

OCTOBER 2023

Columbia Elementary School

Pay preschool tuition - due the 1st of each month

Dates to Remember

- October 5th - 13th - **Fall Break - NO SCHOOL**
- October 9th - 12th - Intersession @ *Riddle Elementary* (prior registration required)
- October 11th - Fall Festival Enrichment @ *Riddle Elementary* (prior registration required)
- October 16th - All First grade students go to McClure's Orchard for their field trip - (Beall, Mechling, and Sterk's classes go in the morning - Gudeman, Rock, Weil's classes go in the afternoon)
- October 17th - PTO meeting at 4pm in Columbia library
- October 17th - LaBraid fundraiser begins (forms will be coming home that day)
- October 18th - Report cards
- October 19th - Picture retakes
- October 20th - Kindergarten color day - WHITE
- October 20th - 50's day to celebrate the 50th day of school
- October 26th - Kindergarten color day - BLACK
- October 27th - Kindergarten Promise Indiana field trip to Ivy Tech
- October 27th - Zebra Zone celebration
- October 31st - PTO sponsored door hop (details attached below)

Save the Date - Upcoming Music Programs

- **1st Grade** - November 9th, Thursday @ *RHS Auditorium 6:00pm* - students should arrive between 5:30pm - 5:45pm
 - **Kindergarten** - December 7th, Thursday (more details coming soon)
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First Grade will be roller skating after Fall Break until Thanksgiving Break. Make sure your student wears socks on their P.E. day and turns in the skating permission slip.

Meet the Teachers



Preschool Teachers

Back row: Stacia Conrad,
Angela Hissong
Front row: Kasi Balanow, Jenny
Keller



Kindergarten Teachers

Mrs. Amy, Mrs. Bauters, Mrs.
Sehstedt, Miss Smoker, Mrs.
Brouyette, Mrs. Freeman



First Grade Teachers

Back row: Mrs. Johnson (Title
1 Teacher), Mrs. Beall, Mrs.
Sterk, Ms. Rock
Front row: Mrs. Mechling, Mrs.
Gudeman, Mrs. Weil

Welcome from Little Zebbie's Diner! 🦓🍴

I'm Mrs. Dena Lahman the Manager of Columbia Cafeteria.

We have had a GREAT start to the 2023-24 school year. I wanted to share a few things coming up. Fall Break starting October 5, 2023, on **October 4, 2023 we are going to have a picnic for lunch.** If the weather permits we will go outside and eat our sack lunch. **Bring a beach towel or something you can sit on.** October 31, 2023 eat a school lunch and receive a prize.

Starting in November, this is the beginning of our Winter Menu Cycle. Please encourage your student to try something new. Make sure to eat lots of fruits and vegetables so you can stay healthy this winter. That's it for now. We will talk again in November.

October breakfast and lunch menus

PTO News

PTO will meet October 17th at 4pm in the Columbia Library

October will be a busy, but fun, month for PTO.

First, we would like to congratulate our top classes for the Krispy Kreme donut fundraiser. Each winning class will get a pizza or ice party and our top selling class will receive a \$100 Amazon gift card. Mrs. Brouette's class was the top selling Kindergarten class as well as the top selling class for the entire building! Mrs. Weil's class was top seller for 1st grade, and Mrs. Keller's class was top seller for Preschool. Thank you again to all for your support, it was a successful fundraiser!

We will begin our annual LaBraid Fundraiser on October 17th, sales are a little early this year in order to get them in before Thanksgiving. We are hoping with all the funds that are raised we will be able to have Kona Ice come at the end of the school year, and maybe a special guest come during our Christmas Zebra Zone.

On October 31st, Tuesday, we will start a new fun event with all the classes participating in a DOOR HOP! (please see attachment below for more details).



Door Hop 31Oct.pdf

[Download](#)

354.8 KB

Art to Remember



Columbia is participating in a creative fundraiser with **Art to Remember** that allows you to purchase keepsake products customized with your child's art.

The student's have been busy in art class making their project. You will be getting order forms home in October and delivery will be the end of November or beginning of December (they would make great Christmas presents 😊)

See the attached file below for more information.

Counselor's Corner

This month our Pre-K and Kindergarten students will learn about Strangers, Grown-Up Buddies and the Trusted Triangle. These are the key points that will be covered:

- Children should always stay close to their Grown-Up Buddy whenever they are out in public.
- Students will identify adults they can talk to about situations that leave them feeling scared, confused, uncomfortable or "icky." These adults will be part of their Trusted Triangle.
- Strangers are any people they don't know well. Strangers don't necessarily look dangerous.
- If they get separated from their Grown-Up Buddy when out in a public place, the students are encouraged to look for and ask for help from someone official, like a firefighter or police officer or a mother with children.

First grade students will review using their "Safety Stop Sign" and "I Mean Business Voice." Your child should use their safety stop sign when something does not feel safe, reminding them that they always have the ability to say "no." By using their I mean business voice, students learn to speak with conviction and authority. This voice should be different from your child's usual speaking voice so that people know to pay special attention to them in an unsafe situation. To learn more about the curriculum, please visit <https://safersmarterkids.org/> and click on "parents." If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at 223-2501 ext. 2005

Bully Prevention

October is National Bullying Prevention Month. At Columbia, in addition to academics, we strive to teach students how to make friends, identify and manage emotions and learn to use conflict resolution skills to set them up for successful interactions with others.

