

December 2025

Columbia Elementary School

"SMALL STEPS ADD UP TO BIG JOURNEYS."

We would like to thank all those that made our Veterans Day lunch special.

Thank you to the *Columbia Cafe* for an amazing lunch, *Columbia PTO* for helping to decorate, *Abbi Cronan* for giving her time and talent to photograph all of our Veterans, *Columbia Teachers* for being flexible as we had so many visitors in our building, and most of all... **Thank you to all the Veterans for your sacrifices, for your valor, for protecting us, and for defending our rights.**



Coming Up!

- December 2nd - PTO Meeting @ 6:00pm
- December 4th - All Day Preschool field trip to Elemental Art Studio
- December 4th - Kindergarten Music Program (details below)
- December 8th - PTO fundraising money and forms due for calendar fundraiser
- December 11th - **Holiday Meal in Cafe** - join your student (details below)
- December 15th - Dress up day - Pajama Day
- December 16th - Kindergarten and 1st Grade field trip to Honeywell for Live: The Magic School Bus
- December 17th - Dress up day - Christmas Spirit/Ugly Sweater Day - we will have an ugly sweater contest for those who'd like to participate
- December 19th - Grinch themed Zebra Zone celebration - wear green, dress like the Grinch, dress like a Who from Whoville
- December 22nd - January 2nd - Winter Break - **NO SCHOOL**
- January 5th (Monday) - **RETURN TO SCHOOL**

Zebra Zone Fundraiser

☆☆ Exciting news, Columbia families!

You can now **have your child's name displayed on our school sign** for just \$20!

This is a fantastic way to support our Zebra Zone program. Fill out this form and drop off **\$20 cash** to the Columbia office anytime the month before you'd like the name displayed.

The money will need to be in an envelope with your child's name and the words "Zebra Zone Fundraiser". We'll do the rest!

Who's excited to see their name in lights? 🎁

[Sign in to Google](#) to save your progress. [Learn more](#)

⓪ * Indicates required question

🎵 Kindergarten Christmas Concert

- December 4th, Thursday at Rochester High School at 6:00pm.
- Doors open at 5:30pm, students need to be in their gathering rooms by 5:45pm
- Students are asked to wear their Christmas dress, shirts, or sweaters. Please don't wear anything that lights up. We will be providing hats.



🤧 A Note From Nurse Leigh

Dry skin got you "itching" for a fix? Try the "soak and seal" method that is commonly recommended by providers! After a lukewarm shower or bath, pat most of the way dry, leaving some water on the skin and then apply a hefty layer of lotion or moisturizer. This seals in additional moisture and helps to relieve some of that "winter itch". Let the moisturizer soak in for a few minutes before covering up with clothing. Vaseline, Aquaphor, or other quality lip ointments can help with lip moisturizing and can be applied frequently. Drink plenty of water as another great way to make sure your skin stays healthy throughout these dry winter months!

Cover your cough! As we gather with families and mix germs from different households and/or schools, it is increasingly important to cover coughs and sneezes. Continue hand hygiene practices after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing and avoid touching your face. Remember that most viral illnesses last about 7-10 days. If an illness is not improving after 7 days, have your child evaluated by their provider to make sure that something else isn't going on.

December breakfast and lunch menu



Little Zebbie's Diner

Join your student for our Holiday Dinner on 12/11

We will be having our Holiday Meal on December 11th, Thursday, and we invite you to **JOIN US** and have lunch with your student during their regular lunch time! Cost is \$4.60 per person and we will only accept exact change, if you don't have the exact amount we are able to deposit any amount over \$4.60 into your student's account.

Guests will need to arrive 10 minutes early and bring your driver's license to get checked in to our system.

RSVP by emailing natalie.leslie@zebras.net no later than December 3rd, Wednesday.



Reminders

1. RECESS INFO & SNOW GEAR

All students will be expected to go outside for recess if the wind chill, feels like, is 25 degrees or above, be sure your child wears the appropriate clothing to go to recess. ***If you student would like to play in the snow at recess they must have snow boots and snow pants.*** Please label your student's winter gear with their name: sweatshirts, coats, hats, mittens.



2. TIME TO ORDER YOUR 2025-2026 YEARBOOK

<https://shop.memorybook.com/>

School Code: 246727M

All users will have to register the first time they access the site.



3. BEFORE SCHOOL CARE

If we have a 2 hour delay and then get the call that school has been closed, students will need to be picked up within 30 minutes of the closure. There is no childcare at Columbia on days when school is closed. During Winter Break we do not offer childcare.



Counselor's Corner

Tips for Raising Generous Children

[Child Mind Institute Article](#)

It is normal for children, especially young children to be self-focused; to think of themselves before others. As they grow and mature, it is important for them to look beyond themselves and to

consider others. The following are tips for helping to raise generous children. Click on the link above to read the full article.

