



FEBRUARY 2021 | VOL. 1

# The Phoenix Sun

The Newsletter of Columbus Gifted Academy

## Welcome Scholars!

### Greetings Columbus Gifted Academy Community; A Letter from Ms. R!

I hope this first edition of The Phoenix Sun finds all of our scholars, staff, families, caregivers, and community partners safe, warm, and well.

We're in this together.

As we begin safely welcoming CGA Scholars back to hybrid learning, our community is the beacon that guides us. Let's continue partnering together in finding opportunities for nurturing a continued sense of strength and belonging. In addition to keeping us informed, the purpose of this newsletter includes exactly that - creating another vehicle for us to celebrate our scholars and staff. We're so proud of everyone for their perseverance and all the ways they're mastering learning in multiple formats. We know the situation isn't ideal, but we can truly say we're making the best of it!

We're also excited to welcome Audrey Evans to the Phoenix Community in the role of Family Ambassador. A gifted learner, herself, Audrey understands the unique, nuanced approach to the cognitive, social and emotional well-being of our scholars. Throughout the second semester, she'll be carving out ways for us to connect as a gifted learning community.

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In closing, thank you for your continued support of Columbus Gifted Academy. Please remember your school community is always here for you. Your voice is important to us! We hope you won't hesitate to reach out with questions:

614-365-6961

[giftedacademy@columbus.k12.oh.us](mailto:giftedacademy@columbus.k12.oh.us)

visit our school website:

<https://www.ccsch.us/ColumbusGiftedAcademy>

Follow us on Twitter: @gifted\_academy

# Important Dates

## February

15th - No School, President's Day.

25th-26th - Remote Learning for all scholars.

26th - 8th Graders at Columbus Museum of Art.

## March

1st-2nd - Remote Learning for all scholars.

23rd - End of Quarter Three

24th - Records Day (No Scholar Attendance)

[Columbus Gifted Academy Calendar](#)

# Kolam, or, the Art of Welcome

Originating from Tamil Nadu, a state in southern India and spreading to other states and countries in the region, Kalom is a form of drawing, often using naturally or synthetically colored powders derived from rice flour, chalk, and even rock. A Kalom is characterized by geometrical line drawings composed of curved loops, drawn around a grid pattern of dots and is traditionally created in front of houses and other buildings with complexity added for holidays.

Ms. Alder's middle school scholars created Kalom artworks in anticipation of younger scholars' return in early February. Arranged on the walkway leading to the building, Kalom is a sign of welcome to all into the home and a daily tribute to harmonious co-existence. In Tamil Nadu, throughout the course of the day, the Kalom dissolves due to birds and other small animals eating their fill of the organic powders, people passing by the work, and weather. Then the next morning, the cycle starts again.



Kalom encourages rejuvenation and connecting of internal and external. While the Kalom is temporary, its remains are carried in the belly of birds, on the feet of humans, and on the wind. In much the same way, it was important that our older scholars take part in welcoming the younger group into our building as a part of our community.

This strong gesture of compassion teaches us what it means for us to hold space for others. Not just in our physical buildings, but also in our hearts.

