



# Columbia Eagles' Watch

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## Columbia Students Not Fooled, Say 'No' to Drug Offers

A recent survey of Columbia students revealed that nearly half of eighth-grade and slightly more than one-third of seventh-grade students have been offered illegal drugs. The survey, which was conducted on February 25 and included 119 randomly-selected students, asked, "Have you been offered illegal drugs" — the survey did not ask about drug use.

Friends and family members were the most likely source of illegal drug offers. One-half of all drug offers to seventh-grade students came from friends and more than one-third came from family members. For eighth-grade students nearly two-thirds of such offers came from friends while family members accounted for about one-fourth of all drug offers.

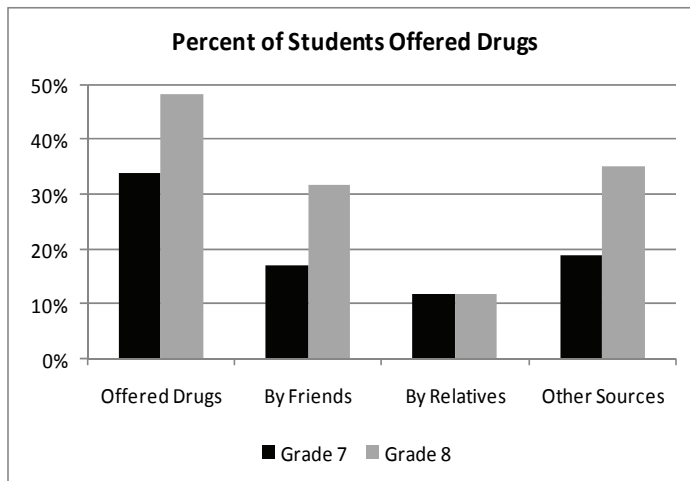
Many people might see such statistics as a sign of things to come in high school, but that would be wrong, according to Detective Cobian of the El Monte Police.

"As students enter high school, the percentage decreases," reports Cobian. "The reason why is that people mature; students find their own identity. However, those that have been offered drugs and accepted them are likely still doing drugs while those that have been offered drugs and refused them are probably not doing drugs."

What this points out is the important role parents, teachers, and peers can play in sending the right message to middle-school students.

"Parents and teachers need to talk about drugs," said one student. "Although we know using drugs is not good, we need to talk about what is going on and how to keep from getting caught in the trap of using them."

The good news is that most students are open to talking about the problem, which means it is easier to do something about it. But it also means parents and teachers need to recognize opportunities to talk about drugs — and then do it.



As Ms. Garcia, Columbia's principal, said, "That students are being offered drugs anywhere at all is a warning to parents and teachers to be aware of boundaries when it comes to the health of our students."

"Choices are a part of life," said Garcia, "and, unfortunately, some choices that we are presented with can be destructive. But I am confident Columbia students are making the right choice by saying 'No' to drugs. Based on our rising test scores, we know our students are focused on their education, and we also know they know using drugs compromises their future."

Those feelings were echoed by several students, including an eighth-grader who said, "I have goals, and that means I need to stay away from things that can keep me from being successful. Sure, drugs get talked about," he continued, "but most students are just too smart to use them. We know how bad drugs are." ■

## Columbia Shines at Mile Club Classic

The Mile Club Classic was held at Azusa Pacific University on March 26, 2010, and was attended by students from many different schools, including Columbia, Durfee, Frank M. Wright, and St. Joseph, Pomona.

Designed for students from the fifth through eighth grades, the race had students within a grade level competing with students from different schools within the same grade level so that the race is fair.

The first five winners of each race received a medal; students that came after that received a ribbon for competing in the race. Many Columbia students received metals and a few received a ribbons.

All in all, they had a lot of fun. "I liked it because I got to see how fast I

ran," said Enrique Aguilar.

Janelle Phung agreed: "I thought the race was fun. I got to see how it was to be in a race."

One seventh-grader won first place in the race. "I really enjoyed running in the race. I'll always remember that I got first place!" commented Erika Ortiz.

She wasn't the only person who won a first-place medal. Dillon Diep won as well. "It was very fun hanging out with friends and watching other schools compete!" Diep said.

