

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE & MAPLEWOOD

BOARD RECOGNITION

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

May 13, 2019

Columbia High School Junior, **Ryanne Barrett**, received a perfect score of 36 on the **ACT**. The ACT is the leading US college admissions test that measures what a student learns in high school to determine their academic readiness for college. Ryanne also scored exceedingly well on her SAT.

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Columbia HS Sophomore, Sophia Gigante, received the prestigious **New Jersey State Governor's Jefferson Award**, "the nation's oldest and most prestigious recognition program for volunteer/public service, and the official recognition program of the U.S. Senate." Sophia received an award in one of the two categories for "Youth in Service" nominations. The Jefferson Awards were founded in 1972 by Jaqueline Kennedy Onassis. Sophia was recommended by her guidance counselor.

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Columbia's School Newspaper *The Columbian*, won first place for the fifth year in a row in the national, annual competition held by the **American Scholastic Press Association** and also took home two additional designations to mark the publication's best showing in years. The organization earned a "**First Place with Special Merit**" and the title of "**Most Outstanding Newspaper 2018-2019**" in the national competition. Judges noted the paper's ability to "represent the school and local community in a fair and honest manner," and their "fair and unbiased coverage of a wide variety of topics."

The art/design team members for 2018-2019 are:

Mary Arevalo
Quinn Barnitt
Derek Gutierrez
Kate Hollitscher

Dana Hugel
Charlie Hummel
Charlotte Levine

Gloria Logan
Matt McBride
Isaac Weber

The editorial board for the team are:

Katherine Besom
Shayna Cohen
Marley Davis
Hannah Gross

Lucien Kisch
Sam Maidenberg
Katie Newman

Cailee Olitt
Sofia Ratkevich
Martina Zacker

Advisers for *The Columbian* are **Joshua Enyeart** (English Dept.) and **Cindy Malhotra** (Fine Arts).

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The following **Maplewood Middle** and **South Orange Middle School** students took the **National Spanish Exam**, a motivational contest to recognize student achievement in the study of Spanish and to stimulate further interest in the teaching and learning of Spanish are being recognized for their achievements.

Gold Medal
Sophia Franklin

Silver Medal
Sophia Tierney

Honorable Mention
Emily Donoghue
Jeslyn Ero
Isaac Fleischer
Danielle Ilunga
Keira Mahoney
Maria Maddi

Zoe Mckay
Annabelle Mecca
Michelle Pisciotta
Anna Roth
Carrie Saney
Justin Strugger
Sam Zaslow-Braverman

The purpose of the National Spanish Examination is to recognize achievement in the study of the Spanish language, promote proficiency in interpretive communication in the Spanish language, assess the national standards as they pertain to learning Spanish and to stimulate further interest in the teaching and learning of Spanish.

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Columbia High School Junior, **Andrew Payne**, was awarded **CUM LAUDE** for his participation in the **National Latin Exam** for Latin III.

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22 Columbia HS Seniors were awarded **The New Jersey Seal of Biliteracy**. The New Jersey Seal of Biliteracy is an award given by participating school systems that recognizes a student's high level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing in one or more languages other than English.

The following students were awarded the Seal of Biliteracy:

Katerinne Aguillon
Phoebe Dybner
Lillian Engelhard
Lola Freeman
Olive Fretts Howard
Maritzell Gallart-Bekkedahl
Hannah Gross
Hikaru Hayakawa

Alessandra Hill
Maherlie Jean Louis
Isodora Kianovsky
Margeaux Meyers
Katherine Newman
Cailee Olitt
Layla Orloff-Robertson
Aidan Reeves

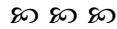
Brian Rojas
Kamille Sabio
Anna Sekel
Isabella Singer
Lillian Wilson
Jeanne Joseph

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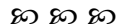
Columbia High School senior, **Michael Vernon**, was offered and accepted a college-sponsored **Merit Scholarship - The National Merit Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey Scholarship** from the **National Merit Scholarship Corporation**.

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South Mountain Elementary School 4th Graders, **Norah Pharaon** and **Maya Bernstein**, collaborated with their teachers **Rebecca Ciuba** and **Tamera Murphy**, to create a **Donor's Choose** grant called **Project See Me**. Together they surpassed their grant request of \$640! The students, who noticed that books in their classroom were not a representation of the “diverse world we live,” set a goal to get books to enrich their classroom library so all children could say, “I see me.”



