

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE & MAPLEWOOD

BOARD RECOGNITION

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

May 14, 2018

The Board of Education recognizes **SOMSD Administration, ASCA** and **SOMEA** members for the incredible work to prepare for QSAC monitoring. We look forward to hearing the results of the monitoring.

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The **South Orange Maplewood Board of Education** earned **Board Certification** from the **New Jersey School Boards Association** (NJSBA) for the first time since 1997. NJSBA's Charlene Peterson acknowledged the seriousness and commitment of time that the Board brought to this process, completing the certification process in 18 months instead of the allowable 4 years. She also noted that the Board's commitment to equity and opportunity for all students has permeated our retreats, trainings and policy work.

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CHS's production of the musical **Hairspray** received **10 Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Nominations**, including:

- **Outstanding Overall Production of a Musical**
- **Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role: Hunter Kovacs** as "Corny Collins"
- **Outstanding Performance by a Chorus**
- **Outstanding Performance by an Orchestra**
- **Outstanding Achievement by a Teacher or Outside Director: Tricia Benn** and **Bethany Pettigrew**
- **Outstanding Achievement in Music Direction: Jamie Bunce** and **Peter F. Bauer**
- **Outstanding Achievement in Choreography and Staging: Tricia Benn** and **Bethany Pettigrew**
- **Outstanding Costuming Achievement: Barbara Canace, Carol Rutledge** and **Suzanne Roghanchi**
- **Outstanding Hair and Make-Up Achievement: Suzanne Roghanchi, Tricia Benn** and **Bethany Pettigrew**
- **Outstanding Performance in a Featured Role: Ben Blais** as "Wilbur Turnblad"

Hairspray also received 2 **Honorable Mentions**, including:

- **Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role:**
 - **Naomi Fisch** as "Amber Von Tussle"
 - **Madie Reilly** as "Velma Von Tussle"

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Kandice N. Point-Du-Jour, CHS Dance Teacher, is the Founding Chapter Sponsor of Columbia High School **first National Honor Society for Dance Arts**, Chapter #NJ0065, which has recognized the following as Honor Society Students:

Sally Carnevale
Eve Charles
Chaz Gordon

Nailah Herndon
Franca Rosenblatt
Rosa Wolff

The National Honor Society for Dance Arts serves to promote and honor outstanding dance achievement in the middle school, high school and collegiate levels. The mission is to encourage well-rounded dance artist to become leaders in their communities both during and after high school.

CHS Senior **Toibat Tolulope Ayankunbi** won **First Prize** from the **Northern New Jersey Committee of The Princeton Prize in Race Relations** for her work to fight the underrepresentation of children of color in AP and honors-level courses at CHS. The Princeton Prize in Race Relations seeks *“to promote harmony, understanding, and respect among people of different races by identifying and recognizing high school age students whose efforts have had a significant, positive effect on race relations in their schools or communities.”*

CHS Junior, **Stephen Brown**, is the recipient of a **2018 Dwight D. Eisenhower Leadership Award** from the West Point Society of New Jersey. This award honors High School Juniors who have demonstrated outstanding attributes of character, service and leadership in school and society.

The following eight CHS students were honored at the Annual **“Essex County Celebrates Youth”** Program for their participation in the Cinema Ed program: **Max Goldstein; Aidan Romanau; Andrew Campbell; Christina Wright; Ethan Halperin; Sophia Heriveaux; Jolie Heriveaux; and Sophie Goodman-Merel.**

CHS Freshman **Lily Forman** was named a winner in **Population Education’s World of 7 Billion student video contest** for her video titled, *“Help Our Girls, Help Our World.”* The *World of 7 Billion* is an international film competition for middle and high school students. Participants create a 60-second film connecting human population growth to a pressing global issue and present their ideas for innovative, sustainable solutions. Lily’s film explored the topic of advancing the rights of women and girls across the world.

CHS Students recently won five awards at the **Dalton School Model UN**, against delegates from the top New York City high schools. Winning delegates included **Valerie Houghton, Abigail Ratner, Elijah Glantz, Max Bryant,** and **Hazel Allison-Way. Stephanie Rivera** is the advisor to the CHS Model UN team.

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CHS Senior **Hannah Williams** will be playing soccer at **Penn State University** in 2018-2019.

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CHS Student **Hudson Hassler** was rated as one of the top 77 sophomores in the state of NJ for softball.

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CHS student **Eliot Dix** was rated as one of the top 77 juniors in the state of NJ for baseball.

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CHS Senior **Jordan Stephan** has acquired 100 hits in her high school varsity career for softball.

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Molly Graham, a fourth grade student at Jefferson School, was a winner in the **Essex County "My County" poster contest**. This is an annual contest sponsored by the Essex County Clerk's office for fourth graders around the county. The award was given on May 17, 2018 in the Hall of Records in Newark, NJ. As a winner, Molly's winning poster will appear in an Essex County calendar along with the other winning posters.

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James Manno, Supervisor of Fine and Performing Arts, partnered with SOPAC to win the largest grant in history of SOPAC for Arts Education. The **\$75,000 grant from the Hearst Foundation for Arts Education** will bring Alvin Ailey Dance to Middle Schools next year.

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Dara Crocker Gronau, Principal of Maplewood Middle School, was selected to participate in the Schools to Learn from program with **Teach for America**. Teach for America sponsored all travel expenses for those accepted into the program. On May 2 and 3, 2018, Ms. Gronau spent two full days with school leaders around the country at a high performing school in Washington, D.C. during which they will use the Excellent Schools Framework to gather and implement best practices related data-driven leadership, instruction, and school climate and culture.

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Alyna Jacobs, Principal of South Mountain Elementary School, was invited to lead a roundtable at the **Teachers College Principals' Conference** called "Keeping the Work Alive Between Staff Developer Visits" in recognition of "the great work [she] has been doing" at South Mountain.

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CHS Health and PE teacher **Allie Cahill** and students from her senior health classes were nominated and chosen to be honored on the **One Love Foundation Annual Giving Day**. Each year on May 3rd, One Love rallies the energy, spirit and passion of the entire One Love community as we honor the life and memory of Yeadley Love and all those impacted by relationship abuse. On this day, Columbia High School is being celebrated for their incredible work carried out by students and teachers to learn the difference between healthy and unhealthy relationship behaviors and their dedication to empower young people to be the change in their community.

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On April 20th, SOMS history teacher, **Katerina Karis**, presented "Decolonizing Native History Education" at the annual, national conference of the **National Council for History Education** in San Antonio, Texas. Before scholars and historians from around the world, Ms. Karis introduced historical trauma and its modern-day manifestations in the forms of erasure, generalization, and the perpetuation of generalized "Indian" mythologies today. Participants explored a variety of strategies for decolonizing their classrooms, libraries and curricula.

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NewsELA, a widely used digital platform in SOMSD elementary schools awarded two Jefferson Elementary Teachers for creating engaging and rigorous assignments for their students through their use of the newsELA platform. **The Educator Team at NewsELA** awarded 4th grade teacher, **Ivy Sta. Iglesia** with "**Awesome Assignment Award**" and 5th Grade Teacher, **Hector Stewart** with the "**Writing Prompt Wizard Award**". NewsELA provided both teachers with certificates during Teacher Appreciation Week commending them for their strong teaching and tech skills! Congratulations Ms. Sta. Iglesia and Mr. Stewart for this accomplishment!

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