



# Cougar News

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Greeting Columbus School!

Time is moving fast! We have already sprung our clocks forward - a wonderful sign Spring is on the horizon. Our first ever Winter Barnes & Noble Book Fair at the Menlo Park Mall was a huge hit! Teachers came out in full force to be readers and facilitators of the event. This year's Annual Geography Bee is on its way to becoming a Columbus School tradition, with a competition that was more fierce than the year before! Our Read Across America week, while short was full of exciting events and guests! And, to top it off we exceeded last year's Hoops for Heart Fundraising goal, raising \$1000.00 to promote healthy habits and heart health! Way to go Columbus! But wait, there's more fantastic achievements to date... just take a look inside! Enjoy!

Educationally yours,

Stephen V. Peters, Principal

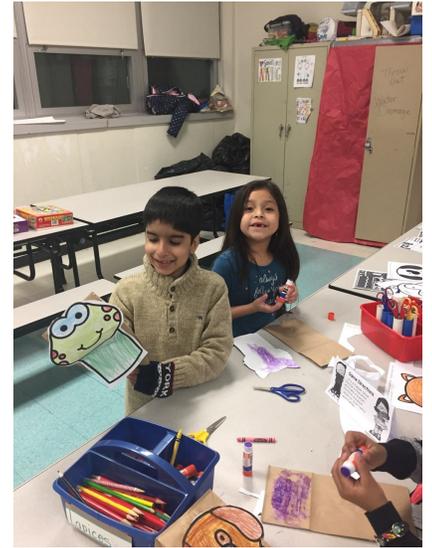
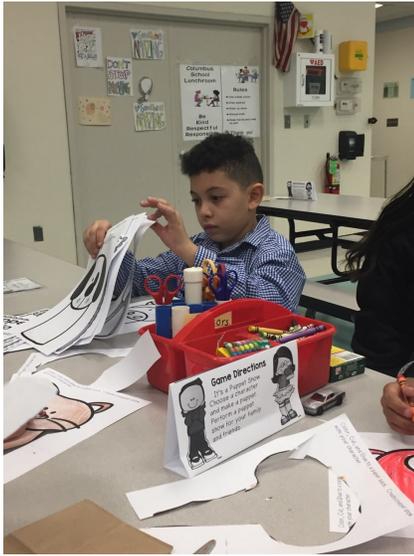
### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ESL Parent Night..... 2
- NEHS ..... 3
- Pre-K Night.....4
- Balloons Over Broadway .....5
- Barnes and Noble Book Fair.....5
- Brickz 4 Kids.....6
- Winter Fun .... .....6
- Officer Phil.....7
- Think Tank.....7
- Full Steam Ahead.....8
- GeoBee.....8
- Pie in the Face.....9
- Soup-er Bowl.....9
- Hoops for Heart..... 10
- Tricky Tray Fundraiser.....11

### IMPORTANT DATES

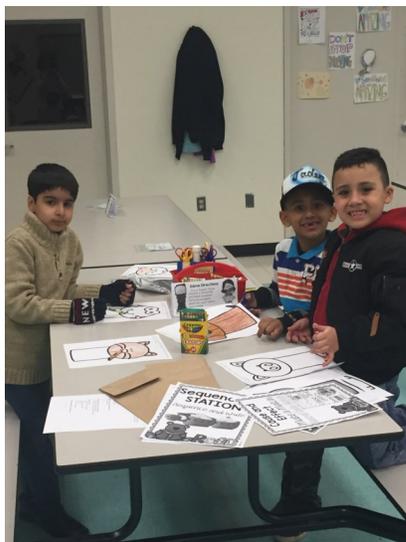
- March 13- Donuts with Dads
- March 16 – Tape a Teacher to the Wall Fundraiser
- March 16 - Tricky Tray
- March 29– Abbreviated Session \*NO AFTERCARE!
- March 30–April 8– School Closed for Spring Recess
- April 17-19– ELA PARCC Testing
- April 23-26 Math PARCC Testing
- April 26– Kindergarten Show

# ESL/BILINGUAL PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT



On Nov 15th, Ms. Ahmed and Ms. Ali held an **ESL/ BILINGUAL** parent information night. Parents were invited along with their kids to enjoy a fun filled informational night. They played different games, like Bingo and Guess How Many Jelly Beans, to earn prizes.

