

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE & MAPLEWOOD

**BOARD RECOGNITION**  
**PUBLIC BOARD MEETING**

April 22, 2013

The **South Orange/Maplewood School District** was recognized nationally as “**One of the Best Communities for Music Education**” by the **NAMM Foundation** for supporting music education. The Best Communities designation recognizes collaborative, from-the-ground-up efforts of teachers, administrators, students and parents who continually work to keep comprehensive music education as an integral part of the core curriculum. The Board expresses its appreciation to **Anthony Mazzocchi**, Supervisor of Fine Arts, K-12 and his staff for this impressive recognition.

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Columbia High School junior, **Brett Ascher**, earned the highest possible composite score of 36 on her **ACT college admission and placement exam**. On average, less than one-tenth of one percent of all test takers earns the top score. A perfect score on the ACT is an amazing and superlative accomplishment. On behalf of the entire community, we congratulate Brett.

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The **National Merit Scholarship Program** has announced that four Columbia High School students were selected as **Semifinalists in the 58<sup>th</sup> annual Merit Scholarship competition for 2013**. Included are:

**Andrew Dodd**  
**Jacob McNamara**

**Sophia Eller**  
**Adam Richardson**

These scholastically talented students have an opportunity to continue in the competition and vie for Merit Scholarship awards offered in the spring.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation awarded **Letters of Commendation** to fifteen Columbia High School seniors in the 2013 Merit Program for their exceptional academic promise and the high scores they received on the PSAT, taken in their junior year. They include:

**Ysa Borstel**  
**Katherine Chew**  
**Rachel Martel**  
**Miguel O'Malley**  
**Hannah Rafkin**

**Sarah Burn**  
**Benjamin Fischer**  
**Neil Miller**  
**Lukas Orlesky**  
**Aurora Rojer**

**David Carliner**  
**Isabel Gibson**  
**Jamie Mountain**  
**Sara Orr**  
**Margaret Woodruff**

The **2013 National Achievement Scholarship Program**, part of the **National Merit Scholarship Corporation**, named seven Columbia High School seniors as **Outstanding Participants Referred to U.S. Colleges and Universities**. These students scored in the top three percent of the more than 160,000 Black Americans who took the 2011 PSAT. Chosen were:

**Reggie Gilliard**  
**Brittany Richardson**  
**Jian White**

**Zachary Knowles**  
**Kiyomi Taylor**

**Xavier Lee**  
**Nathan Tucker**

The **2013 National Hispanic Recognition Program** named one Columbia High School senior as **Scholar/Honorable Mention Referred to U.S. Colleges and Universities**. The Columbia High School student chosen this year is:

**Miguel O'Malley**

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Three Columbia High School juniors were accepted to participate in this summer's **Governor's School of Sciences**. **Ryan Morey** and **Chris Painter** were accepted at the **Rutgers University School of Engineering and Technology** and **Jessica Petrow-Cohen** was accepted at the **School of the Sciences at Drew University**. As participants, the scholars will be taking 5 academic classes, completing an intensive research and/or design project, and going on site visits to local corporations. Applicants are nominated by their high schools after going through a competitive process.

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Third grader **Katie McElynn** of Clinton Elementary earned a perfect score in the second of three meets for the **WordMasters Challenge™** – a national vocabulary competition involving nearly 150,000 students annually. Competing in the difficult Blue Division, she earned a perfect score of 20 in the February meet. Third grader **Milo Blake** and fourth grader **Aidan Kern-Kensler** also achieved outstanding results in the meet. The students were coached by Clinton Elementary teachers **Debra Ceccacci**, **Susan Froelich** and **Joanna Leach**.

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Teams from Maplewood Middle and South Orange Middle School participated in the **2013 Global Classrooms International Middle School United Nations (Model UN)** Conference in New York City. The Model UN Club is an international educational activity open to students in middle schools and allows students the opportunity to live the role of a UN delegate. **Louise Kern-Kensler** and **Aidan Reeves** earned an **Honorable Mention** for their work as delegates from the World Health Organization. There were strong performances from both of the middle school Model UN teams in their first year. Teachers **Susan Barry** and **Marc Gold** from Maplewood Middle School and teacher **Katerina Karis** from South Orange Middle School coached the clubs.

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Seventh grader, **Chloe Lawrence** of South Orange Middle School, received **Honorable Mention** for her science fiction story in the **Scholastic Art and Writing Awards**. Chloe's language arts teacher is **Danielle Levine**.

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Eighth grader, **Evan Schwartzberg** of Maplewood Middle School showed great knowledge and skill as he made it to round five of the **Northern NJ Spelling Bee**. **Mary Katherine Simpson**, MMS teacher is the adviser and organizer of the Spelling Bee.

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Columbia High School senior, **Sydney Scruggs**, was named ***The Star-Ledger's* Essex County boys indoor track Athlete of the Year for 2012-13**. Sydney led Columbia to the Essex County Relays title and its first NJSIAA North Jersey, Section 2 Group 4 championship. Sydney is coached by track coach **Lisa Morgan**.

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**Olivia Baker**, Columbia High School junior was named ***The Star-Ledger's girls state indoor track Athlete of the Year***. At the Meet of Champions, Olivia became the only second girl to win three golds at the same. Olivia made state history more than once, highlighted by a remarkable performance at the New Balance National Championships on March 10. She blasted her way to a second-place finish in the 400 in a state record of 53.99, the 18th fastest time in U.S. history. Olivia split 54.2 to bring Columbia across first in the 4x400 in a state record 3:42.03, No. 5 in U.S. history. Olivia is coached by Coach **Lisa Morgan**.

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Columbia High School Fencing Coach **Daryl White** was named the **2012-2013 Coach of the Year by *The Star Ledger***. Columbia's fencing teams have made it to the state finals for the past four years – three years of which they took home the state title, including this season. Under Coach White's leadership, the Columbia teams have developed a reputation for mental tenacity, endurance and physical toughness that has allowed them to maintain the focus to fuel the type of run that yields just two losses in four years.

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South Orange-Maplewood **Board Member Lynne Crawford** is being recognized by the **NJ School Board's Association** for achieving the status of **Master Board Member (MBM)**. This is the second level certification, which builds on the Certificated Board Member (CBM) certification. To receive the MBM, members must have earned a CBM and 20 additional credits as well as demonstrate mastery of the core areas by passing an NJSBA administered exam.

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**Judy LoBianco**, Supervisor of Health, Physical Education and Nursing Services for South Orange-Maplewood School District for over nine years, will be honored with the **Channing Mann Physical Education Administrator of the Year Award** by the **National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE)** during the **128<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD)** on April 26th.