

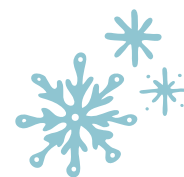


# Kestrel Chronicle

Columbia River Elementary School

Amanda Wilson, Principal

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.



## January 2026

### Principally Speaking . . .

Happy New Year, Columbia River Elementary families!

Welcome to 2026—we're so excited to have our kestrels back in the building! We hope your winter break was filled with rest, joy, and maybe a little extra hot chocolate. We're ready to jump into the new year with fresh energy, big smiles, and our schoolwide goal to "Soar Together." Our New Year's resolution is to continue lifting one another up, celebrating growth, and keeping learning fun, focused, and meaningful.

With winter fully here, we want to make sure all students stay warm and comfortable during outdoor recess. Please send your child to school bundled up, and we kindly ask that you write their name inside coats, hats, and gloves—our lost and found fills up fast this time of year! If your child needs a coat, please don't hesitate to reach out. We have plenty available and are more than happy to provide one.

As we settle back into routines, January is a great time to refocus on strong attendance, arriving on time, and coming to school ready to learn. Your partnership makes such a difference, and we appreciate the positivity and support you bring to our school community every day.

We can't wait to see what our students accomplish in 2026. Thank you for helping Columbia River Elementary continue to "Soar Together." Let's make January a fantastic start to 2026!

Watch Us Rise,

Amanda Wilson



### Dates to Remember

- 5<sup>th</sup>
  - First day of school after winter break
- 6<sup>th</sup>
  - PTO Meeting-6:00 p.m.
- 13<sup>th</sup>
  - Club Picture Day
- 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Coffee with the Principal  
9:15 a.m. - room 204
- 19<sup>th</sup>
  - Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
No Classes Held
- 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Winter Program  
6:00 p.m. ~ cafeteria
- 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - Panera Fundraiser Night  
Queensgate location  
4:00-8:00 p.m.
- 26<sup>th</sup>
  - Semester Break Day  
No Classes Held
- 29<sup>th</sup>
  - Band/Orchestra Concert  
6:00 p.m. - cafeteria





# Columbia River P.T.O.

kestrelpridepto@gmail.com

If you are interested in being involved in our PTO group, please send your contact information to [kestrelpridepto@gmail.com](mailto:kestrelpridepto@gmail.com)

### Monthly P.T.O. Meeting

January 6, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the school library.



- Winter Ball ~ February 6, 2026 5:30-7:00 p.m.

## Winter Weather Reminder



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. 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>

## Notes from the Music Room



Our second grade students have been working very hard on our winter program! We will proudly present this on Thursday, January 22, 2026. The concert will begin at 6:00 p.m. and students should arrive at 5:45 p.m. The program will last about 30 minutes. The school is providing winter patterned fleece scarves to be worn for the program. Students are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing of blue, white, purple and pink.

One week after that, on Thursday, January 29, 2026, our fifth graders will present their first instrumental concert. This concert will also start at 6:00 p.m. with student arrival at 5:45 p.m. If possible, students should wear "dressy" clothing. Students choosing to wear skirts should make sure the skirt reaches their knees when seated or plan to wear tights or leggings underneath.

Mrs. McElroy



## Winter Break Schedule

Our winter break is Thursday, December 18, 2025 through Friday, January 2, 2026.

Classes will resume on Monday, January 5, 2026.