They also received useful information about the ESL/Bilingual program through a well prepared power point. It was a successful night for the parents of the ELL students! They learned about the ESL/Bilingual programs. and were able to meet with the teachers and learned first hand how successful the programs are in the instruction of their children. The parents also took a survey in which they answered various questions about the ESL/Bilingual services provided to their child.





## NATIONAL ELEMENTARY HONOR SOCIETY

The National Elementary Honor Society Induction ceremony took place on Thursday, December 7, 2017. Seven new students from Columbus, eight students from Nathan Hale, and nine students from Private Nicholas Minue School were inducted that night. Twenty-five Veteran members also came to join in the ceremony from all three schools! The induction ceremony program was beautifully done, with old and new NEHS members participating as student speakers, along with building principals and vice principals, faculty advisors, faculty council members, and Mrs. Wilson, Director of Curriculum and Instruction. The pillars of Scholarship, Responsibility, Service, and Leadership were addressed as students lit each symbolic candle. Going forward, members of the NEHS have a busy schedule ahead as they prepare to participate in such events as Read Across America Day, Project Linus, Carteret Conquers Cancer, making cards for hospitalized children, visiting the Carteret Seniors, along with so much more! Congratulations to the new inductees and veteran members of the National Elementary Honor Society!



# Pre-K Night!



Columbus School Pre-K Families attended a fun night of prop making, socialization, and snacks! Pre-K students and their families came in to learn about the importance of make believe play and how it helps children develop across the curriculum. The Pre-K classrooms are currently turning their classrooms into Grocery Stores and the parents and children worked together to create Mod Podge vases for the floral department, recycled cakes and cupcakes for the bakery department, and fruits and vegetables for the produce department. It was a fun and informative night!



## BALLOONS OVER BROADWAY



The 2nd grade classes participated in a STEM project in which they created their very own balloons, just like the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade! After reading the story Balloons Over Broadway by Melissa Sweet, students answered questions and planned what their balloon would look like. They used different materials, such as tissue paper, googly eyes, pipe cleaners, popsicle sticks, buttons, feathers, and many more, to bring their balloon vision to life. After the project was complete, students got to parade around to the other classes to share their hard work!



## BARNES AND NOBLE BOOKFAIR



On December 12th, Columbus School in Partnership with the Columbus School PTO hosted a book fair at Barnes & Noble at the Menlo Park Mall. We had exciting events including storytelling by our very own teachers, a cupcake station where students designed their own cupcakes, a bookmark designing station, as well as art and musical presentations by Columbus School students. The Columbus School Book Fair at Barnes & Noble yielded \$2,234 in sales, which means we received a Gift Card in the amount of \$447 for use in our work with students. Thank you to all who came out!



## BRICKZ 4 KIDS!



On December 21st, "Bricks 4 Kidz" came to Columbus school for an hour workshop with the K-5 Special Education classes. The kids had a great time engaging in fun and educational lego stations. In the craft center, the students made a "spin art" paper plate ornament in which they used a motorized marker lego model, a paper plate, and pom poms. In the next center, students used their imagination to creatively build. In the building

station, students had to follow step by step directions to create a motorized helicopter. Lastly, in the holiday themed center, students followed simple directions to make elf and penguin figures.



## WINTER FUN IN KINDERGARTEN!

On December 21st, 2017, Kindergarten parents came in to help their children in constructing SNOWMAN SLEDS! Parents and students had an amazing time with their families! Students and Parents used graham crackers, icing, candy canes, and an assortment of small candies to work together in order to build colorful and imaginative sleds. It was an incredible day that families and students were able to share with each other.



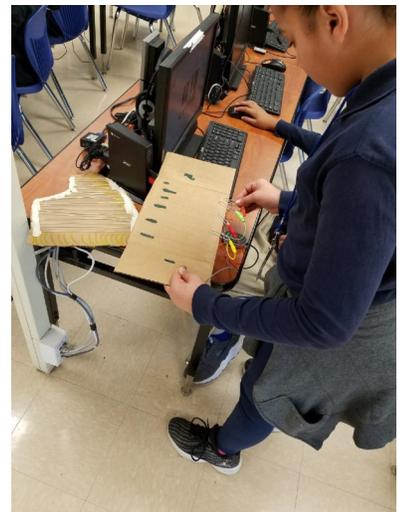
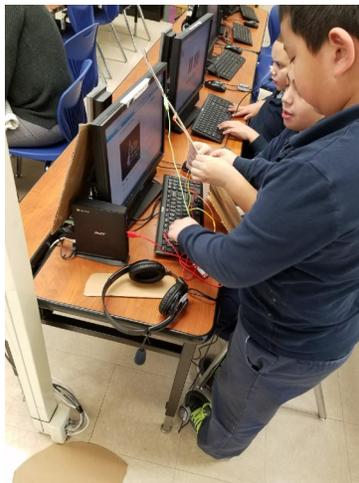
# OFFICER PHIL!



