



Columbia Eagles' Watch

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Clinton and Governor Come to Columbia

Former President Bill Clinton and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger came to visit Columbia Middle School on Wednesday, Sept. 19, to present to Columbia a bronze award from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation for its physical fitness and nutrition programs.

People were excited and honored by the visit. James Navarro, an 8th-grade student, said, "It was awesome because it was a once in a life time opportunity. Nobody can have easily experienced this."

When they arrived they checked out the P.E. classes, starting with watching students work out on the



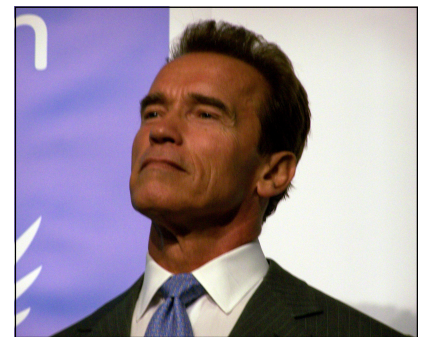
black top using Columbia's best equipment. Next on the tour was the fitness lab. Everybody was working hard to demonstrate all of our equipment, and the students had fun, including Brian Troung who "enjoyed it very much." While the governor and former president were in the fitness lab they gave students advice to help them work out. A lucky few got to talk to them and shake their hands.

After the tour, Clinton and Schwarzenegger made their way to the cafeteria where they presented the award and made a few remarks. It was a rare occasion to see a former Democrat president and current Republican governor appearing together in El Monte — and they were well received by the students.

Clinton congratulated Columbia and explained why the award is so important, and Schwarzenegger spoke about what would happen if we did not exercise and eat well.

Many excited students were outside of the cafeteria, waiting for Clinton and Schwarzenegger to say hello. Only Clinton, however, went towards the crowd. A few people ran up to the former president, but the Secret Service blocked their way.

Preparations for the visit were especially important. Days before, staff members and the school district were cleaning and polishing the school. Many parts of the school were re-stripped and painted, and bushes were planted. It was a real boost for students to see our school get such attention. ■



Editorial

Students and Teachers: Both are on the Same Team!

Although Columbia is already a great school, both students and teachers can make our school an even better learning environment.

But how? What can teachers and students do?

To begin with, students can listen to their teachers and follow directions. After all, teachers only want the best for students. By listening and following directions, students will learn more and there will be no arguments. If students don't listen and give an attitude, then they're wasting time and probably not learning as much as they

can or should learn — and that makes everything worse.

And no one wants to have a bad school year, right?

Students should also remember that teachers aren't here because they are being forced to be at Columbia. They are here to teach Columbia's students because they want us to have a good education and be successful.

For their part, teachers can — and should — ask students for suggestions, just like Mr. Galindo, one of Columbia's math teachers. Maybe students have better ideas

The Back Page

It's Official: Columbia Off to Fantastic Start!



Summer has ended, the new school year is starting, and everyone seems to be getting along. But because of the change, we all know the first week of school is hectic. Nevertheless, Columbia's students are already looking forward to the new school year.

"Being an eighth grader is going to be fun," said Gena Meza, "because we have more privileges." Promotion and the annual trip to Knott's Berry Farm are two examples. "I'm really looking forward to the Knotts trip," Meza said, "because we get to spend all day with our friends and just have fun without teachers."

Mr. Kania is well-liked among students, according to Meza. "He's fun, he's not as strict or as serious as other teachers, and he makes the stu-

dents want to learn."

Daisy Gracianos found the first week of school exciting, and she was ready for the new year. And although she really likes her new teachers, she still misses her old teachers. One thing Gracianos knows, however, she will make it work. One of her favorite things about the first week was that there was no homework — but she knew that would not last. "I'm prepared," Gracianos stated.

Cynthia Millan was nervous the first day of school, but she still enjoyed it. She expects middle school to be exciting. "First of all, I am switching from class to class, and I have P.E. in the morning when it's cool and I am fresh.

Like other students, Millan really likes her teachers and the



classrooms. "Some of the teachers are funny," said Millan, "and others are very nice."

Vicky Tran said it "was fun meeting new people."

Damini Bhana, who is new to Columbia, shares Tran's feelings. "Getting to know new people and the campus" were Bhana's favorite parts of the first week.

Along with the new school year came a new rule: Tuck in those shirts! It will take some time to get use to the change, but students are trying to remember.

In addition to the new rule, we also have some new teachers: Mrs. Cobian, Ms. Enriquez, Ms. Ogaz, Ms. Antonio, and Ms. Delgadillo.

To all the new and returning faces: Welcome to Columbia! ■

Yearbook Cover Contest

This year's yearbook staff is asking all students to participate in the 2007-08 Yearbook Cover Contest. Each student who submits a cover will be asked to develop and illustrate a theme as part of each entry.

Sandy Voong knows the contest will produce great entries. "We have a lot of talent at Columbia," she said, "and we will get some very exciting and interesting ideas."

We want that talent to shine. So get out your cameras, paint brushes, colored pencils, markers, or whatever else you like — and show your stuff! Contest details are in the attached flyer and in Room 43. ■

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for rules, or maybe a few ideas on how to make a subject more interesting. Routines can also be changed: No one wants to go through the same thing every single day.

Teachers should also remember that forcing students to do something or threatening them with detentions or even sending students to the office doesn't work very well. I think teachers should go a little easier on students because you never know

what goes on in students' lives.

My point exactly is that things will be much easier and more fun, and students will learn more if teachers and students become ONE. All of us can make Columbia a better place by listening more carefully to each other because we all have something important to say.

Please consider these suggestions. And if you have some of your own, let us know. ■