

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE & MAPLEWOOD

BOARD RECOGNITION

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

April 23, 2018

The Board of Education recognizes **Maplewood Middle School** for successfully fulfilling the requirements of the NJDOE Comprehensive Support Network (formerly known as the RAC) to exit from Target Status (formerly known as the Focus School List).

NJDOE Acting Commissioner Dr. Lamont O. Repollett commended Maplewood Middle School, saying:

“I applaud your efforts to close achievement gaps and encourage you to continue supporting all of the students in your school and to maintain a cycle of continuous improvement in order to remain on a positive trajectory. I commend your efforts and wish you continued success in service of New Jersey’s children.”

We congratulate **Dara Gronau** and her staff for the incredible work they have done to comply with CSN requirements and to support their students’ achievement. **Will all Maplewood Middle School staff who are present please stand to be recognized.**

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South Orange Maplewood School District received a **2018 Best Communities for Music Education Designation!** presented by **The NAMM Foundation and the University of Kansas**. The award program recognizes outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, students and community leaders who have made music education part of the curriculum. Designations are made to districts and schools that demonstrate an exceptionally high commitment and access to music education. **James Manno**, Supervisor of Fine and Performing Arts, is commended for directing the work of our music department, and for completing the application to be considered for this award.

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Columbia High School was selected to host a **Fully Funded Mandarin Chinese Teacher** as part of the **2018-2019 Teachers of Critical Languages Program** (TCLP) for the second year in a row. The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State selects schools to host teachers from China or Egypt to teach Mandarin Chinese or Arabic to increase the study and acquisition of important world languages in U.S. schools. **Dr. Ramon Robles**, Supervisor of World Languages and ESL, is commended for securing this opportunity.

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CHS Sophomore **Andrew Payne** took the **National Latin Exam** for Latin II and was awarded **GOLD SUMMA CUM LAUDE** - the highest award.

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CHS Junior **Aidan Reeves** successfully competed in the **American Protégé International Piano Competition**, receiving an honorable mention for his performance of Moonlight Sonata, 3rd movement. He will perform Moonlight Sonata , 3rd movement along with the other winners in a public concert at Carnegie Hall on April 21st.

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At the 2018 **Montclair Emerging Filmmaker Competition** Columbia High student filmmakers and animators won in the following categories:

Grand Prize: Narrative

Aidan Romanoux and (Graduate) Ralph Ravix with the film "*Choice*"

Grand Prize: Animation

Sophie Goodman – Merel with the film "*SuperHero Convention*"
This is Sophie's second major award for this film.

Special Jury Prize: Animation

Ethan Halperin with the film "*Cellular Life*"

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At the **SOMA Film Festival**, **Aidan Romanoux** and **Max Goldstein's** film "*Max's Candy Crush*" won its second major award this year when it took home **Best Narrative Short**.

Max Goldstein also took home a runner up award for "*Village to Village*" in the **Documentary Short** category.

The film – "*Space Attack*" by Christina Wright also took home a runner up award for **Best Animation**.

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Ben Schwartz, MMS Sixth grader, was awarded **Outstanding Soloist in the Jazz at Lincoln Center's Essentially Ellington Regional Competition** at Newark Academy on Saturday April 14th. Ben plays drums in Mr. Balas' Jazz Band at MMS as well as sax in his Honors Wind Symphony. Ben was also awarded a scholarship to Newark Academy's summer jazz program.

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Dr. Ramon Robles, Supervisor of World Languages and ESL, was invited by the United States Department of State to conduct interviews to select participants for their Teachers of Critical Languages Program. This program brings teachers from China/Egypt/Morocco to the United States to teach Chinese/Arabic in US schools.

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Nathan Hollis received the **2018 Outstanding Case Manager Award** from **Spectrum360**.

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Amy Popp, Tuscan Library and Media Specialist, was awarded a free year of **Booklist** from the **American Library Association** and **Scholastic** for Tuscan School.

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Clinton teachers **Yolande Fleming**, **Susan Froelich**, **Kate Facto**, Library and Media Specialist **Jennifer Latimer** and Principal **Ann Bodnar** participated in a Roundtable called **The Perils and Promises of Critical Diversity Studies Initiative** at Rutgers University on March 26th.

CHS Principal **Elizabeth Aaron** has been invited to serve as a member of the **William Paterson University's Clinical Advisory Panel**. This panel, made up of administrators from throughout the state, will help the university align and refine its student teachers' clinical and course work with best practices and updates to state policy in education. This will further strengthen the district's relationship with professors and researchers at WPU as well as with potential student teachers – and future job candidates – for SOMSD.

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Keysha Knight, Secretary to the Curriculum and Instruction Supervisors, received the **Learning & Leadership Grant** from the **National Education Association Foundation**. She's the first secretary ever to receive the award. She will participate in the "Culture and Leadership Program" to learn about Italy's culture through art, history, music and community service.

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SOMS vocal music teacher **Jacob Ezzo** won a **New Jersey Arts Ed Now Ambassadors Award** for his entry into a student video competition. After hearing about this special award, **Fox News at 6 with Ernie Anastos** invited Mr. Ezzo to be a special guest and talk about his passion for teaching and how he inspires students. This live interview is scheduled for Wednesday May 9th, as part of a celebration of Teacher Appreciation Week.

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