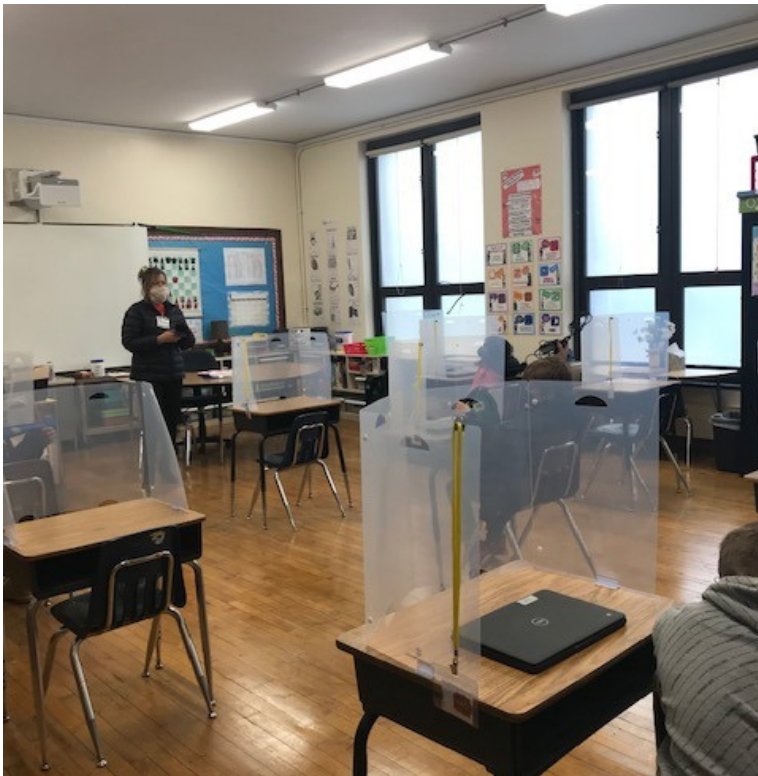


# Supporting Gifted Scholars during COVID-19

**Audrey Evans, Family Ambassador**

It is important for parents, teachers, and caregivers to realize that "one size does not fit all" for gifted children--and even those with similar IQ scores may not have similar skills, personalities, rates of development, abilities, or interests. The individual traits of one gifted child may be extremely different from another.

For example, a 7-year-old highly gifted child may be reading at a 6th grade level, performing math tasks at a 4th grade level, and have fine motor skills at a 2nd grade level. At times, the child may appear to be functioning socially at a level far below her age mates.



This is why CGA emphasizes learning that is self paced. But when routines are disrupted, how do we help gifted children, who are already predisposed to being asynchronous, and while anxieties are high?

Recently the Georgia Department of Education has released an article with useful strategies to support your gifted learner at home.

The PDF can be found here: <https://bit.ly/36nbTsW>

Parents may find themselves in uncharted territory as situations have evolved over the past year.

Another great resource I would love to share is the National Association for Gifted Children website, which includes resources and information for parents, teachers, and children. Please see the link below:

<https://www.nagc.org/resources-publications/resources/resources-educators-parents-during-covid-19>

*CGA Scholars return to hybrid learning in Ms. Palmore's class.*

# Staff Spotlight



**Ms. Bell**

**Role:** Assistant Principal

**College(s) Attended:** I attended the University of Chicago for my Bachelor of Arts in 2004; University of Chicago Master of Arts in Teaching 2005 (Urban Education); Ball State University Master of Arts (Special Education) 2007; Specialist in Education, The Ohio State University 2012 (Literacy); Master of Arts, The Ohio State University, (Educational Administration) 2019.

**Favorite thing about CGA:** At CGA, I love the uniqueness of every single scholar! I am so fortunate to have an opportunity to work a place where I can nurture the individual giftedness of every child!

**Fun Fact:** I love being in nature! I spend my summers getting out to the metro parks and state parks as much as possible!

**Ms. Vermillion**

**Grade level:** 3rd Grade

**College:** Ohio Dominican University, followed by Graduate School at The Ohio State University, and my Gifted Intervention Specialist Endorsement was at Muskingum University.

**Favorite part about CGA:** I love my small class and I am enjoying third grade! This is my first year to teach third grade and I sure had to brush up on my multiplication and division! I also appreciate the support I receive from the other 3rd grade teachers and Ms. R. and Ms. Bell!

**Fun fact:** Although I have taught for many years, I have never taught in a classroom with a DOOR!!! I have always been in an "open-concept" school and I am very used to being loud enough to be heard over the teachers next to me! I was THRILLED to see my new classroom has not one, but two doors!



# Parents received information about CGA at the School Choice Fair!

**Thank you parents, staff and students!**

On Wednesday January 27th. CGA participated in the School Choice Fair for middle school, and for elementary school on Wednesday, February, 17th. Here, parents could learn more about school choice and about the programs CGA has to offer.

While we had some parents interested in our 3rd-5th grade levels, the majority of parents were interested in hearing about our middle school program.

