














Points of Pride

- French Class Offering at MES taught by a volunteer teacher
- District-wide Anti Bullying Campaign - Be the Change
- Student Council Leadership throughout the district
- Outstanding MEAP results
- Columbia Central High School successful Marching Band finishing third in State Finals - Drum line's continued success in state competition - Growth of music programs throughout the district
- Improvement of Athletic facilities including wireless scoreboard, fence installation, overall grooming of athletic fields and girls locker room facelift
- Columbia Alternative High School was the only county school to receive AYP status
- Implementation of new lower elementary language arts assessment program
- Continued success of after school tutorial Study Island program
- CMS recognizes continued growth in extra curricular offerings such as; RIOT, Girl Quest, Guitar Lessons, Knitting and Chess Club and the Builders Club
- Failure is Not An Option philosophy
- Successful implementation of Weighted Grade system which has resulted in increased numbers of students requesting and qualifying for advance placement classes
- Successful theatrical performance, Fiddler on the Roof
- Volunteer Got Art programs at the elementary level
- Over 500 students have received their high school diploma through our Adult Education program over the 23 years it has been offered
- Continued commitment to curriculum development to encourage more practice and understanding in the core academic areas for our students
- Finally as always, are continued pride of our students, staff, parents and the support of our community...A complete list of the district's "Points of Pride" can be located at the Administration Office.

Board Briefs

For Meetings held from January to June 2007

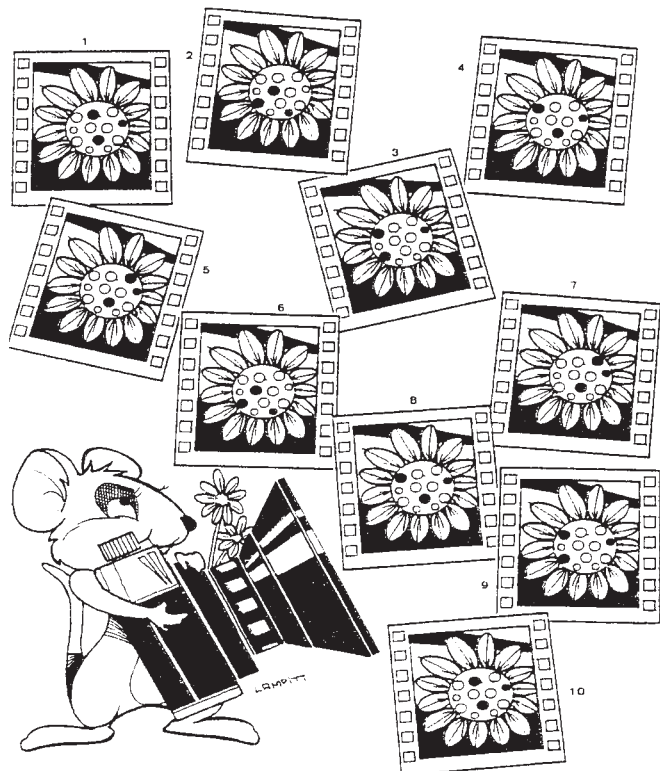
-  Hired new personnel and coaches
-  Reviewed and adopted proposed changes on Board Policy Recommendations
-  Approved the service and members for the district Sex Education Advisory Board as required by the Michigan Department of Education
-  Adopted resolution by the State of Michigan in recognition of contribution by school board
-  Adopted resolution to recognize Principal's Week
-  Approved letters of retirement with regret
-  Board Study Session held to continue review on school financial process
-  Approved teaching personnel for State Tenure Act and appropriate probations.
-  Action taken to facilitate the evaluation of the Columbia School District's Board of Education 2006-2007 Operational Procedures and Performance, and the establishment of the Board of Education Goals for the school year, 2007-2008
-  Adopted Engineering Curriculum
-  Recognized accomplishments of MES Student Council
-  Adopted Resolution to accept JCISD Budget and their Biennial Election
-  Adopted Resolution of Appreciation for outgoing Columbia School Board members, Mr. Anthony Sinacola and Mr. Randy Schiel.



Kid's Korner

Memory - ...the fact or condition of being remembered; an image or impression of one that is remembered; to recollect... Hopefully your family will capture many great memories this summer. Making a scrapbook of your adventures could be a great summer project...enjoy, and we'll see you again this fall.

