

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE & MAPLEWOOD

BOARD RECOGNITION
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
November 20, 2017

Three Maplewood Middle School students, **Gabriella Damens, Clevielle Olarte, and Annabelle Mecca**, were presented with prizes by Mr. Randy Falk, creative director at **NECA Toy Company**, for their creative narrative backstories of character figures. Their writing projects were part of a class study, led by MMS teachers **Mr. O'Dell** and **Mrs. Vorona**, of the eight character archetypes found in most heroic journey stories, based on the work of Joseph Campbell's studies of mythology across numerous cultures.

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CHS Senior **Christian Pierre** signed a letter of intent to play baseball at the Division I level for St. John's University.

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CHS Senior **Cameron Herbert** signed a letter of intent to play Lacrosse at the Division I level with Bellarmine University in Kentucky.

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CHS World Language teachers **Debbie Somoza, Laurie Pham, Katie Simpson, and Deb Gomer** received a grant from the **Montclair University Educators' Network** to create a program in which ELL learners and students in AP Spanish and French classes will meet to encourage greater interaction between English Language Learners and students of other world languages; to create opportunities that increase authentic use of the target language; to foster friendships between ELL students and native English speaking-students and integrate them into the greater school community.

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Mr. T.J. Whitaker, CHS Teacher of English, is the recipient of the **Community Service Award for 2017** by the New Jersey Chapter of the National Black MBA Association, Inc.

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Ms. Kandice Point-Du-Jour, CHS Teacher of Dance, was selected as the recipient of the **Lifestyle Award for 2017** from the New Jersey Chapter of the National Black MBA Association, Inc.

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CHS History Teacher, **Mr. James Cotter** was selected for the **University of Chicago's Outstanding Educator Award**.

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Mr. Jacob Ezzo, South Orange Middle School Choral Director, won first place in the **2017 Arts Ed NOW “What Does and Arts Ed Now Ambassador Look Like”** Contest for the Middle School Category!

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Mr. Juan Bas earned his 100th career win as CHS volleyball coach.

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Mr. Charles Ezell, Assistant Principal at CHS, was published in May in the New York Academy of Public Education Journal as a co- author of the article : *Urban Education Disrupted: Observations from a Successful High School in the Flat World*

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Ms. Bonita Samuels, Principal of Marshall Elementary School, was selected by Crayola and the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) as one of 20 elementary and middle school principals from across the nation to receive a **Champion Creatively Alive Children** school grant.

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Mattel just announced that they are making a new Barbie doll modeled after CHS Graduate and Olympic Fencer **Ibtihaj Muhammad**. This will be the first Barbie who chooses to wear hijab, and is part of the Barbie “Shero” line that honors women who break boundaries.

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Karen Weiland, Director of SOMSD’s Parenting Center, and parent volunteer **Alli Joseph** coordinated community-wide efforts as part of the national **#ChooseKind** initiative. Each of our schools participated in #ChooseKind activities throughout the week, culminating in a special screening of the new movie WONDER based on the book by Raquel J. Palacio. They also received town proclamations from both South Orange and Maplewood, designating them “Cities of Kindness.”