The **Columbia HS TV Production** students and their teacher, **Mr. Campiglia**, are a **fourth year Champion School** and one of the winners for the **Civic Eye** collaborative filming of their **PSA** for pedestrian safety. Columbia High School's campaign “**Mellow Yellow**” encourages teens as well as adults to slow down at yellow lights. They created a cohesive strategy to raise awareness in their school, community, and online community. The campaign includes an Instagram video announcing the campaign, distribution of Mellow Yellow t-shirts, stickers, and car magnets. They worked with students, law enforcement and the community to create a PSA around this topic and all Mellow Yellow events are advertised on the school's morning news show, Columbia Cougar News. They also publicized their campaign through online media, their social media accounts and on the public access channels.



The following **Columbia High School** Students were presented with the following awards at the **Achieve Volunteer Tutor Appreciation Reception** held on June 4th.

Dubrow Awards for Outstanding Volunteers

Samina Aziz
Phoebe Holt-Reiss
Jake Knoll *

Brianna Lucas
Allie Lupton

Hamilton Peterson *
Kaitlin Thomas *

Kohl Angelo Award for Exceptional Middle School Volunteer

Della Zimmerman

Super Seniors (graduating high school seniors who have volunteered as tutors for 3 or more years)

Sophie Bard
Donovan Batzli
Abigail Botschka
Ari Brown
Marley Davis
Kelly Fagin

Hannah Gross
Jessica Helfenstein
Jake Knoll
Lars Langreth
Merry Meyer
Cailee Olitt

Aidan Reeves
Blake Shapiro
Kaitlin Thomas
Michael Vernon
Danielle Samake

*also a super senior



Columbia High School sophomore, Lucas Intagliata, was recognized as an outstanding **scholar of Italian language** and granted a scholarship to study in Narni, Italy for two weeks over the summer. This was awarded by the **Italian American Committee on Education (IACE)**. **Ms. Cirelli**, his Italian teacher, who nominated him and **CHS** were recognized at the award ceremony.

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Two 6th grade **South Orange Middle School** students, **Ibrahim Kamate** and **Victor Kamate**, have been cast in **Savion Glover's** recreation of ***The Tap Dance Kid!***

Glover, who is NJPAC's Dance Advisor and a Board Member, auditioned young artists for this exciting new production in the Victoria Theater. The Tap Dance Kid, which opened in 1983 and was nominated for six Tony Awards, winning two, marked the Newark's native Broadway debut when he joined the company at age 11. The show will run September 13th & 14th 2019 at NJPAC. Ibrahim & Victor recently performed in the 2019 SOMS Black History Month performance!

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South Orange Middle School student **Bryant Yang**, was selected as a semifinalist for the **Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Young Scholars** program. Bryant was among nearly 500 7th graders chosen nationwide to advance to the next stage. The Cooke Young Scholars Program is a selective five-year, pre-college scholarship for high-performing 7th grade students who have a financial need and a passion to succeed. The program provides comprehensive academic and college advising, financial support for school, summer programs, internships, and other learning enrichment opportunities.

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The **Science Research** students at **Columbia High School** and their teacher, **Mrs. Tedeschi** presented the class's research on gene sequencing at Rutgers University. The students who participated were:

Aidan Boyer
Max Crosby
Mia Deutsch
Isabella Erhamza
Julia Ethan
Evan Fagan

Sam Fleetwood
Ayane Garrison
Emma Herrero
George Johnson
Erin Lackey

Sofia Licata
Sari Rosenberg
Lara Rufolo
Julia Vroman
Lillian Wilson

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A group of **South Orange Middle School** students performed an act of kindness to a fellow student, by decorating the student's locker for his birthday. They adorned the locker with colorful trinkets, kind words, and thoughtful personalized messages to help the student feel extremely special and accepted by his peers.

Participating classmates were:

Melissa Debuison
Nawal Irfani
Ava Katz
Charlie Keenan

Leah Kleitsch
Jake Laskowski
Alex Mandell
Alex Mintz

Owen Ripley
Adam Trombino
Lily Westhelle

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South Orange & Maplewood School District was the only district from Essex County chosen to participate in the **New Jersey Teen Arts Festival** for 3 years in a row. 16 Columbia HS Visual Art and Photography students had their work on display at the festival. The students are:

Eliot Dix
Jordan Fastov
Lucia Garritano
Shakeelah Gilkes
Taylor Goodson

Desiree Hume
Christopher Lopez
Naomi McMechen
Jesser Pilato
Lara Rafolo

Rowan Slater
Miriam Sorkin
Freya Zaccarelli
Imaan Zubieta

In addition, **Iman Zubieta**, **Josie Lally**, **Eliot Dix** and **Rowan Slater** were selected to be part of the **2019- 2020 NJ State Teen Arts** touring exhibition. Participation by the District was initiated and led by Fine Arts Supervisor, **James A. Manno** who secured participation by coordinating efforts with festival director and by providing student product entries via digital adjudication process.