Despite our efforts, there are times when students are rude, mean or bully others. Below are some tips for determining if your student is being bullied and what you as a parent/guardian can do. The full article can be found here: <https://childmind.org/article/how-to-know-if-your-child-is-being-bullied/>

When teasing becomes bullying:

- When there is a power difference
- When there is intent to cause harm
- When it is repeated
- When it causes harm

What to do when you suspect your child is being bullied:

- Collect as many details from your child as possible
- Help your child practice assertiveness (remind them of their "safety stop sign" and "I mean business voice" from Safer Smarter Kids lessons)
- Get your child involved in activities they are good at- this builds confidence
- Contact your child's school. The classroom teacher is the best person to contact first. You may also contact the school counselor or principal. (It is difficult to handle situations that have not been brought to our attention.)
- Monitor incidents- is there a pattern?
- Form a partnership with the teacher

A Note from Nurse Stacey



FLU FACTS/INFORMATION: Influenza (also known as the flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by flu viruses. If your child is eligible for the flu vaccine, please do your part in keeping everyone safe.

COLDER WEATHER-OUTSIDE: As we welcome the colder weather, please make sure you are sending your students with proper clothes. Students will go outside for recess, weather permitting.

IMMUNIZATIONS: If you received a formal letter in regards to your student being behind on immunizations, please remember the grace period for your student expires on **October 23, 2023**. Your child will not be able to attend school after this date unless they have met the requirements per the Indiana State Department of Health (SEA 461). Any medical or religious exemptions must be

filed by the above date as well. Please reach out with any questions or concerns, stacey.ropp@zebras.net or 574-223-2501 ext.2010.

Childcare offered at Columbia

Columbia offers child care options for working parents. These programs are offered to students PK thru 6th grade.

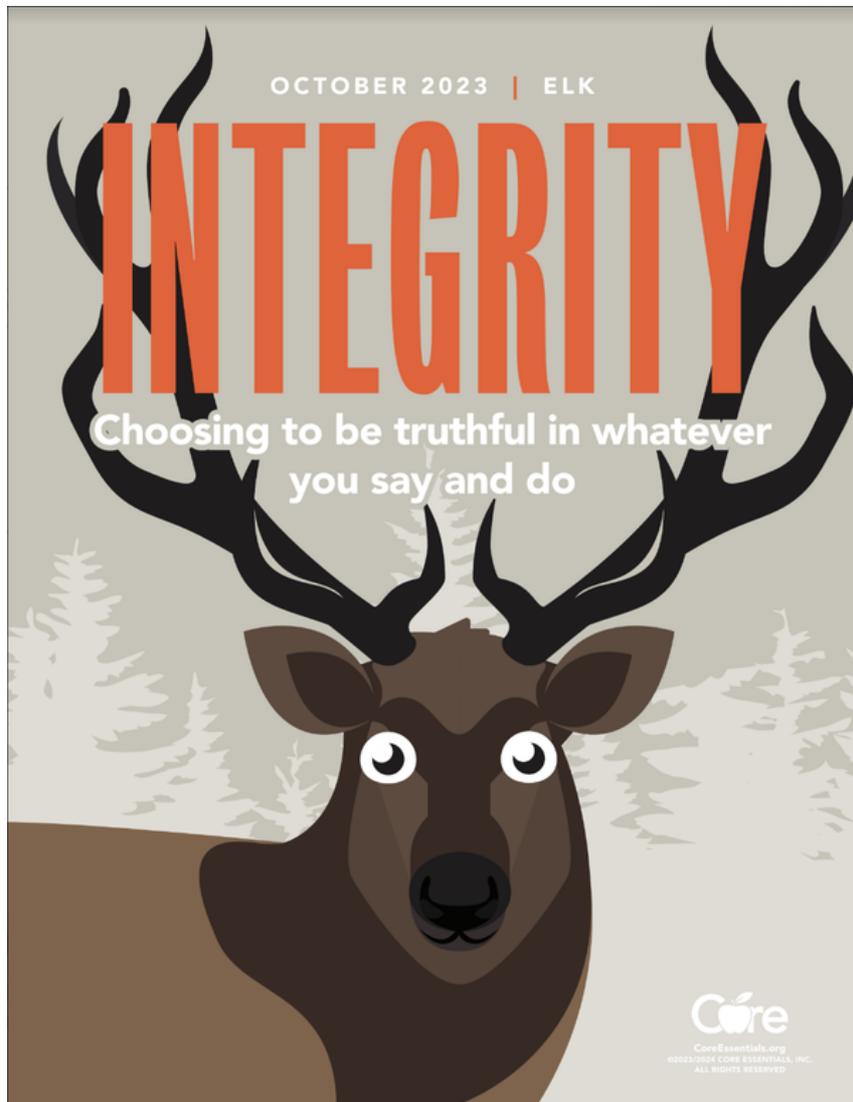
Before school program: 6:30am-7:45am Fee is \$14 per student with discounts for additional students.

After school program: 2:45pm– 5:30pm Fee is \$24 per student with discounts for additional students.

Break/Intersession Care: 6:30am-5:30pm. Weekly fee \$84 per student and a discount is offered for additional students. This would include breakfast, lunch and a snack. If your student attends intersession, fees would be reduced.



For more information, please contact Brooke Towell, brooke.towell@zebras.net.



Promise Indiana Fulton County



Promise Fulton County is all about helping parents establish College Choice Direct 529 accounts for their child's post high school education and in turn, depositing money directly into the accounts through our various incentive programs. This is literally **FREE MONEY** your family can benefit from over the K-12 school years. For instance, every time a student earns a STAR Card or Honor Roll reward, \$11 is added to their account. This incentive alone could amount to nearly \$600 over the course of a K-12 education. Contact Betty Martens, betty.m.promisefultoncounty@gmail.com or call 574-835-9484, for more information on starting to save through a 529 account.



Columbia Elementary School

The Littlest Zebras In The Herd

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574-223-2501