Other students who won awards were Tien Luu, 2nd, Janelle Phung, 4th, Aerika Tong, 4th, Alberto Gutierrez, 4th, Daniel Hernandez, 5th, and Helen Voong.

The Mile Club Classic was a great



success for these students: And all Columbia students can be very proud of their example and determination. ■

## Students charge, but teachers win March Madness competition

As we entered the new gymnasium for only the second time, you could feel the excitement. Students and teachers alike warmed up while they waited for the contest to begin. Only one question remained: Could the students' energy and quickness bring victory over the experience of the teachers?

Columbia's March Madness basketball game between students and teachers had come, and the answer to that question was soon to be revealed.

In the past the annual match-up has been played on the outside basketball courts. But this year really was special because it was held in our new gym — which has a full-sized, regulation basketball court and the ability to tremendously amplify sound.



"The sound was deafening," said one teacher, "and it was obvious that the students were really into the game."

From the students in the bleachers to the people playing, everybody had fun. "Playing against the eighth graders is always fun," said Mr. Raygoza, one of the teachers who played, "but you have to practice shooting around and getting fit."

Mr. Munoz, who played point guard, reported, "I had a great time, especially because we won!"

Ms. Quon echoed the teachers' enthusiasm when she said, "I really had fun,

and I can't believe I got an air ball! Yeah!"

"The game was pretty cool," said Issac Gutierrez, an eighth-grade student, "but the teachers were taking advantage of the short people."

In the end, the teachers won the game, and many students were disappointed by the outcome. Eighth-grader Tiyana Watkins jokingly exclaimed, "The game wasn't fair!" — but then firmly added, "We deserve a rematch!"

One student who would like a rematch is Jose Garcia, an eighth-grade student. "It was fun," he said, "but I think if they had given us another half-time we would have beaten the teachers."

Noting that the students were beginning to close the scoring gap late in the game, Mr. Mason agreed: "If they'd played another 20 minutes," he said, "the students would have won. Most of the teachers looked really tired during the last few minutes. In fact, one or two looked like they were going to keel over. It was sort of like watching USC try to keep up with UCLA during the last fifteen minutes of a game."

Whatever the outcome, the teachers were really happy because they did the best they could do to play the students. And although the students lost, they knew that doing their best was enough, and that everyone was proud of them and their tremendous effort.

"It was okay that we lost because I had lots of fun and tried my hardest," said Derrick Lam.

Melissa Mendoza, Columbia's student body president, said, "It was fun, and I was lucky to have gotten a chance to play with my fellow students." Her enthusiasm was on full display when she took the ball at one point and ran the full length of the



court on a drive toward the basket.

Teachers did have a defensive and shooting advantage because most of them were taller than the students. Still, students had great speed and good techniques in moving around the court — and every student who wanted to play did so. Mr. Johnson agreed: "The kids did their best, and had a good defense, especially considering the difference in height and experience."

This game is played every year when the NCAA March Madness ends. The students and teachers put their own teams together to play and run their own practices.

Many people enjoy having these fun activities and have suggested that we should have more of them because students enjoy competing against teachers. Alondra Barragan, for example, thinks our student council "should plan more activities like this one and let all students participate in some way."

These kinds of competitions are not only fun, but they help students prepare for the future and teach teamwork. ■

## Around the Campus at Columbia

### Yearbooks on sale

Yearbooks will be on sale through next week for \$12, which includes a CD with bonus pictures and copies of the yearbook, Columbia Eagles' Watch, DreamWeaver, and two special PowerPoint presentations. On May 10 the price will increase to \$15. Quantities are limited, so don't put off making your purchase.

Copies of the 2008-09 yearbook are also on sale for \$4 each. ■

### CSTs begin next week

State testing begins next week. And as our star-studded lineup said at the CST rally, remember to get a good night's sleep, eat a decent breakfast, and carefully read each question and then think about the answer. If you're unsure, begin by eliminating answers that are obviously wrong — then be sure answer every single question.

Finally, relax: You've done your best to prepare; you'll do fine. ■

