



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2009

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- 1/4Classes resume from Christmas vacation
- 1/5Second half of tuition due
- 1/11Junior Parents Meeting
Standardized test results, 6:30pm, Café
- 1/12Sophomore Parents Meeting
Standardized test results, 6:30pm, Café
- 1/13Early Dismissal Day (1:20 pm)
- 1/13Freshman Parents Meeting
Standardized test results, 6:30pm, Café
- 1/14Freshman Retreat at Columbus
- 1/18Martin Luther King Day – No School
- 1/25Junior Course Selection Begins
- 1/29Senior Mas Scholar Retreat
- 1/30Columbus Entrance Exam (8am)
- 2/1Sophomore Course Selection Begins
- 2/3Early Dismissal Day (1:20 pm)
- 2/8Freshman Course Selection Begins
- 2/9 - 12.....School Play- *All In The Timing*
Each Day at 7:00pm
- 2/14Happy St. Valentine's Day
- 2/15President's Day – No School
- 2/17Ash Wednesday – Lent Begins
- 2/24Early Dismissal Day (1:20pm)
- 2/24 - 26..Senior Encounter at
Morning Star Retreat Center
- 2/27Adelante 5K & Fun Walk
8am, Tropical Park
- 3/4Junior Ring Ceremony, 7pm, Gym
- 3/6Annual Reverse Raffle, 7pm, Café
- 3/11-12Sophomore Retreat at CCHS
- 3/17Happy St. Patrick's Day
- 3/19McPat Games
- 3/21Mother / Son Communion Breakfast
10am, Café
- 3/23-26 ...School Play, 7pm each day
- 3/24Early Dismissal Day (1:20pm)
- 3/24-26 ...Senior Encounter at
Morning Star Retreat Center
- 3/31Easter Vacation Begins
- 4/12Classes Resume



Dear Columbus Family,

St Marcellin Champagnat, the founder of the Marist Brothers, asked the Brothers to be first at "the crib, the cross and the tabernacle". Know that you and your families will be in the prayers of the Marist Community as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. For the New Year of 2010 may the Lord give you only His choicest blessings. Enjoy this time of year with your family and friends! ADELANTE.

Br. Michael Brady, fms, *Principal*

Explorers Know the True Spirit of Christmas Comes With Giving



Toys and Christmas Cheer: The Squires, with the help of fellow Explorers, raised over \$2,500 in toy donations. Students visited Jackson Memorial Hospital to give toys to sick children and the plans include more toy giving at St. John the Baptist Mission.

Care Packages for Soldiers: Explorers went even further and collected and delivered 100 care packages of sandals, chap stick, gum and sun block for our brave soldiers.



Warm Pajamas and Blankets for the Homeless: The Christmas campaign to help the children at the Community Partnership Homeless Family Shelter was led by **Steven Galan** with the help of **Chris Rodriguez**, **Chris Barreneche**, and **Chance Fernandez**. They worked tirelessly to help raise enough money to allow 100 homeless children to have warm pajamas, slippers, and blankets. Their motto: "That's what brothers do."

Congratulations! Columbus Hall of Fame 2009 Inductees



Left to Right: **Ignacio Halley:** Alumni parent; President of Community Asphalt Corp.; current member of the school board. **Br. Edmund Sheehan:** Marist Brother for 50 years; long-time administrator and teacher; current school librarian. **Fred Panzer:** Long-time Columbus teacher and coach; alumni parent. **Ray Abadin '75:** Alumni parent; founding partner of the law firm Abadin Cook; former member of the school board.

Junior Nicolas Plazas Wins SADD Poster Competition



Over 60 posters were entered into this county-wide contest sponsored by the Miami Dade Police Department from many schools, including several magnet art schools. The posters extol the virtues of abstinence from drinking and driving. Nicolas received \$1,000 in scholarship money for being the winner.

Columbus is Proud of its Scholars!

National AP Scholars: Earlier this Fall, the College Board announced that 12 Columbus students from the class of 2009 were chosen as National AP Scholars for their outstanding academic performance on the AP Exams. They received an average grade of at least 4 on all AP exams taken and grades of 4 or higher on 8 or more of these exams. Also, 33 students were named Scholars With Distinction, 18 were named Scholars With Honor and 25 were named AP Scholars.



