Eight Columbia High School musicians received the Vanessa Pollock Music Initiative awards totaling $11,200. The awards will provide private music instruction this school year for each of the following gifted students: Kayla Bobb, Ino Cintron-Burch, Kristen Daly, Elizabeth DeLuca, Kimberly Dorvil, Ashantah Kerr, Daniel Maloof and Nika Pierre-Paul. The awards were made possible by the initiative established with the Achieve Foundation by Charlie and Vanessa Pollock.

CHS Band Director, Peter Bauer, Choral Director, Jamie Bunce and Orchestra Director, Todd Van Beveren nominated the students for the Pollock awards, because of their extraordinary achievements in music to date. They distinguished themselves with their initiative, effort, dedication and musicianship.

The Boys Cross Country Team won the Essex County Athletic Director’s Championship on October 28th by defeating Millburn among other schools. Earlier in the year, they won the SEC Conference Championships.

Various Columbia HS choruses achieved the following accomplishments which include:

Five Columbia HS choir students have been accepted into the All-State High School Chorus for this school year. They are: Amanda Bradshaw, Matthew Lintern, Maia Sheinfeld, Holly Haines, and Adam Friedman-Brown.

The women of the CHS a cappella group, The Unaccompanied Minors, participated in and performed at the Faces of Domestic Violence workshop at Rutgers-Newark on October 15th.

The men of CHS choir traveled to Rowan University on October 26th to participate in the Young Men’s Festival of Song, directed by Dr. Chris Thomas.

The Columbia High School Girls Varsity Soccer Team won the Liberty Division of the SEC Conference. Members of the team are:

Michelle Aguero
Ellie Betheil
Grace Bratter
Gracie Jo Benn
Caroline Cerny
Isadora Egypt
Charli Holstein
Lia Holstein
Grace Hut
Naomi Joseph
Ava Krasner
Lauren Lake
Meredith Meyer
Ceci Muñoz

Morgan Nash
Sofia Ratkevich
Liana Runcie
Olivia Smith
Hannah Williams

Ashley Corino is the Head Coach and Meghin Meade is the Assistant Coach.
The Regional Achievement Center and New Jersey Department of Education recognized Principal Ann Bodnar and the entire Clinton School Community on “their significant progress towards closing the achievement gap.”

Jeff Kaesshaefer and Rich Tait, physical education teachers at South Mountain School raised $6,000 to add an additional 5 rock wall panels to extend their current rock wall an additional 20 feet.

Columbia High School Career and Technical Education Teacher Mr. Scott D. Cohen was elected to the New Jersey Business Technical Education Association (NJBTEA) Board. The mission of the New Jersey Business/Technology Education Association is to serve as the advocate of business/technology education within the state and provide opportunities for professional growth leading to quality business/technology education programs.

Columbia High School Choral Director, Ms. Jamie Bunce, completed her Master’s Degree in Music Education with a concentration in Choral Pedagogy from Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton, NJ, earning an indication "with distinction" on her degree. Ms. Bunce was also selected to serve as a rehearsal conductor for the All-State High School Treble Chorus.

Art teacher Ellen Weisbord is exhibiting two weavings in the World of Threads Festival, Oakville, Ontario. This exhibit showcases national and international contemporary fibre and textile art, with 315 works by 134 artists from 23 countries.