



September breakfast and lunch menus

Dates to Remember

- September 1st - **Labor Day - No School**
- September 2nd - McClure's Apple Orchard Field Trip for *Mechling* and *Weil's* classes - approved chaperones for this trip should meet us at the orchard at 11:30am
- September 3rd - McClure's Apple Orchard Field Trip for *Gudeman*, *Rock* and *Sterk's* classes - approved chaperones for this trip should meet us at the orchard at 11:30am
- September 3rd - Progress report
- September 5th - Kindergarten color day - GREEN
- September 12th - Kindergarten color day - BLUE
- September 19th - Kindergarten color day - PURPLE
- September 22nd- 26th - Scholastic Book Fair (details below)
- September 23rd - 6:00pm PTO kickoff meeting (details below)
- September 25th - *School pictures - look for emails/texts from Sheldon Photography with ordering details on picture day.*
- September 26th - Book Fair, Family Night, 3:30pm-5:30pm
- September 26th - Kindergarten color day - PINK

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming!

SAVE THE DATE for 9/22 - 9/26 and get your reader psyched to pick out their own books! Start exploring together: <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/columbiaelementaryschool11>

FAMILY NIGHT will be Friday, 9/26, from 3:30p.m.-5:30p.m.

Scholastic Book Fairs bring diverse books and educational products to schools, fostering a love for reading by giving children the joy of selecting their own books, and they also support school libraries and literacy initiatives.



What is PTO? Parent Teacher Organization - Our objective is to encourage the interaction between family and school, support school operations and enhance school spirit. PTO works closely with the admin team at Columbia as well as our teachers and staff.



Who can join Columbia PTO? Anyone!

When does PTO meet? Our first meeting will be on September 23rd, Tuesday, at 6pm in the Columbia Elementary STEM. There will be childcare available during the meeting for children ages 6 months and up. We will plan some exciting things for this year and discuss our first fundraiser.

How do I reach the PTO? Please feel free to email Michelle Jaeger, the PTO President, with any questions or concerns. michelle.jaeger@zebras.net

Counselor Corner 😊



Each month we will also share information and tips related to child development. It is meant as a way to share information we hope parents may find insightful or helpful.

Our big idea for September 2025 is **Responsibility**, which we define as proving you can be trusted with what is expected of you. Teaching children responsibility can be challenging at times, especially when expectations are not a preferred activity for the child. The following are methods to teach children responsibility; how to prove you can be trusted with what is expected of you.

[Teaching Responsibility Article](#)

- Teach proactively- teach and discuss expectations before a situation arises; in the midst of a situation, emotions can run high
- Do not criticize in the moment- in the moment, children are focused on their feelings about the situation and will likely not listen to logic and reason
- Focus on yourself and not the child- this is your opportunity to show children how to remain calm when things are not going their way

- Do not get pulled into a reaction cycle- do not become distracted by your child's reaction, keep the focus on the original issue
- Model what the behavior you want to see- children will copy what they see

Starting in September, ***your student(s) will be participating in the Safer Smarter Kids abuse prevention and personal safety curriculum program.*** The curriculum was created by lifelong classroom educators, developmental psychologists, and experts in abuse prevention to teach personal safety from a place of fun- not fear, without being explicit or scary in any way.

The SSK curriculum will equip your child with protective principles and the knowledge needed to identify and avoid unsafe situations, people and behaviors and how to access help.

Our monthly lessons will be taught in 20-30 minute lessons that incorporate videos and fun activities. Our first PK and Kindergarten lesson will discuss safety rules, grown up buddies, the safety stop sign and the "I mean business voice." First grade will review safety rules and grown up buddies and identify people in their Trusted Triangle. 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

Hello from Little Zebbie's Diner!

School is off to a great start. If you have not filled out Free & Reduced Forms please, do so ASAP and get them turned in. We would like to encourage students to eat a school lunch. If your child packs, maybe have them try eating one day. They might surprise themselves and you. If you have any questions, please reach out to me via email or phone. Look forward to having a great year and getting students to try new things!

Dena Lahman

Columbia Food Service Manager

574-223-2501 ext.2009

Dena.Lahman@zebras.net

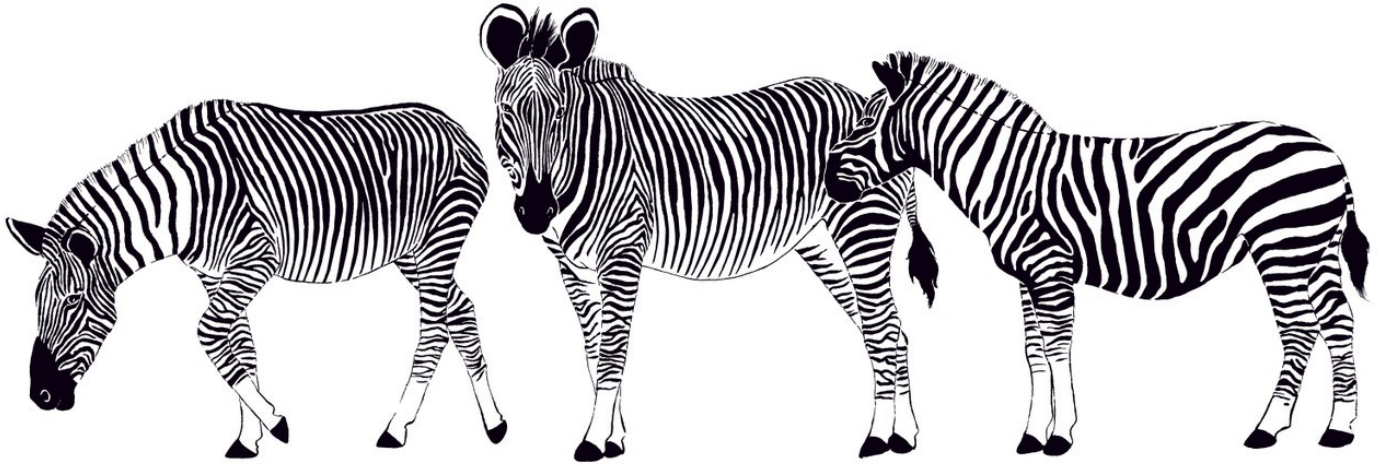


A Note From Nurse Leigh

Please send a labeled set of extra clothes in a grocery sack (shirt, pants, underpants, and socks) for your student in their backpacks. It can stay in their backpacks until it may be needed. Accidents happen, with water, food/drink, or otherwise. We have a small emergency clothes supply, but our sizes and availability are limited. If we do not have something to fit your child, we will call for replacement clothes to be brought in. Clothing that is borrowed should be laundered and returned. Reminder: If your child requires an emergency plan of care for a medical concern, please reach out to their providers to have these completed and returned. If a medication is listed on the care plan, a parent will need to drop this medication off to the nurse and sign a permission form for it to be administered, if needed. If your child no longer has the medical concern or does not require a plan of care, please reach out to the nurse so we can remove this request from their file.

If you have questions about anything immunization or exemption-related, please reach out via email (leigh.barts@zebras.net), or phone (574-223-2501 x2010) and I will do my best to assist you!

Pay preschool tuition - due the 1st of each month



Columba Elementary School

The Littlest Zebras In The Herd



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