1. Encourage Empathy- help children imagine how others feel
2. Praise Generous Deeds- positive recognition for something make a child more likely to continue doing it
3. Set an Example- let your children see you volunteer or helping others
4. Pick a Charity
5. Generosity Can Happen Every Day- generosity does not have to be a gift or a "big to do;" pitch in to help each other out or be kind after someone has made a mistake
6. Spread Cheer- making cookies or cards "just because"

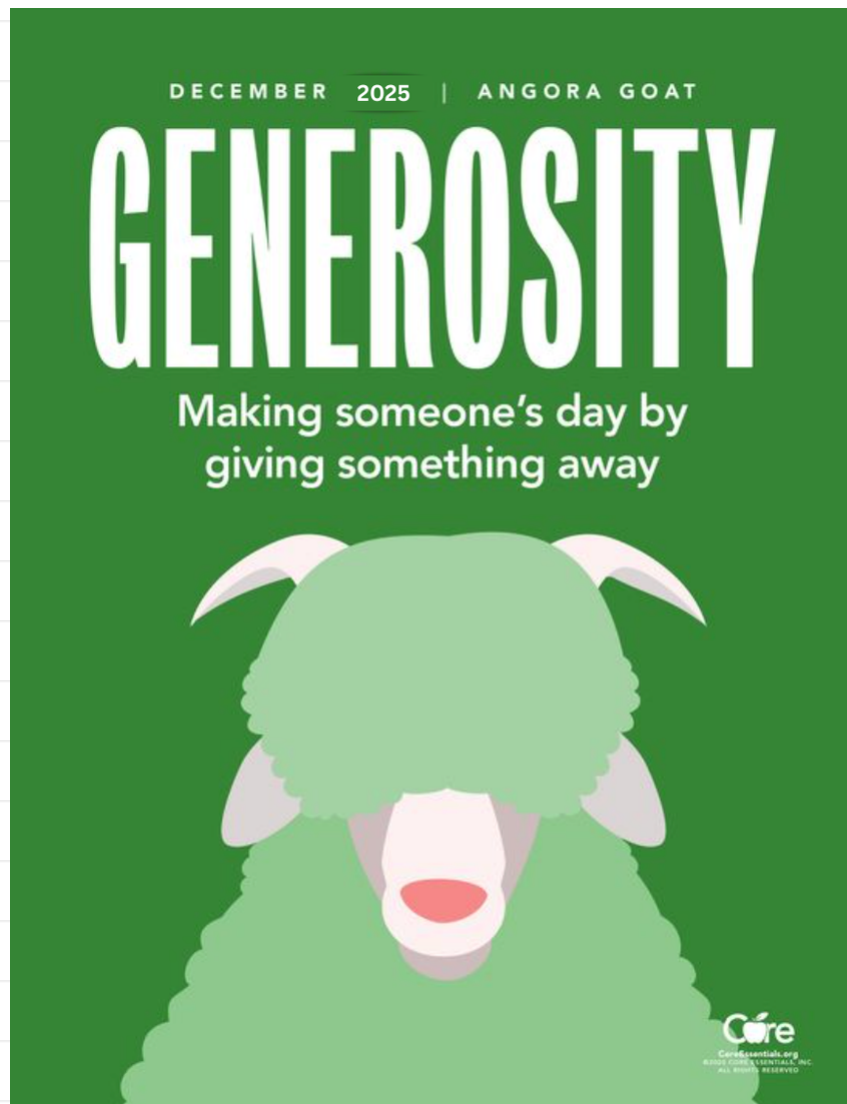


iPads coming home soon

As we enter the colder months we want to let you know we will begin sending home iPads with Kindergarten and 1st grade students soon so the students will have them to be used for an e-learning day if needed.

- It is your responsibility to send them fully charged with your student daily, keep them clean, and be sure they are being used appropriately by the student only.
- Kindergarten students and new 1st grade students will bring home a school issued charger and 1st grade students will use the one they were given last school year.
- Report any damages to your teacher immediately, there may be a charge for damages.
- Our plan is to use our 3 e-learning days, if needed, before we use any true "snow days".

All Day Preschool students will have two packets of worksheets in their folder that will be used if we have a school closing (more info will be attached to the packet).



Columbia Elementary PTO Updates

Our next **Columbia PTO Meeting** will be held on **December 2nd at 6:00 p.m.** in the **Columbia Elementary Library**.

Everyone is welcome to join—we love seeing new faces and hearing your ideas!

Babysitting will be available during the meeting to make it easier for families to attend.

Winter Calendar Fundraiser (Nov. 24 – Dec. 8)

Columbia PTO will be kicking off our **Winter Calendar Fundraiser** starting **November 24th!**

Fundraising packets were sent home with students on November 24th. **ALL money and forms must be returned by December 8th.**

Thank you for supporting our school. Your participation helps fund student activities, classroom resources, and special events.

Beginning in December, PTO will be selling bracelets in the gym each morning for just \$3.

Would you like to purchase a bracelet as a Christmas gift?

No problem! Simply send an envelope labeled "Bracelet Gift" with your child's name and payment inside. We will ensure the bracelet is sent home discreetly so your child doesn't know.

Pay preschool tuition - due the 1st of each month



Columbia Elementary School

The Littlest Zebras In The herd



Website: <https://www.zebras.net/columbia-home>

Location: 1502 Elm Street, Rochester, IN 46975

Phone: 574-223-2501

Email: natalie.leslie@zebras.net

