



Columbia Eagles' Watch

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2009 'A Christmas Carol' Smash Hit

By Robert Tovar

An adaptation of A Christmas Carol was presented at Columbia School on December 9 and 10 at 7:00 pm. on the cafeteria's stage. Mr. Jansen, the director, based the play on the well-known classic holiday book by Charles Dickens.

The story is about a greedy, money-hungry man named Ebenezer Scrooge who dislikes Christmas.

His business partner had died seven years earlier. As a young man he becomes more interested in money than anything else, and eventually comes to hate the Christmas holiday that everyone else loves and enjoys so much.

His dead partner, Jacob Marley, visits Scrooge on the anniversary of his own death seven years before and tells him that three ghosts will visit him. The ghosts are the ghosts of Christmas Present, Past, and Future; their mission is to save Scrooge from himself so that he will not wander through the next life in chains. The ghosts take Scrooge on a journey to the present, past, and possible future of his life.

The ghost of Christmas Past takes Scrooge to his past where he sees and remembers some of the pain and joy he experienced.

The ghost of Christmas Present shows Scrooge the Cratchit family, including the illness faced by Tiny Tim. Scrooge learns the boy will die if he does not get treatment. Tiny Tim can barely walk. Bob Cratchit, who is Tiny Tim's father, does



not make enough money because Scrooge does not pay him well; in fact, the father can barely support his family.

The ghost of Christmas Future shows Scrooge his own death, including the fact that no one will miss Scrooge when he is gone. Tiny Tim has died as well.

The twist is that if Scrooge will change his ways and embrace the Christmas spirit he will not die alone and Tiny Tim will live.

At the end of the play Scrooge changes his ways and goes to his nephew's house to celebrate Christmas. He also sends a grand old duck to the Cratchit family so they can have a great and wonder feast.

Scrooge even doubles Bob's salary the day after Christmas when he walks in late for work. Tiny Tim does not die and neither does Scrooge; in fact, Scrooge and Tiny Tim become good friends.

Alyssa had the honor of portraying Scrooge in the play; she made everyone feel as if they were right there on stage with her. Kevin Flores played his worker, Bob Cratchit.

Heribeto Perez, who played Belle's husband expressed the feelings of all cast members when he said, "It was cool. Nothing wrong with it. Awesome. I think everyone loved it."

Jansen reported that the cast began rehearsing in the middle of October. "I think they were fantastic," he said. He looks forward to future productions.

Staff members who saw the play were equally supportive. Ms. Garcia said the play "was amazing," and Mr. Raygoza called it "priceless." ■



Students vs. Teachers!

By Michelle Varela

A couple of lucky eighth graders were able to play pickle ball against the teachers on November 17. Pickle ball is similar to badminton and tennis, with some elements of ping pong. It involves playing on a court with the same dimensions as a badminton court using a hard paddle and wiffle ball.

"It was fun!" exclaimed Mr. Sham. "I liked competing against the students." Most of the students had fun as well, even if some teachers seemed to enjoy crushing students as they played against each other.

An enthusiastic Mr. Zarate said, "I had a lot of fun. It was nice playing against students, and I think that we should do that more often!" Zarate was fighting to win against the eighth-grade students. Mr. Galindo and Mr. Munoz enjoyed scoring, but Munoz added a dose of reality when he said, "Unfortunately, the teachers lost."

Apparently, however, it's even more fun when you're not sure exactly how to play. Mrs. Zamora-Day had the chance to play even though she didn't have much experience. "I didn't know how to play," said Zamora-Day, "but I did have a little tennis experience, so that helped with the fundamentals."

"It was lots of fun," reported Ms. Cortez. "I just liked getting out there and playing a sport because I haven't played a sport in a while now."

"It was fun and the most amazing thing," said player Esteban Orozco, an eighth-grade student. Kimberly Munoz said the action "was pretty intense." Isaac Gutierrez added, "It was hard to keep up with the balls because there were flying balls everywhere!"

Some students were a little less enthusiastic, but most seemed to welcome competition between students and teachers. As one eighth-grade student commented, "Wait until we beat the teachers — again — at our next tournament." ■

From movie classic to stage success at Columbia

By Samantha San

A classic story was recreated on Columbia's cafeteria stage on Friday, December 11 when Aspire students performed Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

Once the play started, the audiences was astonished. In the end, everyone wildly clapped and applauded as the students on stage took a bow for their great work.

From the part where Charlie found the golden ticket to the amazing wonders of the adventure in the Chocolate Factory, the students from Aspire did an amazing job.

Melissa Mendoza, and eighth-grade student, said, "It was a great experience." Evelyn Ortiz, another eighth grader, agreed: "It was fun and it was great working with younger students."

Not only did the students behind the scenes and on stage have fun, but the audience enjoyed it too. "I loved the show!"



exclaimed Vanessa Valdez. Helen Nguyen also praised the performance: "I loved it very much! It was great!"

And students in the audience were also very enthusiastic. "It was an awesome play and very funny," reported one student. Kaylee Truong added, "It was a bit crazy, but a whole lot of fun."

We look forward to seeing more wonderful productions during the spring. ■

Get caught ... being good

By Jasmin Montes

A committee of teachers got together because they wanted to figure out what character traits that they can encourage Columbia's students to develop. This same committee will also play an important role in looking for students who deserve to win the American Legion award, which is the highest award any student can get in this school.

As for character traits, each month this committee looks for a student in each homeroom who has demonstrated a specific character trait for that month. Each student selected receives an award.

The character trait for October was respect, November was responsibility, and December is honesty.

Every month students are being recognized for good character traits in and out of class. If a teacher or supervisor sees you demonstrating a good character trait, he or she will give you a slip.

You write your name on the slip, turn it into the library, put in the basket of your grade level, and at the end of the month two winners in each grade level are chosen by drawing their names from the slips submitted.

If your name is drawn, you will then go to Shakey's with Ms. Garcia and Mr. Munoz — simply for demonstrating good character. And, again, every month a new character trait will come along and Mrs. Garcia will draw

two more student names from the slips submitted.

"I am excited because I think it is important to honor the kids that are doing well in school. And I love pizza!" exclaimed Mr. Munoz.

"If you're demonstrating good character, it's something you should be recognized for because you're making Columbia a great place to be, a great place to learn, and you're making it a place others want to come to," said Mrs. Zamora-Day. "I am excited about celebrating students' successes.

I think it is really important that as a school we celebrate the positive things that are happening — the more positive examples on the campus," said Ms. Garcia. "Anything that we can do here for Columbia students, I'm going to stand by it 100%."

The idea has caught on among students, and they have really been trying to develop these character traits! "I am glad to be doing good things," said third-grader Raven Greenlee. "I like to help others, and I always try my best to be honest, respectful, and responsible."

"I am glad that I am recognized for being responsible," said Naomi Ramirez. Emily Miramontes added, "I think it is awesome and cool to win the award for respect."

So, if these students can be recognized for a character trait, then any student can do it! ■

Construction Update

As most of you know, students will be using the new building when we return to school in January. Below are a few pictures that show just how far we've come ...

