The Columbian has earned the first place award in an annual competition held by the American Scholastic Press Association for the third year in a row. Judges noted that CHS has “...an excellent school newspaper, which shows the creativity and journalistic knowledge of [its] reporters, writers, photographers, layout/graphics designers and advisor[s].”

The editorial board team members are:

- David Griffith
- Peter Henderson
- Charli Holstein
- Donovan Hugel
- Rohan Kremer-Guha
- Xavier Silva
- Ethan Smith
- Isabel Turi

The art/design team members for 2016-17 are:

- Maya Cruz
- Emily Glynn
- Josh Heacock
- Skyler Hurdle
- Ty’rese Hutcheson
- Jaymee Hyppolite
- Caroline Neri
- Talia Rhinehart
- James Robins
- Leonel Soares

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

Columbia High School junior, Turner Andrasz earned a National Silver Medal in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards 2017. Turner also received a gold medal and honorable mention in the regional awards, which led to his moving forward into the national competition. Turner is currently a student in Art 4 at CHS and will be in the AP Studio Art class next year.

Leonel Soares, also a junior in Art 4 who is going to be in AP Studio Art next year and art/design editor of The Columbian and Guildscript, won two Scholastic Regional Silver Awards and an honorable mention.

South Orange Middle School has been selected as a 2016-17 No Place for Hate School. SOMS is one of over 1,700 schools across the country that successfully committed to promoting unity and respect and reducing bullying, name-calling and other expressions of bias. The school was recognized at a ceremony last month, where they received personalized “No Place for Hate” banners for the school.

The following students were honored for their committee work at a ceremony in New York City last week:

**Grade 6**
- Tao Britton
- Leo Gold
- Gabriel Homer
- Okherra Prosper

**Grade 7**
- Racquel Anicette
- Reyen Bender
- Lucas Dalvi
- Piper Davenport
- Tatum Sabin
- Isioma Grant

Ms. Katerina Karis, Teacher at South Orange Middle School is ADL’s No Place for Hate Coordinator.
The 5th Grade Choruses traveled with the district elementary music teachers and performed with American Young Voices at the Prudential Center. They were part of an 8,500 voice chorus of children and a full blown, large scale, high quality concert.

Several students were accepted to honors ensembles this semester. They were:

**All North Jersey Region Symphonic Band**
- Liana Greenberg, Contra-Alto Clarinet
- Louise Kern-Kensler, Trombone

**All North Jersey Junior Region Band**
- Brian da Silva, Bassoon
- Elizabeth DeLuca, Bass Clarinet

**Essex County Honor Band**
- Joe Lintern, Trumpet
- Aiden Reeves, Alto Saxophone
- Drew Payne, Trumpet
- Louise Kern-Kensler, Trombone
- Isadora Kianovsky, Clarinet
- Andre Weinberger, Tenor Saxophone
- Peter Henderson, Percussion
- Gillian Basedow, French horn
- Katherine Vilardi, Clarinet

The following are athletic recognitions for the 2016-17 school year:

*Essex County Throwing Coaches Association* Coach of the Year: Chuck Keegan

**SEC All Conference Winners:**

**Boys Tennis:**
- Adam Kaplan
- Ben Kaplan
- Seth Brand

**Girls Lacrosse**
- Lauren Lake
- Shannon Gray
- Erin Lackey
- Finley Kemp

**Boys Lacrosse**
- Jacob Walthour
- Brian Young
- Ben Majtyka
- Brendan Lackey
- Orterro Felton
- Beau Reed

**Baseball**
- Eliot Dix
- Christian Pierre
- Peter Nolet
- Dan Cotler

**Softball**
- Maya Goldner
- Jordan Stephan
- Ally Krause
- Clementine Sherman
- Hudson Hassler

**SEC Scholar Athletes:** Olivia Smith & Jared Pangallozzi

**NJSIAA Scholar Athlete:** Shannon Gray

**Men of Essex Award:** Camille Pham

**Yogi Berra Best Teammate Award:** Chloe Holt-Reiss
18 South Orange Middle School (SOMS) students' essays were selected to be published in The Huffington Post as a part of a series titled, "Youth Voices in the New Year." The 8th grade students were given the opportunity to create their essay prompt as long as it connected to the unit theme of "Uses and Abuses of Power." Students wrote about topics such as: LGBTQ+ Presentation in the Media, Homelessness, Racism, Feminism, Democratic Education, Exploitation of Workers, and so much more!

