

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE & MAPLEWOOD

BOARD RECOGNITION

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

April 29, 2019

South Orange Maplewood School District received a **2019 Best Communities for Music Education Award!** presented by **The NAMM Foundation and the University of Kansas**. SOMSD has received this award for 7 consecutive years. 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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The **2018 edition of *Guildscript***, art and literary magazine, won a **FIRST PLACE** award in the annual **American Scholastic Press Association's magazine competition**. The publication scored high in categories such as creativity, design and presentation. This publication involves many in the student community at CHS and the 2018 students who lead the publication to excellence included **Sophie Salvato, Meredith Olin, Sophia Rothstein** and **Leonel Soares**. The advisers are **Cindy Malhotra**, Fine Arts Dept, and **Tracy McNamara**, English Dept.

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CHS Junior **Zubin Kremer-Guha** was named a **Governor's Scholar**, and invited to participate in the summer's **Governor's School of Engineering & Technology** at the **Rutgers University School of Engineering**.

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CHS Senior **Stephen Lehren** was selected as one of the winners of the **NJ Young Playwrights Contest High School Division** for his play *Conversations with a Friend*. He will receive a **NJ State Governor's Award** and a professional reading of his play. Stephen participated in the play writing workshop coordinated by CHS English Teacher **Dr. Janet Bustrin** last spring: *New Works, New Voices* which was performed at SOPAC.

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CHS Senior **Noah Johnson** was named **Volunteer of the Year** at the **Liberty Science Center**. Noah is heading to NYU next year where he plans to study physics. He's co-president of CHS's astronomy club and loves all things space and science!

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CHS Sophomore **Jason Meusel** made **NJ All State Orchestra** for String Bass. His CHS strings teacher is **Todd VanBeveren**.

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CHS Sophomore **Isaac Weber** has been selected to travel to Peru, with **VISIONS Service Adventures**, an international community service program for teens. Weber will join other high school students from around the world in Urubamba, the historic Incan capital, where they will live in the community, get to know the local customs and traditions and tackle ambitious service projects.

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SOMS 8th grader **Benjamin "Bibi" Hanselman** was selected to play the viola in the **Junior High School Orchestra for the Northern Region of New Jersey**. The concert took place on Sunday March 10th. Congratulations to Bibi, his parents, Julia Serebrinsky and Stephen Hanselman, his viola teacher, Effie Yuen of Maplewood, and SOMSD strings teacher **Bill Cook**.

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Ben Collins-Siegel and **Noah Collins-Siegel**, MMS 6th Graders, both received an award for **outstanding soloists** in the **Essentially Ellington Festival** on April 13 at Newark Academy. Ben plays the piano and Noah plays the trumpet. They are both members of the Legacy Orchestra at Jazz House Kids in Montclair.

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Three Jefferson art students were chosen to show their work at the **Spring Exhibition of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center** in Newark. 3rd Grader **Maddy Epstein**'s piece *Stacked Turtles*, 3rd Grader **Cassia Luhrman**'s piece *Flying Dog*, and 5th Grader **Scarlett Friedland** piece *Name Mandala* will be included in the exhibition. Their art teacher is **Eva McNally**.

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District Art Students were featured in the **22nd Essex County Education Association Student Art Exhibition**.

Marshall had 18 students: **Cormac Anderson-Hart, Liesel Loikits, Eva Maloney, Elliott Peterson, Esme Levy, Hadley Anania, Felix Stone, Shay Drucker, Ian DiCanio, Nayeli Lenochoan, Gavin Pearce, Maxwell Fong, Cassandra Gaspard, Henry Roth, Malcolm Hall, Chiara Wright, and Naomi Chow**. Art Teacher: **Jessica Fong**.

