

COLUMBIA MIDDLE SCHOOL



"Message from the Principal" - Mr. Greg Meschke

Each year at this same time it seems that my message is how the year flew by so quickly...how true once again! Here at CMS we are so lucky to have had one of the greatest years so far. Our test scores, our poetry winners, our spelling bee contestants, our athletes, our ladies in Girls Quest, and most importantly; our great staff and great students and their parents. What more can we be thankful for? Aren't we lucky to have such wonderful things to look forward to for next year! I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer!



Kids Helping Kids

By Jeffrey Bush, Reporter

While watching the news about Hurricane Katrina with his father a light went on in Spencer Towbin's head. As relief poured in for clean-up and temporary housing as well as medical and nutritional supplies, Spencer noticed that "the kids seemed bored" and he wanted to help. With the assistance of friends Morgan Sanborn, Sarah Viera-Patron, and Rachel Barrett the foursome founded project *Kidz Pak*. The four middle school students, with the help of Towbin's parents, collected donations for backpacks that were to be filled with all kinds of toys and goodies for the children of New Orleans. Miller and Brooklyn Elementary Schools joined in by saving loose change and doing chores around the house for money. Parent Teacher Organizations donated school supplies and the National Honor Society accepted donations at sporting events. Many more groups and organizations helped as the project became a community effort. Soon more than 1100 *Paks* were crammed with small games, stuffed animals, and toys for displaced children from Hurricane Katrina. Spencer and his father delivered the backpacks in a trailer donated by Napoleon Schools. The donated items "rode like sardines," says Spencer. They dropped the *Paks* off at a church that still didn't have electricity. "It was scary," Spencer said. "Even though it was a year later," he stated, "it's not when they get it, it's that they get it. We are going to try to see what we can do for next year." The thank-you cards are still coming in he mentions. Spencer is also currently involved in helping the Columbia Township Fire and Police continue their Bear Program. This program helps children who have been in accidents or burned. He is an ambassador for People to People, received a certificate from the President of The United States, and has been nominated for the Citizen Patriot Youth Citizen of the Year. Mrs. Susan Towbin, Spencer's mother, says that all homework must be done before any volunteer work. She also hopes he learns a valuable lesson for all his time put in. "That one person can help, and it doesn't take an army to do so," she exclaims.

Middle School Football 7th & 8th Graders

Official Start Date: Monday Aug. 27th

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Place: Columbia Middle School Football Field

What to wear: T-Shirt, shorts, socks, & cleats. Each player must have a physical form completed & turned in on or before the official start date.

Physical forms are available in the Middle School or High School office.

Any Questions please call the high school 592-6634.

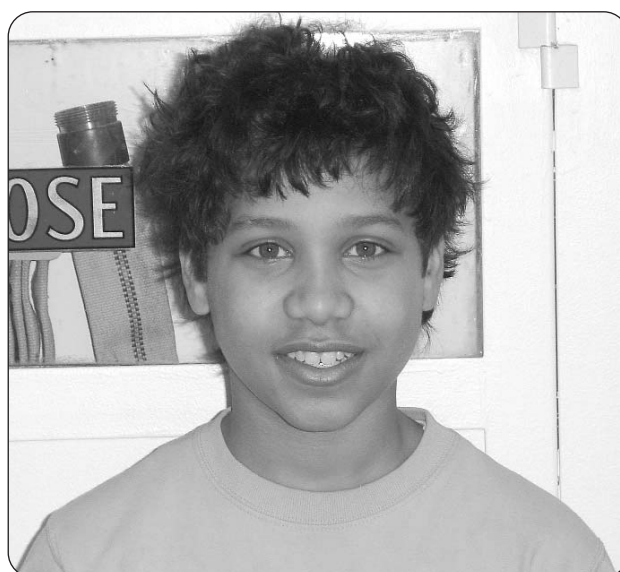


Eighth Grade Participates in Big Read

By Jeffrey Bush, Reporter

Columbia Middle School eighth-grade Language Arts class recently participated in the county wide "Big Read." The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts, designed to restore reading to the middle of American culture. Jackson County, led by Jackson Community College, chose *To Kill a Mocking Bird* as their medium of choice. Celebrations, stage plays, and a visit from author Harper Lee kicked off the event. Middle school teacher Ms. Leslie

Schmidt encouraged her students to share the book with family members and have active discussions about its material. "We want to motivate the entire county to read," said Ms. Schmidt. As sometimes controversial, the story begs the question of how does hatred and prejudice harm society. Ironically, The Big Read is designed to bring society closer together. The month long event wrapped up with a "Pecan Music Gumbo Celebration" in downtown Jackson.



CMS Student Wins County Spelling Bee

By Jeffrey Bush, Reporter

Columbia Middle School sixth-grader Kendall Anderson was cool as a cucumber when he spelled *plantain* to take the County Spelling Bee Championship in March. In the sixth round he correctly spelled *decibel*, which was missed by the runner up, and then the winning word. Kendall received a trophy, a savings bond, a new dictionary, and a trip for two to Washington D.C. to compete for the national title at the end of May. "I studied a little each day," proclaims Kendall. That may be a stretch according to his father Andy Anderson who says Kendall is a natural. The other 85 contestants received a t-shirt, a personalized dictionary, and ten dollars for each word spelled correctly. With the winning and newfound fame Kendall expressed, "I feel good about going to D.C." At the national spelling bee, Kendall made it to the second round where a written exam tripped him up. "There were words on the exam I never heard of," explained Kendall. His family, friends, and community are very proud of him none-the-less. Great job Kendall!!!

Columbia Students Take First and Second

Columbia Middle School's eighth grade English class, taught by Mrs. Leslie Schmidt, recently participated in a countywide poetry contest. Columbia Central students David Scouten and Marrisra Morris received first and second honors respectively and Samantha Bondy received honorable mention. Mrs. Schmidt expressed that she "was proud of all my students that participated in the poetry contest, and (is) especially pleased with those that received formal recognition." Below is Mr. Scouten's work and Marrisra's poem will be featured in the upcoming calander.

Pressure's On

The game is tied
Step back and throw
The blitz is coming
Let it go

Down by two
Behind the arc
Two seconds left
Can't miss the mark

Bottom of the ninth
Do or die
Three and two
Let it fly

Stuck in second
One lap left
Pull a move
Make a theft

Overtime
One last bet
Down the ice
To the net

- David Scouten