Students whose works were published students include:

Daisy Andrejco  
Nick Aaron  
Sophia Carter  
Harley (Allie) Cenedella  
Ray Feinleib  
Alex Ferrandiz  
Lily Forman  
Carrie Hill  
Livvy (Olivia) Krakower  
Sabrina McCrear  
Maya Mitchell  
Olivia Morgan  
Zoe Newman  
Andrea Rebimbas

The links to the articles can be found at:
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/soms-8th-grade-social-studies

Five SOMS students won the Grand Prize in the Documentary category in the Montclair Film Festival Emerging Film Makers Competition by entering a video created for a class project, entitled "Project Identity." Students who won are:

Lucia Garritano  
Ray Feinleib  
Alex Ferrandiz  
Sam Cohen  
Robin Kalderen

The link to the video is: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C1d1NYQckcw&t=136s.

Ms. Stephanie Rivera is the above students’ teacher as well as the Students for Social Change Club Advisor at South Orange Middle School.

Select musical ensembles from Maplewood Middle School performed at the High Note Festivals last month. Mrs. Regina Bradshaw presented the 7th & 8th grade Select Chorus accompanied by McGhee Steiner, Mr. Chris Balas presented the Honors Wind Symphony, and Miss Annamaria Chilimintris presented the 8th grade String Orchestra. All three groups received a rating of “superior”, which is the highest possible ranking.

The following CHS volunteer tutors will be presented with a Dubrow Award for outstanding service to the Achieve Volunteer Tutor Program.

Matthew Henegan  
Natalie Morrison  
Nicholas Shires
The following middle school students will be honored with a **Kohl Angelo Peer Tutor Award** for their outstanding achievements.

- **Sophia Carter** (SOMS)
- **Mikey Lupton** (SOMS)
- **Max Parlin** (MMS)

The following exceptional **CHS Super Seniors**, graduating high school students, are to be commended, as they have volunteered as tutors for three or more years...

- **Rebekah Adams**
- **Jackie Bryan**
- **Julie Destine**
- **Jacob Fastov**
- **Sophie Fox**
- **Chloe Holt-Reiss**

- **Hanae Garrison**
- **Oloumachi Onyekwere**
- **Nicole Ostrow**
- **Samantha Reichgut**
- **Maia Sheinfeld**

Columbia HS Freshman, **Cameron Lipp** received the **Silver Medal** in the **2017 Scholastic Art & Writing Award** in the category for (Science Fiction/Fantasy). His work title for which he received this medal for is titled, "Death and a Daylily".

SOMS 8th grader and String Bass player **Jason Meusel** auditioned for and was selected to perform with the following:

- **North Jersey School Music Association Region I Orchestra**
- **New Jersey Music Educators Association All State Orchestra**

Columbia HS Senior, **Gabriel Bongiorno**, scored highest score in state for environmental science at the New Jersey Science League. The environmental science AP team came in 7th and the physics AP team came in 5th in the state.

Columbia High School junior **Max Spiegel** distributed 100 of books to the students of a Newark public school as part of a project to qualify as an **Eagle Scout**. Max collected and donated approximately 500 books to approximately 260 students in grades kindergarten through eight. Upon learning that the school’s Multipurpose Room was in need of bookshelves, Spiegel built some shelves that could be placed in the room’s window sills. In addition, he arranged to have graphic novelist Kevin C. Pyle make a presentation on writing and illustrating for the students to enjoy. Read the full article in the **News Record** at:  [http://essexnewsdaily.com/headline-news/39737](http://essexnewsdaily.com/headline-news/39737).
Mr. Anthony Cicenia and Mr. Louis Cicenia, 7th grade Biology teachers from SOMS, were awarded $10,000 Grant from Sustainable NJ funded by the PSEG Foundation. The grant award reflected the “Rahway River Fieldwork Project” developed by Mr. Cicenia. The purpose of the grant is to expand the River curriculum to include students from Maplewood Middle and Columbia High school. They will also utilize the funding to purchase equipment which takes them into the field and cover more area around the Rahway River, to increase knowledge of the watershed and importance of it to the community. Members of the Green team include:

Anthony Cicenia, Teacher  
Lynn Irby, Principal  
Kim Beane, Supervisor of STEM, K-8  
Louis Cicenia, Teacher  
Frank Guastella, Teacher  
Paula Bethea, Guidance Counselor  
Ashley Corino, Teacher  
James McGowan, Parent Liaison

Columbia HS teacher of Poetry and Creative Writing, Ms. Stacey Lawrence’s poem Looking was published in The RavenPerch literary magazine. A link to Ms. Lawrence’s poem is: http://www.theravensperch.com/looking-by-stacey-z-lawrence/

Ms. Karen Bonanno, PE & Health teacher at MMS was chosen as one of two New Jersey state representatives to become a Certified Presidential Youth Fitness Trainer and one of 100 teachers in the country who have been chosen for this program. After earning certification, Ms. Bonanno will train the PE staff in our district.

South Orange MS 7th Grade Global Issues Teacher, Ms. Katerina G. Karis was awarded a National Endowment of the Humanities fellowship to participate in a Native American Histories Institute this summer on Cape Cod. Ms. Karis hopes to bring back more strategies for improving our school’s cultural competence.