Kestrel Chronicle

Columbia River Elementary School
Amanda Wilson, Principal

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

December 2024

Principally speaking . . .

Dear Columbia River Families,

Winter's arrival brings a sense of wonder and reflection to our school. Like kestrels that glide above the Columbia River, our students continue to rise to new challenges. The holiday season reminds us of the strength of our community and the joy we find in learning and growing together.

This December is filled with opportunities to celebrate and connect. Here are some of the exciting events happening at Columbia River Elementary

Parent-Teacher Conferences – December 3-6
3rd Grade Concert: *Gnome for the Holidays* – December 12
Spirit Week – December 9-13
Krew's Cottage Holiday Shopping Experience – December 9-13

These activities reflect the creativity, talent, and spirit of our students and staff, and we hope you'll join us in supporting them.

Book Vending Machine Grand Opening!

We are thrilled to announce the December 2nd grand opening of our new Book Vending Machine, made possible by the generous donation of our PEAK Partners Evol Octopus and Shane Family Realty. This exciting addition to our school helps foster a love of reading and celebrates student achievement of reading milestones.

Families will have the opportunity to see our new book vending machine during Parent-Teacher Conferences. If you would like to support this special project, we welcome donations of new English or Spanish books. Donations can be dropped off at the school office. Together we can continue to nurture a community of lifelong readers.

Attendance Matters

As the holiday season unfolds, we want to emphasize that learning doesn't stop because it's December. Consistent attendance remains a top priority. Every school day counts, and when students miss even a single day, it impacts their learning and connection to the classroom. Let's work together to ensure our students are here, engaged, and thriving.

Our November Attendance Recap provides a snapshot of how we're doing as a school community. Let's work together to make attendance a daily priority and keep our students engaged and on track.

Thank you for your continued support in making Columbia River Elementary a place where students feel inspired to dream big and reach for the sky. We wish you a joyous holiday season and a wonderful end to 2024!

Watch Us Rise!

Amanda Wilson

Dates To Remember

Parent-Teacher Conferences Release at 12:30 p.m.	3 - 6
Krew's Holiday Cottage Assigned Classroom days/times	9 - 13
	9 - 13
Gnome for the Holidays Program Presented by Third Gr. **3:00-3:40 p.m.** Parents of third grade students invited to attend	12
Retake Picture Day	13
The Nutcracker Ballet 11:20 a.m.-2:05 p.m. Fifth grade students to R.H.S.	16
SARC Technology Safety Program Third—fifth grades	17
Early Release for Winter Break 12:30 p.m.	18
 **No classes held**	19 - Jan. 3

Columbia River P.T.O.

kestrelpridepto@gmail.com

Calling all parents! We are looking for parents/guardians that want to be involved in our P.T.O group for Columbia River Elementary School. If you are interested, please send your contact information to kestrelpridepto@gmail.com.

Monthly P.T.O. Meeting

There will not be a PTO meeting in December. The next monthly P.T.O. meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the school library.

Everyone is invited to attend and participate in our P.T.O. group.



December 9-13, 2024

This special program is designed to help your student purchase a high quality but budget friendly gift for friends and family members to celebrate the holiday season.

Students will shop during the school day with a set day and time. Be on the look out for an envelope to be returned with cash on your spending date.



Tuesday, December 3, 2024
through Friday, December 6, 2024

Parent-Teacher conferences will be from Tuesday, December 3, 2024 through Friday, December 6, 2024.

All students will be released at 12:30 p.m. on these days.



Friday, December 13, 2024

Picture retakes will be in the morning only.



December 19, 2024 through January 3, 2025

No classes held.





Winter Weather

Winter weather is here again. Please make sure that your child is dressed appropriately. Coats, hats and gloves along with the appropriate shoes or boots will keep your child warm and dry. The office doesn't have extra clothing, if they get wet. Please listen to KONA 610 AM radio on snowy/ icy mornings for delays or closures. The radio station regularly updates school information. You can also check the Pasco School District webpage for more information regarding school delays and closures here. You can sign up for the Parent Square app used by the Pasco School District. You will get the latest district and school news as well as notifications about breaking news, closures/delays, etc. The app is free and available to download. More information can be found here https://www.psd1.org/connect/parentsquare

