. Belitz `86
Amy Busted Blaser `88

Anne Cruickshank Hughes `90
Robert Jaeggi `47
Sue Aermi Mares `71
Shelly Nielsen-Schmidt `88
Lynn Strehle Sjuts `80
Annie Slusarski Sokol `98
Steve Zaura `81



CHS Alumni Basketball Tournament

Bob Markham
Class of 1976

There were approximately 160 participants representing over 20 classes that participated in the 15th Columbus High Alumni Tournament over Thanksgiving weekend. The tournament has been held biannually since its beginning in 1984.

This year's winners were Class of 2007 in the Maroon Division, Class of 1995 taking the White Division and Classes of 1988/89 in the Legends Division. After the basketball was done, the alumni and others gathered at the Elks Country Club for the post tourney reception.

A big thank you goes out to the Columbus Public School District for allowing us to use the facilities, the boys' basketball coaches and their players who helped with clocks, scorebooks etc., the girls' basketball team for doing the gatekeeper duties, and the many alumni who volunteered to referee games. Without the help of these individuals, this tournament would not happen.

This year the committee consisted of Bob Markham '76, Luke Larsen '86, Steve Hughes '88 and Sam Larsen '92. After many years of participating and serving on the



committee, Bob Markham will be stepping down. Anyone who is interested in serving on the alumni tournament committee, please contact one of the other committee members or the alumni office at 402-563-7000 Ext. 1102. The money raised from this tournament benefits CHS athletics.

The tournament committee hopes all who participated enjoyed the 2012 tournament. Plans are being made for the 2014 alumni tourney, so mark your calendars. Suggestions for improvements/additions to the tournament would be greatly appreciated.

THE NEBRASKA WAY

COMMUNITY IS FIRST AT THIS BANK.

At Pinnacle Bank, we celebrate the little things that create a community. Each of our locations has its own personality that's defined by the people who work and bank there. We take what we do seriously because we believe that today's choices help to shape the future. That's the spirit we put behind our community bank. And it's the way banking should be.

COLUMBUS 210 East 23rd Street, 402.562.8936 • 2661 33rd Avenue, 402.562.8935

VISIT US TODAY AT PINNBANK.COM



 **Pinnacle Bank**

THE WAY BANKING SHOULD BE



CMS career modules need updating

Jessica Kuehler

CPS Foundation Executive Director

Many of us can recall one experience in middle school or high school that inspired us to pursue our career. For those of us who had the opportunity to work as an intern or to shadow a professional, we know what an impact career exploration can have at a young age.

In 2006, Columbus Middle School began phasing out its manufacturing-centered Industrial Technology program. A more comprehensive Career-Tech curriculum, using the Nebraska Career Education (NCE) model, was developed to give students a chance to discover the wide variety of opportunities that exist for them in the working world and to learn that many of those careers are offered locally.

CMS Principal Doug Kluth is proud of the program's history.

"When the lab was initially completed, it was one of the top programs in the state. The Career-Tech instructors presented information on the program at statewide conferences. Other schools soon copied the CMS program."

Every year more than 400 CMS students access 19 computer modules

during Career Applications, a required class for all 7th grade students, and its elective counterpart offered in 8th grade. Originally acquired in 2008, three modules were provided through donations - Personal Finance (Columbus Bank & Trust), Electronics (CHS Class of 1958), Computer-Aided Drafting and Design (Duo-Lift Manufacturing). The remaining modules were purchased using district funds and CMS Parent Advisory Council funds.

The seven modules in greatest need of upgrade alone would require approximately \$10,000 in funding. CPS budget practices rely on equipment and software purchased by outside groups or grants to be upgraded through the original funding mechanism so as not to burden the district's general fund budget. This is why we are asking for your help.

Kelly Loschen, Career-Technology teacher, understands that CMS plays an important role in educating students about career opportunities that exist for them once they complete their education. Loschen is concerned that the Career-Tech program may suffer without continued funding from outside sources.

"With the continuous technological

upgrades occurring in business and industry, it is very important that we strive to offer experiences to our students that reflect those changes and are relevant to the needs of employers. While the modules have served our students well over the past four years, they have gradually become less relevant and some are in danger of becoming outdated." All modules are in need of software upgrades.

The NCE model includes six career fields ranging from Agriculture to Business, Skilled Sciences to Communications, and Human Services to Health Sciences. These fields are broken into 16 career clusters, which group careers that involve similar work. The goal is to increase student achievement and prepare students for life-long success through a career development process, which begins in elementary grades and includes awareness, exploration, preparation, and application.

