



Columbia Eagles' Watch

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The New Blue Crew in Town: Ortiz, Mendoza, Pham, Valdez, Luong

There's a new Blue Crew in town, and the 2009-10 year is well on its way to becoming another championship year.

"Our goal is to make this year Columbia's best year ever," said Evelyn Ortiz, the new student body president. Like the rest of Columbia's team, she wants more and better activities. "With students' help, I know we can make it happen," she said.

Rounding out the team are Melissa Mendoza, vice president, Thy Pham, secretary, Vanessa Valdez, treasurer, and Kevin Luong, sergeant-at-arms.

"We want to encourage students to do well in school with activity rewards," said Mendoza.

One teacher spoke for many when he said, "That's a great idea and it fits well with what we are all trying to achieve this year. Columbia

made large gains last year in its test results, and we all want that to continue."

Students' reaction to Ortiz's victory was mostly positive. "I think Evelyn was a good choice," said Lizbeth De Leon. "She seems like she knows what she's doing, and she had some good ideas during the debate."

One big change in this year's election was having polling places open during lunch so students could choose whether or not to vote. The turnout was large by most standards: nearly 58 percent of eligible students voted over the two-day voting period.

Prior to the election there was a period of campaigning and a debate. The first debates for president were held last year. And because they were so successful, it was decided to continue them. Just like elections for president of the



Newly-Elected Student Officers — Vanessa Valdez, Thy Pham, Evelyn Ortiz, Melissa Mendoza, and Kevin Luong.

United States, however, the debates may not change many minds, but enough students pay attention that it does make a difference.

"I did like what Evelyn had to say during the debate," reported one student, "and it helped me make up my mind because she had a lot of good ideas."

Mr. Mason works with the candidates before the debates to help them get a better idea of how to say what they want to say, and to say it well.

"Most candidates are intimidated at first," said Mason, "but, eventually, they come around and learn to

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Columbia explodes with activity as teachers sponsor many new clubs



Columbia exploded with new activity last Friday. It was club day and students were given many new opportunities to learn some new skills or improve skills they already have. Many students were overwhelmed with excitement about their new possibilities.

Mr. Galindo and Mr. Sham will sponsor Guitar Club. Galindo said, "We will be different this year. We will have advanced and beginning guitar players, and there will be short lessons and some jam sessions."

Sham, however, didn't stop there. He is also sponsoring the Mile Club and Fit Now with Mr. Scull, and they're excited about both clubs. "Hope it will be great, and I hope many students will be participating," said Scull.

Sham agreed: "I'm excited for the Mile Club and the Fit Now Club because students will get a work out while hanging

with friends after school. Students will be physically fit and educated."

Scull is also sponsoring Chess Club for those who want a mental challenge.

Other clubs include drawing with Mrs. Sham, who will help students develop their creativity, and a book club sponsored by Ms. Caraveo and Ms. Rendon.

One very popular choice is Mr. Lachica's Dance Club, and anyone who has seen him dance knows he is the perfect sponsor.

Ms. Munoz will host the Cross Stitching Club. "The cross-stitching club is new this year," Munoz said. "Ms. Lum and I look forward to working with students and teaching them new stitches. Hopefully we'll be able to exhibit our work." According to Munoz, cross stitching and sewing are two different things.

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Calling All Authors and Artists: DreamWeaver Needs You!

Is the next great American author sitting next to you in social studies? Or the next great artist? Photographer? Or maybe the next celebrity author or artist is you! If so, then DreamWeaver, Columbia's fine arts magazine, is looking for you.

Contributions will be accepted for a three-month period beginning on November 16. Authors and artists should submit their work to Ngoc Nguyen, Amanda Melendez, or Mr. Mason.

Submissions must be entirely original

and may include poems, short stories, artwork, artistic photographs, or graphic art done with a computer. In the case of photographs, all submissions should be electronic.

Although DreamWeaver is designed as a medium for students, teacher submission will be accepted if there is space available. "After all, students, who are asked to write for school," said Mr. Mason, "should see their teachers writing as well."

Mr. Lachica offered this advice to

students: "Show off your masterpiece! Show off those artistic abilities!"

Ms. Schommer expressed her enthusiasm when she said, "I can't wait to dive into students' hearts and minds! Send in your poems, short stories, and art work." She continued, "I'm anticipating some great works of literature."

Submissions will remain the property of their contributors, but DreamWeaver will retain the right to use any and all submissions in any publication of the Columbia Media Group. ■

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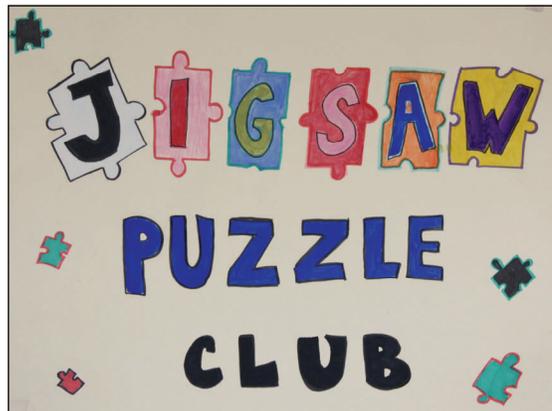
handle the pressure even if they don't like it very much." Mason said that speaking in front of a large group of students is not easy, and that it takes a great deal of courage to even try.

"I think both these candidates can be proud of their debate," said Mason. "Both learned something and grew as a result. They will be better citizens and students."

The campaigning leading up to the debate and election was enthusiastic. "Vote for Evelyn Ortiz!" many students cried out. Others shouted, "Vote for Kenny Ngo!" All of the candidates had posters and buttons of all colors, shapes, and sizes all over the school. They also passed out fliers and showed great school spirit. Campaigning is not easy, and they did it well! Even teachers got into the act by allowing students to put campaign posters in classrooms.

There is one part of the election that few students see, however. Someone has to make sure the stage gets set for the debates, the polling places get set up for voting, and that the voting itself goes smoothly.

"None of this would happen without Ms. Munoz and Mr. Jansen," said Mendoza. "We owe them a big 'thank you' for all their hard work." ■



Clubs

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So, if you are interested in sewing, then join the Sewing Cub! That is being sponsored by Ms. Rodriguez, who said that he was "excited about Sewing Club because I've done sewing ever since I was sixteen years old." She continued, "What I like about sewing is starting from a roll of material and creating something, like costumes."

Mrs. Jung, a teacher with a real sense of fashion, will be sponsoring the Calligraphy Club where students will learn stylish writing in a creative way. And if you learn calligraphy you can put that talent to use in the Crafts Club hosted by Ms. Sloat.

"We are going to do a scrap book and put many designs on it," said Sloat. "We are also going to do other craft projects." ■