School Mouse got a new camera and he's been busy snapping some flowers. Can you sort his photos into five matching pairs?



Answers: 9-7, 6-3, 9-2, 6-1, 10-5, 4-8

Retiring. . .



Ms. Marsha Malsack
1st Grade Teacher at Brooklyn Elementary School

Ms. Malsack started her career as a substitute teacher, then taught 2nd grade at Miller Elementary School and has been at Brooklyn Elementary School teaching 1st grade for the past 14 years. Altogether she has been in the education field for 21 years. Ms. Malsack and her husband, Rev. Bob Malsack, will enjoy spending the first 2 years living closer to their granddaughters in San Antonio, TX. After that...who knows? They may explore different areas before deciding where they will "officially" retire. Ms. Malsack advises, "to keep your sense of humor and pray for your students."



Ms. Karen Lewan
6th Grade Teacher at Columbia Middle School

After spending "30.9" years in education, Ms. Lewan has lots of plans for those retirement days. Her husband, Phil and her love to travel. They will be going on a cruise to the Bahamas, which was a gift from their daughter. They also travel in their 5th wheel and plan to see more of the country, and also spend more time with their five little granddaughters. Ms. Lewan loves the sport of trapshooting and plans to fit more of that into her calendar. Ms. Lewan recommends, "changing teaching subjects once in a while, which gives you a newness in your daily routine, and presents a badly needed challenge on occasion...and oh yeah, laugh a lot!"



Ms. Linda Neely
6th Grade Teacher at Columbia Middle School

Ms. Neely has taught a variety of grade levels such as 3rd/4th grade combination rooms, 4th grade and 6th grade. She plans to travel, spend winters where it's warm, improve her knitting skills, volunteer at Cascades Humane Society, knit for charity, take tracking classes with her dog, read and just enjoy each day. Her words of wisdom, "Never underestimate the power of your smile!"



Ms. Patti Smith
CCHS Cook

Ms. Smith has helped prepare meals with the school district for 30 years. Her duties range from dishwasher and serving on the food line in her earlier years to cashier and cooking meals. Ms. Smith will remain busy in retirement with her second career as a hairdresser. She tells her kids, "It's not what you say, but how you say it and life is about choices--choose wisely."



Mr. Gary Huntley
CCHS Teacher

For 33 1/2 years, Mr. Huntley has taught U.S. History, American Cultures, Current Events, American Indians, Civics, Geography, Michigan History as well as Physical Education, and Biology. He also served as the Social Studies Department Head at the high school. Mr. Huntley is looking forward to retirement and working part-time at Leutz Cabinets. He plans to hunt and fish and play lots of Texas Hold'em. He reminds us, "A leader leads by example, whether he intends to or not."



Ms. Cindy Pratt
BES Teacher

Ms. Pratt began her career teaching music at both Brooklyn Elementary and Miller Elementary Schools and then continued her teaching career in Jr. Primary, first and second grades for a total of 31 years of teaching. She plans to do some catching up at home, sewing, volunteering and spending time with her family camping, traveling and warm winters in Florida. Ms. Pratt suggests we, "Take time to care. You can make the difference in someone's life."



Ms. Mary Devine
Cook CMS

Ms. Devine has been in the Food Service Department for 20 years, and states, "I like the kids; they teach me everyday".



Ms. Donna Williams
Classroom Teacher Aide MES

Ms. Williams has been with the school district for 33 years as a classroom teacher's aide in kindergarten, second grade and special needs classrooms. Ms. Williams enjoyed all her jobs very much and had some fun while doing them. She plans on a trip to Montana on the train, and after that...who knows. She will miss all her colleagues and friends at Columbia School District.

Mr. Seth Arnold (Not pictured)
Bus Driver

Better known to the students as "Papa Smurf", Mr. Arnold eagerly drove the bus, especially enjoying the children. He drove for three other school districts before driving full time for Columbia School District. Mr. Arnold will keep busy volunteering at MIS and working at the Champion Club greeting guest.

Retiring - Not Pictured:
Greg Bahmiller - Bus Driver
Donna Gaede - Cook

Mary Konkol - MES Teacher
Linda Roberts - MES Teacher