## Welcome Back, Young Scholars!

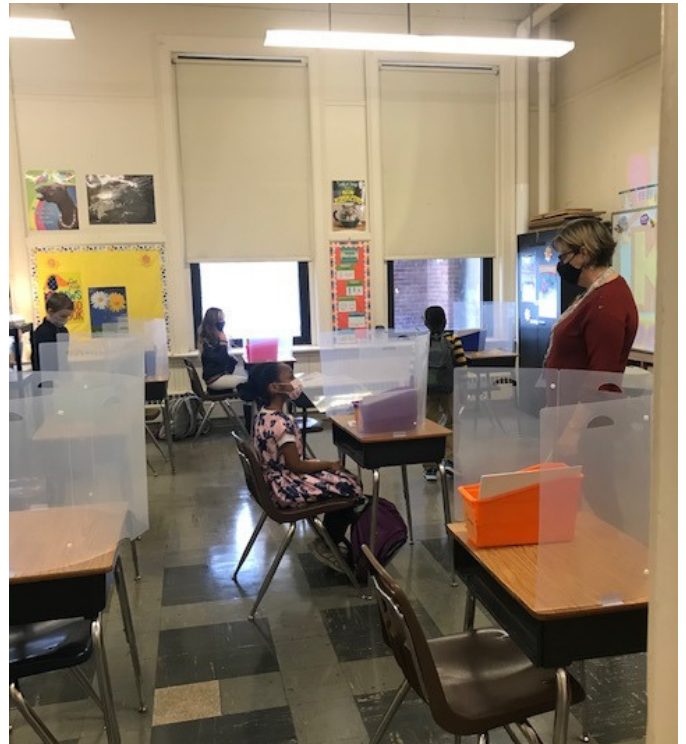
CGA is excited to welcome our third through fifth grade scholars for their first weeks back earlier this month.

We are committed to safety of all scholars, parents and staff. It is important to continue to wash your hands, wear a mask, socially distance, and keep up to date with the latest CDC recommended guidelines for COVID-19 precautions.

Thank you to teachers and staff for your warm welcome of families, thank you families for your flexibility in times of change, and scholars for continued commitment to learning and the safety of your peers.

We would also like to give a shout-out to two scholars, Graciela and Aravia, who took time out of their days to offer a student perspective to visiting parents. Thank you!

If you have questions about CGA's programs, please contact Ms. R!



*Staying safe by wearing ppe properly and social-distancing in in Mrs. Loudon's 3rd Grade Class.*

For updates on the districts plans for re-opening and other district COVID efforts, please see the Columbus City Schools Website at:

<https://www.ccsch.us/reopening>

# Links to Community Resources

## Homework Help:

Columbus Metropolitan Library:

Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday 1-5 p.m.

Text Us at 614-810-4457, Call Us at 614-645-2275

ask online at <https://www.columbuslibrary.org/school-help>

## Learning Extension Center Locator:

Learning Extension Centers are safe, adult-supervised, welcoming spaces where students are supported while learning virtually during the day. Students have access to internet, learning devices, and school supplies to assist them in remote learning.

<https://www.ccsoh.us/Page/8685>

## Free Meal Sites for Students:

Anyone 18 years of age or under can pick up a five-day variety meal pack at any of the below mapped sites:

<https://www.ccsoh.us/Page/8603>

## Emergency Rent Assistance:

Franklin County's Prevention, Retention, and Contingency Plus (PRC Plus) Rental Assistance program provides one-time rental assistance payments for eligible families struggling to meet rent or facing eviction as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://jfs.franklincountyohio.gov/prc>

## 211 Lutheran Social Services

Lutheran Social Services (LSS) serves thousands of people in need each day in 27 Ohio counties by addressing the four core societal issues of food, shelter, safety and healing.

<https://lssnetworkofhope.org/>

## Free and Virtual Events:

With live events severely limited, Columbus has rallied together to offer a plethora of virtual and safe, socially distant in-person events for all comfort levels.

<https://www.experiencecolumbus.com/events/>



# Meet your Family Ambassador!

Hello!! My name is Audrey Evans and I am so thrilled to be CGA's Family Ambassador!



As a native of Columbus, I love the city. A CCS grad and "former gifted kid" myself (fun fact: I graduated from CAHS, where Ms. R was my vice principal all four years!) I understand the needs of our students and families. My full-time position outside of being a Family Ambassador is as an AmeriCorps Ohio College Guide serving with I Know I Can, with whom many of our middle school scholars should be familiar with!

I graduated from Otterbein University in 2019 with a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art and a minor in Film Studies. I will start at the Ohio State University for a Master of Arts in Higher Education and Student Affairs this fall. I look forward to connecting with you all this school year!

Please feel free to contact me at: [aevans3@columbus.k12.oh.us](mailto:aevans3@columbus.k12.oh.us) or text/call me at 614-259-8845

My AmeriCorps friends and I at the celebration of AmeriCorps 25th Anniversary at the end of 2019! (right)



My sorority sisters and I at the last recruitment event of my senior year of college! (bottom)