Miguel Figueiras - Scholar
Victor Moas- Scholar
Eric Mullery - Scholar
Enrique Narciso - Scholar

Dario Pedrajo- Scholar
Matthew Piscitelli - Scholar
Christian Chiriboga - Honorable Mention

National Hispanic Recognition Scholars: Six Columbus Students have been selected as 2009-2010 National Hispanic Recognition (NHRP) Scholars and one received Honorable Mention. The NHRP identifies outstanding Hispanic/Latino high school students from a pool of over 200,000 students who took the 2008 PSAT/NMSQT/PAA.

Congratulations to the 2009 Silver Knight Award Nominees



ArtSteven Galan
AthleticsMichael Chisena
Drama.....William Cadena
English & Literature ..Jorge Cuello
Foreign LanguageAlberto Monreal
Journalism.....Matthew DeFranks
General Scholarship...Christian-Emmanuel Oliveros

MathematicsIan Cuba
Music.....Enrique Narciso
New Media.....Vincent Fernandez
ScienceVictor Moas
Social ScienceMatthew Piscitelli
SpeechDaniel Ruiz Calderon
Vocational-Technical ..Justin Lenger

**SAVE
THE DATES**

FIRST ANNUAL ADELANTE 5K RACE & FUN WALK

February 27, 2009 – 8:00am
Tropical Park: 7900 SW 40th St. Miami
Support Columbus and get some outdoor exercise. Bring your family!

*Details and entry form will be posted on the Columbus website in January.

25TH ANNUAL REVERSE RAFFLE

March 6, 2010 at 7pm • CCHS Cafeteria: Cocktails, Dinner, & Drawing.
1st Prize: \$10,000 • (16) 2nd Prizes: \$500 each
Tickets: \$150 each: includes dinner for 2 and open bar.
Only 300 tickets will be sold! Don't miss out on all the fun!
Order your tickets early by contacting Stacey Munoz at smunoz@columbushs.com

Help a Needy Family With Tuition. Join the new **100 at \$1000 Club**

The economic crisis has affected many Columbus families who could previously pay their children's tuition but now cannot. In order to help, the school has provided over \$600,000 in financial aid this school year and now we have started a new fundraising campaign - the **100 at \$1,000 Club**. Our goal is to have 100 individuals donate \$1,000 to raise \$100,000 for tuition assistance. As of December 15, there are 66 members. Please help us reach our goal.

In appreciation, donors to this campaign will receive a 20% discount on items purchased in the school clothing store, free admission to home non-playoff games, a cocktail reception, and recognition in the Columbus Alumni Newsletter and website. If you are interested in joining the club, contact Juan Gomez at 305-223-5650 ext. 2237. To view a list of the club members visit the Columbus website.

100 at \$1000
C L U M B U S



Coach Chris Merritt – Team USA's New Head Football Coach

USA Football, the sport's national governing body on youth and amateur levels, will hold the first "Team USA vs. The World" game in Ft. Lauderdale's Lockhart Stadium on January 30, 2010. The game will match USA Football's 2010 Junior National Team - 45 of the country's top high school seniors - against a "World" team composed of the best players aged 19 and under from outside the United States, spanning four continents.

The head coach of *Team USA* is our own Chris Merritt, Columbus' football head coach. Merritt was the 2009 USA Football Junior National Team's defensive backs coach that earned a gold medal this past July in the eight-nation International Federation of American Football (IFAF) Junior World Championship.

Cross Country State Champions 2009 & 2008



The Cross Country Team won the State Championship for a 2nd consecutive year establishing itself as the top program in Miami-Dade. Congratulations to the team and to the head coach Jorge Fleitas and assistant coach Eric Pino.