You can help to provide career inspiration for CPS students by supporting their career development and sponsoring the CMS Career Applications Modules. For more information, contact Jessica Kuehler, CPS Foundation Executive Director at (402) 563-7000 Ext 1103.



Yes I wish to support the schools with a tax deductible gift to the Foundation.

Here is my donation in the amount of \$ _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Class of _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

If you would like someone to contact you about including the CPS Foundation in your estate plans, please call Jessica Kuehler at 402-563-7000 Ext. 1103 to set up an appointment. The role of the Foundation is to provide the students of CPS with as many educational opportunities as possible by filling gaps created in the regular school district budget from funding shortfalls or regulatory constraints. The Foundation helps optimize the future of all Discoverers by creating funding for grants, after school programs, alternative educational opportunities, scholarships for current and graduating students, and recognition awards.

Please make checks payable to the CPS Foundation.

Return to: CPS Foundation * 2508 27 St. * PO Box 947 * Columbus NE 68602-0947.

The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization.





CPS Alumni News
Columbus Public Schools
2508 27 St.
PO Box 947
Columbus NE 68602-0947

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Columbus, Nebraska
Permit No. 72

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Columbus Alumni Reunion Plans for 2013 & Beyond

1935 - Local class members meet every 4 months for lunch (Oct., Feb., Jun.). All '35 grads welcome.

1937 - Meets 1st Wed., every 4 months (March, July, Nov.).

1945 - Meets the last Monday of the month at Picket Fence at noon.

1946 - locals meet the first Friday of each month for lunch. All classmates welcome. Contact: Ruth Olson Babka, 402-564-5991 or Laura Eller Stuefer, 402-564-2057.

1948 - 65th Reunion - August 24 and 25, 2013. August 24: 5 p.m. cocktails and 6 p.m. dinner at Dusters. Brunch August 25. Contact is Betty Gant, 402-564-2040 or cjgsecy@megavision.com.

1949 - Locals meet the first Monday of the month for breakfast at Picket Fence Cafe. All classmates welcome. Contact: Rosella (Blaser) Norris for info. 402-564-7498.

1956 - Meets at 10 a.m. the first Wed. of every month at Stack & Steak for morning coffee. All classmates welcome.

1958 - Class lunch the first Wednesday of every month at noon at Maximus. All classmates and spouses welcome.

1958 - 55th Reunion - homecoming weekend in September/October 2013. Friday - homecoming game and Maximus; Saturday dinner at Dusters. More complete information will be sent at a later date. Contact Gail Wurdeman at 402-562-5942 or gailwurdemaninc@aol.com or Marva Van Velkinburgh at 402-562-7831 if you plan to attend.

1959 - Meets the second Thursday quarterly (January, April, July and October) at Stack n' Steak at 11:30 a.m. for lunch and conversation. Classmates and spouses are welcome.

1962 - Meets the first Friday of every month at 8:30 a.m. at Stack n' Steak. All classmates and spouses are welcome.

1963 - Save the date: 50th Class Reunion, Sept. 7, 2013. More information to follow.

1968 - 45th Reunion - June 22, 2013 Duncan Rib Fest (Pre-reunion Event). August 16-17, 2013. August 16 - Tailgate and horse races; August 17 - Evening, Columbus Days at Frankfort Square. Contact: Diane Schwank 402-910-1539 or Steve Anderson at 402-563-1347.

1973 - 40th Reunion - July 19 and 20, 2013. July 19 - picnic at Izaak Walton; July 20 - dinner at American Legion. More details to come at a later date. Contacts: Jeanne Johnson at sjoh145854@aol.com or Ardis Bruckner at dbruckner@neb.rr.com.

1988 - 25th Reunion- Save the Date: July 26-27, 2013. Contact: Steve Hughes: shughes@neb.rr.com, (402) 270-4647 or Amy Busteed-Blaser: cablaser@frontiernet.net, (402) 270-1819.

2003 - 10th Reunion - June 14 and 15, 2013. For more information go to the Columbus High Class of 2003 Reunion Facebook page. Contact: Ashley Hernandez or Brett Mueller.

Columbus Days Set

For classes still looking for a reunion date, Columbus Days will be August 16-18, 2013. The weekend will be filled with many activities that could help entertain people before the reunion. For more information on Columbus Days, contact the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce at 402-564-2769.