Jefferson had 23 students: **Finn Egan-Liang, Dae Kavanaugh, Jayla Rowe, Livia Ferguson, Mia Johmann, Idemudia Omofomah, Chioma Okafor, Ky Kuperman, Aviram Livneh, Theo Sinyak, Lucy D'Orazio, Dominique Farrell, Peyton Edge, Amelia Burroughs, Joel Hector Jr., Alexandria Auth, Rafael Griffiths, Shana Zhu, Marley Rosen, Lily Yazdan, Tallulah Thatcher-Keane, Thirusan Thureskumar, and Hannah Schwartz**. Art Teacher: **Eva McNally**.

Tuscan had K-3rd grade students exhibit 2 collaborative self-portrait panels. Art Teacher: **Andrew Dean**.

Maplewood Middle had 13 students:

6th graders: **Anaya Center, Charley Drechsler, Hailey Freeman, Amina Jones, Kaelyn Matsushita, Camryn Jones, Violet O'Hara.**

8th graders: **Dylan Carthens, Ellery Sampson, Madison Moskowitz, Caroline Pisciotta, Della Zimmerman, August Reynolds Vickberg.**

Art Teacher: **Michele Reisman.**

CHS Art Teacher, **Alexandra Cappucci** had **Anthony Ruiz** exhibit his work and CHS Art Teacher, **Karen Murphy** had 7 students in the exhibition.

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Claire Sinclair, a Tuscan Kindergarten teacher, was given the **Citizen of the Year Award** by the **South Orange Elks**, which honors a citizen who has contributed in a special way to improving the local community. Ms. Sinclair was selected for her “truly astounding” initiative to identify and provide items which families in need require, but aren’t getting through other means such as socks, laundry detergent, and diapers.

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Seth Boyden Special Education teacher **Janine Williams** was awarded the **Susan Wray Endowed Graduate Scholarship** which recognizes graduate students with a demonstrated commitment to teaching for equity and social justice for all students. Ms. Williams was selected for her “classroom work where she tenaciously and ferociously fights to mitigate the inequities that her students face daily” and for “model[ing] not only for her students, but as importantly for her colleagues, what it means to hold high expectations of her students and to value their communities.”

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CHS Teacher **Scott Cohen** was invited to serve a 3-year term on the **Boggs Center Consumer Advisory Council** (CAC) because of his strong advocacy for the inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of community life. The Boggs Center is part of Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Department of Pediatrics and is New Jersey’s federally designated University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) and Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) program.

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Scott White, Interim Director of Guidance, was interviewed by **CBS Sunday Morning** on March 17, 2019, about the unhealthy stress on students and the “culture which makes kids think if they’re not perfect, they are less than good.”

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Cindy Malhotra, Computer Graphics Teacher and co-adviser to both *The Columbian* and *Guildscript*, will be showing digital art and photography in "**Meditative States**", an exhibit at the **Pearl Street Gallery** which is located at the Union Country Office of Cultural Affairs. The exhibit runs from April to June of 2019.

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SOMS Social Studies Teacher **Katerina Karis** was awarded a grant to attend the **Qatar Foundation International and GEEQ's Summer 2019 Educator Tour Jordan** this July. The organizations accepted 100 grant applications and from those, selected 17 participants. The 8 day trip includes visits to the ancient site of Petra, the Dead Sea and an overnight in a Bedouin tent. Attendees are selected based on their application essays and expected to develop relevant historical and cultural lessons upon return from the trip.

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Dr. Gayle Carrick, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Administration, was recognized by the **Paabinaa Meriga Peace Initiative** for her collaborative efforts to secure donations and equipment to create a **Mobile Library** to support the education of children in Ghana.

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Principal **Elizabeth Aaron** was selected by the **National Association of Secondary School Principals** (NASSP) to serve as an advocate member of the delegation of educators which visited Washington, DC to encourage New Jersey's members of Congress to pass laws that enhance the nation's public schools and support equity for all students. The team visited the office and met with staff of members of House of Representatives Donald Payne, Bonnie Watson-Coleman, Tom Malinowski, Donald Norcross, and Chris Smith, and presidential candidate and Senator Cory Booker.

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