Special thanks to this year's participating teachers **Jon Fisher** (Photography), **Karen Murphy** (Visual Art), **Nicole Thomas** (Visual Art), **Alexandra Cappucci** (Visual Art).

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Cindy Malhotra, teacher of Computer Graphics and Production Journalism in the Fine Arts Department, received a **Merit Award** for her photography from **Black and White Magazine**. Ms. Malhotra is among 83 photographers selected to be highlighted in this international publication. Several of her photos will be published in a 2-page spread in the Special Issue #134, which is scheduled to arrive on newsstands early June.

Ms. Malhotra's photography will also be included in **Urban Dance: Visual Rhythm of Cities**, a group exhibit at The Plaxall Gallery in Long Island City, NY from June 19 to July 21.

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Dara Crocker Gronau, Maplewood Middle School Principal, Raymund Mantes, Maplewood Middle School Social Studies teacher both received full scholarships to attend the Institute for Teaching Diversity and Social Justice summer conference in July 2019. **Lorraine Sudol, Maplewood Middle School Mathematics teacher** received a full scholarship to attend in June 2019. They are all honored to receive this and thrilled to attend.

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Stacey Lawrence's poem **CLOSER** made the short-list in the **FISH POETRY PRIZE** judged by Billy Collins. Ms. Lawrence's poem, **SPARED** made the long-list. Ms. Lawrence is an English teacher at Columbia High School.

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Columbia HS Art Teacher, Kate Dodd, was chosen to have her work exhibited at The Gallery at Hillside Square in Montclair, NJ from May 30th - August 23rd, 2019.

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Several **South Orange & Maplewood School District Administrators** were awarded **Achieve Grants** named in honor of **Deborah M. Prinz**. Achieve received several outstanding applications and awarded a total of \$10,392 for the following programs and staff:

- **Jameel Misbahuddin, Supervisor of STEM** (grades 9 -12), to provide math and science teachers with professional development focusing on providing instruction to students with diverse skill levels and academic backgrounds in the same class.
- **Kevin Mason, CHS Assistant Principal**, to conduct a summer book club and discussion group that will provide administrators with professional development focusing on leadership, This will encourage uniformity across the elementary, middle and high schools, and will allow for discussion throughout the school year among the administrative team and with the superintendent and central office staff.
- **MMS Principal Dara Gronau** and a cross-functional team received a grant to create a "Break Room at MMS," to create a nurturing space for students to reset emotions and participate in restorative sessions from Maplewood Middle School.
- **Principal Shannon Glander** and **Assistant Principal Sheila Murphy** received a grant to partially fund Café Seth Boyden to provide a sound system as part of the administrators' goal to transform the cafeteria into a more inviting and less stressful space that promotes individual social/emotional growth and the building of a stronger community spirit.

Ms. Prinz really valued the process of working in partnership with SOMSD staff members, so upon her retirement last June, the Achieve's Administrator Grants were issued in her name.

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Elementary Instrumental Music teachers, **Jasmine Bloch-Krepfels** and **Jennifer Hershfield**, implemented green initiatives this spring, including digital concert programs at **Tuscan and Clinton School Spring Concerts**, as well as digital sign up forms at South Mountain School.

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The **Clinton Elementary School Music Department** performed at the school's **First Annual Leadership Day**. The 5th Grade Chorus was conducted by **Ms. Rebecca Jacobson**, the 5th Grade Orchestra was conducted by **Mrs. Jennifer Hershfield**, and the 5th Grade Band was conducted by **Ms. Jasmine Bloch-Krepfels**.

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Ms. Stephanie Lawson-Muhammad was honored at the **Summit for Civil Rights** as a recipient of the **2019 Shirley Chisholm Breakthrough Leader Award**. The award was for "leadership and courage and for work to promote full inclusion, equity and access to opportunity for all children."

Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman of the United States House of Representatives noted that Ms. Lawson-Muhammad is an elected board leader, who along with her colleagues, led efforts to further racial integration and maximize equitable opportunity for all students. Ms. Lawson-Muhammad led a coalition to advance strategies and policy approaches for Governor Murphy and Legislative Leadership to remediate New Jersey's deep and shameful school segregation problem. Ms. Lawson-Muhammad also moderated a session at the conference called - Report from the field (school segregation cases) that included noted attorney Elise Boddie, professors Rucker Johnson, Myron Orfield, Roslyn Mickelson, Amy Wells and politician Nia Gill.

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