



Columbia Eagles' Watch

Vol. 3 No. 01 ■ Tradition ■ Pride ■ Excellence ■ Oct. 22, 2008



Columbia's Offers Its First Presidential Debate

Students rushed in from every corner as we held our very first presidential debate here at Columbia. You may be wondering why this debate is special: Our debate here at Columbia was held on the same day as the presidential debate between Senators McCain and Obama.

On Friday, October 10, 2008, our presidential candidates, Sabrina Rodriguez and Valentina Lizarraga, held their debate on our school campus so students could decide who they wanted to lead the Student Congress.

Shortly after their debate the election was held. When all the votes were counted, Lizarraga won.

Before the debate, we talked to several students about the upcoming debate. Valeria Hernandez and Jasmine Armenta both agreed that, "Sabrina has all the energy, power, and dedication towards the school."

Andrea Diaz and Evelyn Rodriguez agreed. "We think Sabrina is going to make a lot of changes and always has a positive attitude towards the school," they said.

"I think Valentina would be a good president," said Destiny Hernandez, "because she has great ideas and she is creative."

The candidates were introduced by Mr. Herrera, and they then began their presidential debate. The coin was flipped to decide who went first. Rodriguez won, so she invited Lizarraga to go first.



Several questions were asked by Mr. Mason, who was our moderator. The questions came from students through their social studies teachers. One of the first questions was, "How are you planning on raising money for the school?" Lizarraga answered by saying she would "have car washes and carnivals."

Rodriguez said she would sell candy and have carnivals, just like Lizarraga.

After the debate Lizarraga and Rodriguez both agreed that it was hard running against each other because they are great friends ... but only one could be president. Congratulations to both candidates.

School Spirit

Two weeks ago students at Columbia Middle School participated in a Spirit Day by wearing their favorite color to school. This was the first Spirit Days in the 2008-2009 school year. This Spirit Day

"It was very original"...

was very colorful because students wore many different colors, including red, pink, green, blue, brown, and purple ... basically all the colors of the rainbow.

Both Mrs. Sesplaukis' and Mr. Lachica's homeroom classes had 100 percent participation for our first Spirit Day. Every student in both homerooms wore their favorite color to school.

Of course, each student had his or her own opinion about the first Spirit Day.

"It was very original," said eighth-grader Winnie Lee. "I would now like a spirit day such as Hawaiian Day."

Seventh-grader Lesley Torres said, "I really liked Spirit Day; it was a day to show my school spirit and wear my favorite color."



7th Graders Compete

While all the eighth and sixth graders were at Columbia School, all the seventh graders were having fun at Fletcher Park on Friday, September 26. It was a great day. The whole purpose of the trip was to get to know each other. All of the seventh graders liked the trip and all the races: the three legged race, the pie-eating contest, the tug-of-war, and the poster relay.



"It was really fun," said Justin Muñoz a seventh grader. "Mylan represented our class, room 34, but unfortunately Joseph from Mr. Jansen's homeroom beat all classes."

The seventh graders had a day of no homework and no class work. Even at the park, no one did anything except for the races and spending time with friends. The first race was the poster relay. The rules were form a line, run to the poster, and paste the letters they were given on a poster. They had to spell "Go Columbia Eagles" and then add room 34 or 37, depending what room they were in.

See 7th Grade on back page

The Back Page

Students Return to Columbia



Summer is finally over, and we're off to a great year at Columbia. We have a few new changes, but with a little adjustment, the year will run smoothly.

New students have arrived at Columbia, and Columbia's 6th-, 7th- and 8th-graders are getting along pretty well. 8th-grader Sabrina Rodriguez said, "It's great because there are new people to meet and new teachers to have."

This year, 8th-graders are having

lunch with 6th and 7th graders. One of the students that was having a hard time adjusting to the schedule was 8th-grader Teresa Nguyen. Teresa said, "It was boring because I wasn't used to the classes, teachers, and students. But as the first few weeks went by, it got better."

"It was tiring," Samantha San said, a 7th grader, "because we had to carry text books; write essays; and change classes."

"It's great because there are new people to meet and new teachers to have" ...

Ruth Cervantes, Chinese Perez, and Vicky Tran felt nervous and excited. They were excited to see their friends; they were nervous because they didn't know what their classes were or who their



teachers would be.

Along with the new school year, middle school students have a new principal and vice principal, new teachers, and a new rule. Our new principal is Mr. Herrera and our new Vice Principal is Ms. Garcia. We also have new teachers at Columbia, including Mr. Moreno, Ms. K, and Ms. Hang. Unlike last year, we don't have to tuck our shirts in.

Columbia students have a great year!

Construction Under Way at Columbia

When the 2008-2009 school year began, Columbia School began construction for a series of new buildings on campus.

As a result of a decision by voters, Columbia received about 14 million dollars to build and construct the buildings.

So far the construction has been going well. They have already surveyed and studied the ground and have found that it will support the founda-

tions without any additional work or expense.

The buildings will include a new gym, library, classrooms, and media center.

Mr. Mason, a computer teacher at Columbia, is excited about the new construction.

"One of the benefits for students will be a new computer lab," he said. "And with the new lab will come new capabilities."



7th Grade

The next race was the pie eating contest. There were many different pie flavors, including grape, apple, and blueberry. All home rooms chose a person to represent their class to see who could finish the pie the fastest. Many people tried very hard and tried to succeed. Unfortunately for all the other classes, Joseph's class won.

After the pie eating contest there came the tug-of-war. All classes competed against each other to pull the rope. Then they took the finalists: Ms. Schommer's class and Mr. Moreno's class competed against each other. Mr. Moreno's class won..

The three legged race was cool because all students in one class paired up and each group raced against each other. The winner then competed with the winners from all the other classes. After a great day it was time to go back to school.

