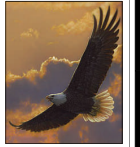




# Columbia Eagles' Watch

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## March Presidential Debates: Students Run For Office



There was a great deal of excitement from both the presidential candidates and the voters on Tuesday, March 17. As the candidates took the stage for Columbia's second presidential debate, everyone was anxious to listen and figure out who he or she thought was the best candidate for Columbia Middle School.

As Allen Cabanillas, Cesar Vargas, and Angela Palacios took the stage, you could tell by the way that they all dressed that they took this job seriously. Some came in heels and others came in a suit. Even Mr. Mason brought a suit instead of

his usual Hawaiian shirt. Mr. Mason was the moderator and had some very tough questions for our presidential candidates, including questions about what each candidate would do to help raise funds for our school and how each would make Columbia a better school for all students. All of the candidates had great answers. One idea they all agreed

on was having an activity that would involve putting a teacher of your choice in a dunk tank and trying to hit the target in order to get the teacher soaked. The students of Columbia liked this idea very much.

At the end of the day many students' questions were answered and most knew for whom they would vote, although many others were still very undecided.

Sador Rangel said, "I really enjoyed the debate and now I know who I'm going to vote for."

A few students thought the debate

was boring and, for them, it didn't help much in deciding for whom they would vote. The general feeling, however, was one of great success.

Excitement built again 3 days later: Students had already voted and now they anxiously awaited the election results.

On March 20 students took their seats and watched as Cesar Vargas, Karen Ta, Itsel Mora, Teresa Nguyen, and Jessica Hong were sworn into office. Cesar Vargas, our new president, said, "I feel awesome because I have achieved a great goal." Cesar also paraphrased the words of our newly-elected president, Barack Obama, when he said, "Students wanted change we can believe in I hope to provide that change."



## Columbia's Colorful Valentine's Day Carnival



On Friday, February 13, 2008, it was a Spirit Day where students could wear red, purple, white or pink with jeans; there was also a mini-carnival during lunch.

Columbia's carnival included of a ping pong table, face painting, ring toss,

and a photo booth. Many students lined up to get face paintings of hearts with arrows or many other Valentine's Day-themed paintings. Many students participated in other activities.

For example, some students participated in the ring toss. The prize for ring toss was orange and black bracelets. There was also a photo booth where students could pose with their friends and have their picture taken. The ping pong table, located in the hallway in front of Mrs. Ogaz's

room, offered fast action and was a very big hit.

Unfortunately, it rained before the carnival was to have officially ended, so our fun was cut short when students made a dash for cover.



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## Basketball Tournament

Columbia's first basketball tournament of the season started February 10, with eight different teams going for the championship. On the first day teams 1 and 2 played against each other and teams 3 and 4 against each other. Teams 7 and 1 won and moved on to next rounds. Many other teams played. Some had lost as the others won and moved on to

the next rounds. In the final game it was team 7 and team 8 who played against each other. It was a great game and in the end team 7 became victorious. Team 7 went on to play the teachers.

Overall, the whole tournament was a great success. Many students enjoyed themselves whether they were in the tournament or just watching from the sidelines.



## Columbia Celebrates Read In Day



Girls, Teresa, Brilane, and Nikki, and Kim Rhode, an Olympic gold medalist who won two gold medals, one silver medal, and a bronze medal. Police officers, firefighters, and cartoon characters like Sponge Bob and Clifford also attended.

at the cafeteria for an assembly. During the assembly, the guest readers listened to a school band that consisted of Columbia staff. After the assembly the guest readers left, but their influence remained as many young readers discovered the joys of reading.

Throughout the morning the guest readers gathered in the library to wait until two students came to escort them to their classrooms to read to the students. Afterwards, all the guest readers gathered

Columbia School welcomed guest readers such as Lakers cheerleaders Stephanie and Annika as participants in Columbia's Read-In Day on March 4.

Many other guest readers also participated in the Read-In, which was held to encourage reading by reading stories to Columbia students from kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Other guests included Ronald McDonald, the NBA Clipper