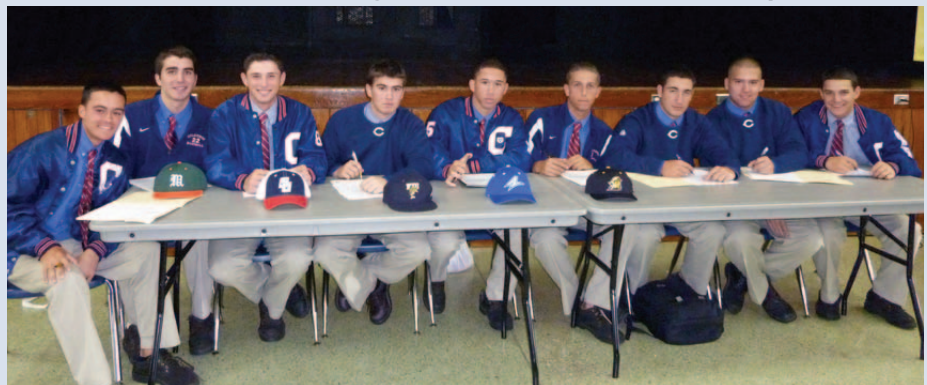
Douglas Ramos - Wins State Championship in Swimming

Junior and Mas Scholar, Douglas Ramos, is the new FHSAA 3A State Champion in the 100 Breaststroke.

Congratulations Douglas!



Student-Athletes Sign Baseball and Golf Scholarships



On November 16th, eight Columbus baseball players and one golfer signed college scholarships. Congratulations to all! *Pictured Above - Left to Right:*

Marcelo Huarte	Barry University (golf)
Javier Salas.....	University of Miami
Tyler Filliben.....	Samford University
Jesse Pintado	Florida International University
Nick Collazo	University of North Carolina - Asheville
Lawrence Pardo	Appalachian State University
Andres Perez Lobo	Florida International University
Chris Gutierrez.....	University of Texas Pan American
Manny Alvarez.....	Cambell University

Columbus Robotics Wins Big at the Miami Science Museum



On October 11th The Miami Science Museum hosted Bot Pop 2009 and Columbus made an explosion. Competing in 25 rounds against 13 teams from local high schools. The First Place Award went to Columbus varsity team members, **Federico Almonte** and **Rafael Ortiz** for their outstanding task robot, Forklift. The Second Place as well as the Best Sportsmanship Award went to varsity team members **Kevin Casanovas** and **Christian De Leon** with their innovative task robot, R1.

Nurse on Staff at Columbus

For those of you who aren't aware, there is now a nurse on staff at Columbus. Nurse Lorraine Pall is available for students everyday from 9am – 1pm. She has over 40 years of nursing experience and administers first aid assessment.



New Fishing Club!

Interested in fishing on the high seas? Br. Pat McNulty will start the Fishing Club in 2010. For more information you can contact Br. Pat at 305-223-5650 x2220

ExxonMobil Awards Grant to Columbus

Thanks to the efforts of the ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Program and Jose Hernandez, Manager of the ExxonMobil station located at 10698 SW 24th Street, Christopher Columbus High School has been awarded a \$750 ExxonMobil Educational Alliance grant. *Thank you ExxonMobil!*

ExxonMobil

Students Receive National Language Awards



The AATSP (Association of Teachers of Spanish & Portuguese) and the AATF (American Association of Teachers of French) offer national exams where students compete throughout our nation. Les Diplomes d'Excellence et de Merit and the Premio de Oro, de Plata, y de Bronze were given to many of our Explorers. *Congratulations!*

Students Participate in Ms. McCullagh's Earthwatch Expedition Webcast

Learning About Climate Change and its Impact on Forests: Students in AP Environmental Science and AP European History classes participated in a "Live From the Field" web video conference on December 2nd while Ms. McCullagh, Social Studies Department Leader, was on the Earthwatch Expedition "*Climate Change and Fragmented Forests*" at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Maryland. Students followed Ms. McCullagh's blog on the earthwatch website and responded to the challenges and questions she posted.

The students had the opportunity to ask questions directly to scientist Nancy Kahn and Ms. McCullagh. CCHS utilized the Mas Technology Complex's Building's Multipurpose Room and its video conferencing technology.



Juniors Take Part in Healthcare Reform Roundtable

On November 6th, Juniors **Giancarlo Ghinatti** and **Joseph Tahbaz** participated in The National Constitution Center's national student program - *The Exchange*. Students from schools across the country, both at the Center and live via internet video conferencing joined a roundtable discussion about healthcare reform. This was the second time CCHS students took part in this program.

