The South Orange Maplewood School District Received a **2016 Best Communities for Music Education Designation** presented by **The NAMM Foundation.** The district received this designation for its “Outstanding Support of Music Education and Enriching the Lives of Children and Advancing Student Achievement.”

Columbia High School’s **Special Dance Company Senior Madelyn “Maddie” Cidlik**, choreographer of **MISCONCEPTIONS** has been selected to perform in the **National High School Dance Festival** that will be held at Point Park University in Pittsburgh this spring. The Special Dance Company performers of MISCONCEPTIONS are:

- Hannah Baker
- Maddie Cidlik
- Eleanor Cohen
- Victoria Colon
- Michael Hoey
- Tahjanae Johnson
- Ava Milanese
- Dondrea Taylor-Stewart

**Ms. Kandice N. Point-Du-Jour** is their dance teacher.

Three students won the **Montclair Film Festival Emerging Filmmakers** competition! The students are:

- Declan Lynch
- Nicholas Shires
- Aidan Sullivan

Click on the [link](#) to read about the announcement. **Ms. Rivera and Ms. Kiina Dordina** are the social studies teachers for these students.

Nine 8th grade students at **South Orange Middle School** were published in **TeenInk** after they submitted their essays on the topic related to religion they were assigned in class.

The students are:

- Deshawnna Exilus
- Aleyah Fanfan
- Jacob Kasdan
- Margaret Lahey
- Carly Lerman
- Stephen Olaode
- Mya Roman
- Margot Tabakin
- Lila Zinner

**Stephanie Rivera** is the social studies teacher for these students.
Fifty-two students of the SOMS Model UN recently attended the Global Classrooms International Middle School Model UN 3-day conference in New York City. The delegation represented the countries of Belize, Bangladesh, the Comoros and the Czech Republic and students grappled with multiple issues including the militarization of space and child labor. Hazel Allison-Way and Abigail Ratner, SOMS 8th graders won an award for their work in the UNESCO committee!

Seven students at Clinton Elementary School recently put together a Book Talk for Read Across America. The students were able to select an excerpt from a Dr. Seuss book and after practicing, their voices were recorded and their “Book Talk” was posted on YouTube and shared with the class. The students are:

Arial Cabrera (2nd Grade)  Schyler Curry (4th Grade)  
Charles Johnson (2nd Grade)  Brandon Flashner-Heath (4th Grade)  
Marcus Moxley (2nd Grade)  Adam Quraishi (5th Grade)  
Sudan Jenkins (3rd Grade)  

Click on the link for the video:  https://youtu.be/vKENCUbUgPg. Jon Korellis is their teacher at Clinton.

Seth Boyden Physical Education Teacher Ria Favia has gained national attention and has been asked to do videos of her physical education classes similar to the Danielson videos of teaching.

Seth Boyden Art Teacher Nancy Ring was the solo exhibitor paintings, collages and drawings which opened at the Lippman Gallery. She was the featured artist also on her studio building’s website: www.solosprojecthouse.com/sph-studios-nan-ring/  

In addition, 63 participating fifth grade students in Ms. Ring’s class made artworks for the traveling exhibit “Facing Racism” at the CHHANGE Museum (chhange.org). Complete information can be found on the website: https://chhange.org/art-exhibit-opening-event.html
South Mountain Kindergarten Teachers J. Debbie Wright and Serena Watkinson, and their Team W Kindergarten students hosted their super successful Team W 4th Annual Shoe Drive.

Columbia High School Principal Elizabeth Aaron has been invited to participate in the 5th Principals at ED event at the U.S. Department of Education on May 20th and to meet with U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King. She was invited to this prestigious event following a very successful visit to CHS from several representatives from the USDOE including Alicia Perez-Katz, Principal Ambassador Fellow, and Ruthanne Buck, Senior Advisor to the US Secretary of Education.