On January 9th, the students of Columbus School had a visit from Officer Phil. Through the use of magic and music, Officer Phil taught us all about safety in a fun and engaging way. Many of our students were even able to participate in the show!

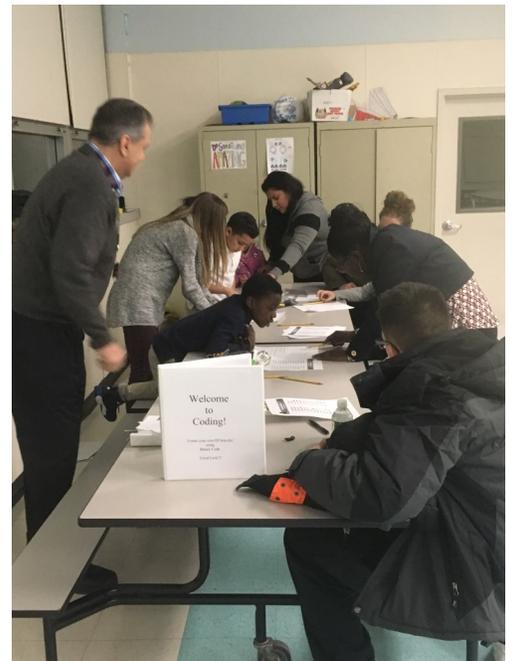
## THINK TANK!

During technology class, fourth graders watched a video about Makey Makey, a simple circuit board that lets you reprogram the world by connecting everyday objects to a computer. They researched musical instruments, picked one they wanted to make, drew it and then the fun began! Students transferred their design onto cardboard. After, they cut and decorated their cardboard to look like their desired musical instrument. Once the instrument was completed students connected them to the Makey Makey board and were able to play their instruments on the computer. the computer.



# TITLE I FULL STEAM AHEAD!

Columbus School hosted a Title I Family Event "Full STEAM Ahead"! Dibble Dabble and STEM Education lead fun and engaging STEAM activities. Participants had the opportunity to create science rockets, build a marble maze and create their own robot! It was a fun evening enjoyed by all.



# GEOBEE

The GeoBee contest is designed to inspire students to be curious about the world. On Thursday, January 25, 2018, Columbus School held The National Geographic School Bee. Students in grades 4 and 5 competed in this worthwhile and relevant competition. Congratulations to Columbus School's National Geographic Bee winners! Finishing in first place was Cindy Mumbo, in second place Daliyla Osman and in third place Shane Castor.



# PIE IN THE FACE!

Columbus Elementary School's Climate and Culture Committee held a Pie A Teacher Day fundraiser. Students had the opportunity to pay \$1 and pie their favorite teacher! Teacher volunteers included Mr. Sanfilippo, Mr. Pagan, Ms. Costa, Mrs. Bielinski, Mrs. Nagy, Ms. Fanning, Ms. Ciezza and Mrs. Bassin. All funds will go to the schools Cougar Pride Incentive Program, school trips and other school activities!



# STUDENT COUNCIL SOUP-ER BOWL

The Student Council sponsored a school wide Soup-er Bowl. Students and staff collected over 500 cans of soup and other canned goods that will be donated to the Middlesex County Food Bank.





# HOOPS FOR HEART

Our school is joining thousands of others to participate in the Hoops for Heart event with the American Heart Association. Students can join exciting fundraising events where they learn heart healthy skills, have fun shooting hoops and raising money for the American Heart Association. Last year Columbus School was able to raise \$800 to help kids and families live heart-healthy lives. This year we are making an effort to raise \$1000 and help students strive to understanding the importance of staying active and eating healthy.

