

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE & MAPLEWOOD

BOARD RECOGNITION

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

January 25, 2016

The **Unaccompanied Minors**, the CHS a cappella group under the direction of Jamie Bunce, the CHS Choral Director, took first place in this past weekend's International High School Competition of A Cappella groups. They are the Mid-Atlantic Champions and advanced to the next round of competition!

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The **National Merit Scholarship Program** has announced that one Columbia High School student was selected as a semifinalist in the **61st annual National Merit Scholarship competition**:

Griffin Arguelles

Griffin will have an opportunity to continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million that will be offered next spring.

The **National Merit Scholarship Corporation** awarded **Letters of Commendation** to twenty-two (22) Columbia High School seniors in the 2016 Merit Program. They include:

**Talia Bar Yaacov
Samantha Berek
Eleanor Engelhard
Elizabeth Foster-Krim
Emelia Gertner
Emily Grew
Madeline Haines
Sydnie Hom
Nina Kambili
Sarah Kleppe
Patrick Loughney**

**Brigid Lynch
Natalie Martinez
Luke McPhillips
Abigail Merelman
Julia Oppenheim
Hannah Ratner
Caroline Sekel
Alycia Storch
William Unterkoefler
Matthew Williams
Rory Yarter**

These students are now being named Commended Students on the basis of a national Selection Index score of 202, applicable to all program participants.

The **2015 National Hispanic Recognition Program** named three (3) Columbia High School seniors as **Scholars referred to U.S. Colleges and Universities**:

Cameron Ladd Dalila Ricci Samantha Viqueira

This recognition is for students who took the 2014 PSAT and identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino.

522 Columbia High School students achieved **Honor Roll** for the first marking period, and the **114** students achieved **High Honor Roll status**.

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Two **Maplewood Middle School** students, **Violet Gordon** and **Phoebe Hill** were the driving force behind a recent **United Nations Human Rights Day Proclamation** by the Township of **Maplewood Mayor, Mr. Victor De Luca**. UN Human Rights Day was commemorated with a variety of activities designed to raise awareness in their school and local communities about human rights violations that exist in today's world and will be observed every year on December 10th.

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Seth Boyden Elementary School was one of 11 schools and/or districts in the state to be awarded a **\$10,000** grant through **Sustainable Jersey's** first round of school grants for the year. The grants, funded by the **New Jersey Education Association**, will fund **Story Trails** and new planting in the school's **Habitat Garden**, a mostly wild area in the school's back yard devoted to plants and trees native to New Jersey.

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The **Columbia High School Girls' Swim Team** is currently 11-0 and off to its finest start in years. Members of the swim team are:

Ayzhah Arrington
Zaria Berry
Jamie Bethel
Esme Bikales
Riley Brodie
Alexandra Byrne
Caroline Cerny
Emma Chung
Amanda Colding
Lillian Engelhard
Marie Fagan
Tabatha Georget
Jessie Gonon
Abeo Gora
Raina Hackett

Madeline Haines
Gabriella Hayek
Chloe Holt-Reiss
Valerie Houghton
Anna Jacques-Haeberle
Maddy Jimenez
Poppy Jones
Elizabeth Ko
Allison Kofsky
Jennifer Kret
Hannah Kushen
Chloe Lawrence
Frances Lindsay
Kalen Michals
Olivia Ojefua

Oluwa-Yemisi Okunola
Sarah Ortiz
Elizabeth Ragone
Gianna Salituri
Sydney Smith-Cooper
Julianah Songonuga
Alisa Stellini
Monica Stemmermen
Caroline Thomas
Hannah Tuohy
Olivia Winters

The **Columbia High School Girls' Track Team** won the **SEC Conference Championships** for the 5th straight year

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The **Columbia High School Girls' Track Team** won the **Essex County Athletic Directors Association (ECADA) Relays** for the 13th straight year. Students who participated in the ECADA are:

Girls 4x200 Team:

Dahria Lewis
Sienna Farrell
Ciara French
Cheyenne Trigg

Girls 4x400 Team:

Cheyenne Trigg
Catherine Jordan
Briana Reckling Dahria Lewis

Girls 1600 Sprint Medley:

Ciara French
Cheyenne Trigg
Dahria Lewis
Briana Reckling

High Jump Relay:

Catherine Jordan

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Clinton School Media Specialist, Jennifer Latimer, was presented with the **Jean E. Harris Progressive School Library Media Program Award** which recognizes innovative ideas presented by a library media specialist to enhance the life-long learning skills of students.

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Columbia High School Art Teacher, Bisa Butler was selected to exhibit her art quilts and prints at the Firehouse Gallery.

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Columbia High School Biology Teacher, Stacey Bachenheimer, submitted a proposal to present a workshop on how she incorporated "**20% time**", also known as **genius hour** and **google time** for the **2016 NJ Association of School Administrators Techspo conference**. Ms. Bachenheimer's workshop was selected and she will present in Atlantic City at the end of January.

Judy LoBianco, Director of Health and Physical Education was accepted into the **North American Society for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Sport and Dance (NAS)**. NAS recognizes outstanding professionals from within the allied professions of health education, physical education, recreation, sport and dance in North America.

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Taking note of New Jersey's record of excellence and achievement in public education, **Gov. Chris Christie** proclaimed January 2016 as **School Board Recognition Month** in the state. The governor also paid tribute to the "countless hours, without remuneration," that New Jersey's local board of education members devote to the oversight of school district operations.