

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE & MAPLEWOOD

BOARD RECOGNITION PUBLIC BOARD MEETING April 28, 2014

The **Columbia High School Boys Fencing Team** won the **State Title** by defeating Ridge High School 17-10 at Morris Hills High School. The team finished **14-0** for the season and also won the prestigious **Cetrulo Tournament** at the Morristown Armory.

The **Columbia High School Girls Fencing Team** also won the **State Title** by defeating Bernards High School 14-13 at Morris Hills High School. They finished the season **13-0** and won the prestigious **Santelli Tournament** at the Morristown Armory.

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Columbia High School Italian students won **first place** in the **Italian Language and Cultural Day Competition**. The theme for the competition was "*A Travel Through Time: Past and Future*" ("*Un Viaggio nel Tempo: Passato o Futuro*"). The students' topic was "*A Midnight in Rome*" which centered on the 3 famous Italian directors: Federico Fellini, Vittorio DeSica and Roberto Rossellini.

This competition is an annual event held at M.S.U. and encourages students to study Italian and subsequently take the AP Italian Language and Culture course. CHS students competed against 30 schools from New Jersey.

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Columbia High School student, **Jonah M. Williams** won four awards at the **North Jersey Regional Science Fair** in the following categories:

- **1st Place Award – Excellence in a Project that Investigates Green Energies & Methods of Sustainability & Conservation**
- **1st Place Award – Excellence in the Use of Innovate Techniques Due to Lack of Laboratory Space or Funding**
- **2nd Place Award – Excellence in Cellular and Molecular Biology Category**
- **The Theobald Smith Society Award in Microbiology**

Jonah competed with about 170 projects in various other areas of science and mathematics. The categories ranged from cancer research, to physics and computer science. Jonah's project entitled, "A More Conventional Approach to Algae Biofuel Production Through Internal Enzyme-Mediated Cell Lysis" investigates a novel method of stimulating cell and biomass degradation as a precursor to bio-lipid and bio-carbohydrate processing in the production of biofuels. The complete story about Jonah's project can be found on the district's [website](#).

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Montclair State University's Theatre Night Awards nominated Columbia High School's production of *Clybourne Park* in the following categories:

- **Keenan Kariotis - *Outstanding Performance by a Lead Actor in a Drama***
- **Carolyn Leys - *Outstanding Performance by a Lead Actress in a Drama***
- **Eli Weisenfeld - *Outstanding Performance by a Supporting Actor in a Drama***
- ***Outstanding Production of a Drama***

The awards recognize excellence in the production of high school and middle school plays throughout New Jersey.

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The **Columbia High School Honors Wind Ensemble** participated in the **North Jersey School Music Association Concert Band Festival** at Randolph High School. The CHS Honors Wind Ensemble earned a rating of **silver** and was also recognized as having the outstanding percussion section of all bands participating.

Peter Bauer is the Director of Bands.

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The **Columbia High School Key Club** won a **Silver Star Third Place Award** at the March **30th Key Club International District Convention**. The award was in recognition for the December holiday party the Key Club planned and hosted at the Stratford Rehabilitation Manor in West Orange, NJ.

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Elizabeth Aaron, Assistant Principal of Columbia High School presented a paper on the subject of her dissertation research, "***Education in Early 20th Century Newark in the Public Schools***," at the **Annual Conference of the Graduate Program in History** at Rutgers-Newark.

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Jasmine Bloch, 5th grade Instrumental Music Teacher at Tuscan Elementary, performed as the Principal Percussionist with **The Eastern Wind Symphony** on March 28th for their Opening Gala Concert in Princeton, NJ.

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Columbia High School teacher of Career and Technical Education, **Scott D. Cohen**, was the recipient of the **Outstanding Potential in Educational Leadership Award** recognizing him as an outstanding student and for his dedication and potential contribution to the field of Educational Leadership. Mr. Cohen is currently attending Montclair State University in the M.Ed. Educational Leadership Fast Track program.

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Susan Grierson, Principal of Jefferson Elementary School, was appointed by Governor Christie to the **New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund Board of Directors**. The New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund was created by law to ensure meaningful access to higher education for those who come from backgrounds of economic and educational disadvantage.

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Ellen Hark, Art Teacher South Orange Middle School will be receiving the **Sister Rose Thering Education Award** at this year's Interfaith Holocaust Memorial Service for her work to educate students about the Holocaust. SOMS student work in drawing, painting and sculpture has been on display for many years in which the students shows their feelings in art and poetry about the Holocaust.

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The **New Jersey Education Association (NJEA)** invited **Keysha Knight**, Secretary in the Department of Guidance & Counseling at South Orange Middle School to the Senate floor at the State House Complex to represent Essex County to receive the **Senate Resolution honoring Education Support Professionals (ESP's)**.

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Laura Kruglinski, Jefferson Art Teacher, was selected to speak on a panel for **Jersey City Ties Career Night** at the Boys & Girls Club of Hudson County. After the panel discussion she mentored high school students who were interested in pursuing art in college.

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Miriam Tager, 1st grade teacher at Seth Boyden presented a paper at the annual meeting of the **Comparative International Educational Society** in Toronto. The paper was entitled "***The logic of domination: a critical look at developmentally appropriate practices in Preschool.***"

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