



Columbian Elementary School



Home of the Cobras

Dear Columbian Families,

We need your support. The PTO is introducing the Columbian PTO Direct Donation program. **The Columbian PTO Direct Donation program is just what it sounds like – donations directly to our school without any type of selling or purchasing of anything.** All donations, 100%, will benefit our school, students, and teachers. We've been listening to you!

Our goal is to raise at least \$15,000 for the 2009-10 school year.

How does this money benefit Columbian? Your donations help us fund a variety of family and school activities throughout the year such as Welcome Back to School night, our Science Discovery Fair, and school assemblies. We have been able to invite nationally known storytellers and such groups as last year's Chinese acrobats to Columbian. Your donations have also helped us fund classroom parties for Halloween and Valentine's Day, Columbian gardens, teacher and classroom materials, staff appreciation activities, safety patrol vests and raincoats, and technology improvements. Each year funds are also designated for special projects such as recess equipment, computers, digital cameras, and more. Sounds like a lot, doesn't it? The truth is that this is only a portion of what the PTO does for Columbian each year.

Our special project for this year is going to be playground improvement. We will be working to remove dated equipment and add some new equipment that should make recess even more fun! The Sherwood Foundation is starting us off with a \$110,000 grant! They are also willing to provide matching funds up to \$200,000. Wow! Think of the possibilities! Our PTO would like to set aside at least 10%, if not more, of all donations this year towards our playground improvement project. Although the initial grant will give us a great start, playground equipment is very, very costly to purchase and install. We all know how much our playground is used during the day, in the evening, and on weekends. It would be great to see some new equipment.

Family involvement is one of Columbian's strengths. We heard many of you say you would really like the opportunity to directly give to the PTO rather than sell items to family, friends, and coworkers. We're going to try it and see how it goes, we are really very optimistic that this will be a huge success.

It will take almost \$50 per child to reach our goal. We know that sometimes families give a little more and sometimes a little less. No contribution is too small. We hope every family will contribute no matter what the amount. Remember, we won't be asking for party money or sending home brochures to sell things – this letter is your invitation to contribute to the PTO this year. And perhaps those family members and friends, who so willingly bought products in past years, will be willing to donate directly to our school to help support school activities this year.

Donations are tax-deductible. We will be sending a receipt of your *confidential* donation based on information on your check or the form below.

Questions? Please contact Patty Gilinsky, 333-9451. Thank you so much for your consideration of our Columbian PTO Direct Donation Program.

Please return any donations by mail or to your child's classroom or the school office. Checks should be made payable to **Columbian PTO**.

Columbian PTO
Columbian Elementary School
330 S. 127th St.
Omaha, NE 68154

Yes, We would like to join other Columbian families in participating in the Columbian Direct Donation Program. We will give \$ _____ to the PTO for school, student, and family activities.

In addition, to the above donation for general PTO expenses, we would also like to donate \$ _____ to the fund for new playground equipment.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Thank you so much for your donations!