Congratulations to several world language students from Maplewood Middle School, South Orange Middle School and Columbia High School who attained national recognition for excellent performance on the 2015 National Spanish Examinations.

Maplewood Middle School

Students from Maplewood Middle School earned a total of 1 Gold Medal, 2 Silver Medals and 11 Bronze Medals along with 31 Honorable Mentions (whose names are posted on the district website).

Gold Medal: Noori Zubieta
Silver Medals: Kenechukwu Amobi, Marc Saint-Louis
Bronze Medals: Lua Amanat, Jacquelyn Gualpa, Danielle Samake, Emma Beretta, Lucien Kisch, Abigail Strugger, Lyle Berkley, Alexander Rabney, Mia Weinberg, Ruth Eustache, Laura Robert-Ubaechu

Students from Maplewood Middle School were taught by Spanish teachers, Mr. Pena, Ms. Cavagnaro, Ms. Seltzer and Mr. Roncagliolo.

South Orange Middle School

Students from South Orange Middle School earned a total of 1 Silver Medals and 3 Bronze Medals along with 11 Honorable Mentions (whose names are posted on the district website).

Silver Medal: Isabella Garcia
Bronze Medals: Joshua Bradley, Hannah Gross, Brian Rojas

Students from South Orange Middle School were taught by Spanish teachers, Ms. Dos Santos, Ms. Barrios, Ms. Paronzini and Mr. Valerio.

Columbia High School

Students from Columbia High School earned a total of 3 Silver Medals and 2 Bronze Medals along with 4 Honorable Mentions (whose names are posted on the district website).

Silver Medals: Sarah Braka, Stephanie Cadet, Isabelle Wendt
Bronze Medals: Julia Cintron-Burch, Lauren Kret

Students from Columbia High School were taught by Spanish teachers, Ms. Gomer, Mr. Lemos, Ms. Lopez and Ms. Solis.
The Columbia High School Step Team, Infinite Ballistics, won Best Team in competition at high school competition event held on May 9th!

Christina Alexandre  Imani Noble
Jhamani Ashcraft Patricia Ogbonna
Jennifer Destra Rebeca Rosario
Abeo Gora Jah’Mekea Shaw
Regina Jacques Kemi Talabi (Captain)
Laurine Jean Mecca Watts (Captain)
Chris Jones Eartha West

Ms. Marcia Hicks is the Club Advisor for the CHS Step Team.

Jefferson Elementary School 5th grader, Kate Kampner, won 2nd place in the 4th/5th grade category for the 2015 Youth UPstander Essay/Poster/Video PSA AWARD!
Kate won for her essay on Anti-bullying and will attend the Fourth Annual WALK2STOPBULLYING awards ceremony this month where she will receive her award, receive a gift certificate and a t-shirt.

Columbia High School students Sophie Fisher (Senior, AP Studio Art) and Alexis Caruso (Junior, Art 4) and their art teacher, Ellen Weisbord attended the 10th Congressional District Art Competition Reception at the Newark Museum. Their artwork was displayed among the 100 pieces from many high schools in the 10th District.

Students represented Maplewood Middle and South Orange Middle School at the Elementary Honors Orchestra Festival. The one day event, for students in grades 4-6, was sponsored by the North Jersey School Music Association. The following students from Maplewood Middle School were nominated by Ms. Jennifer Dodge:

Violin  Viola  Cello
Tessa Farruggia  Kaylin Baugh  Mia Gilbert
Ruby Melman  Nia Gandaho  Devin Healey
Gabriel Roth  Phoebe Holt-Reiss
Haley Lowenthal
Noah Stevens

The following students from South Orange Middle School were nominated by Mr. Bill Cook:

Violin  Viola  Cello  Bass
Natasha Lyons  Alex Klint  Zander Rhodes  Jason Meusel
Allie Mishkin  Courtney Provilon Louis  Tess von Brachel
Sophia Plaitakis  Sasha Sinkler
Wenona Taiping-Moccia

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Columbia High School AP and Art 4 students will be exhibiting artwork at SOPAC (South Orange Performing Arts Center).  The Inspired Minds: Young Artists Exhibit – a display of fine art, photography and film animation will be on display at the Herb & Milly Iris Gallery at SOPAC through August.  The students were selected for this juried exhibition based on promise shown in their classroom work throughout the year.

In addition, AP and Art 4 students will be exhibiting in the CHS Domareki Gallery through the month of June.  Columbia HS art teacher Ellen Weisbord will also have her own studio open to the public for the Artists’ Studio Tour.

The following students will be exhibiting work:

Maya Braunstein    Holly Hunking    Margaux Temmerman
Katherine Camara    Joy Kelson       Daisy Tyler
Alexis Caruso       Sarah Noll       Alisa Weinberg
Sophie Fisher       Austin Romanaux
Julien Hryshko      Keza Ruranga

Three Digital Animations are also being shown by:

Jacob Correa       Edward Willshire
Jacob Hirsch       Mackenzie Bowles

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12 Columbia High School students participated at the William Paterson Poetry Contest.  Wigenlors Altenor won first place in the ELL Beginner Category and Pierre Moise Vincent won second place in the French Native Category.

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Ms. Melissa Butler’s 6th grade ELA class at South Orange Middle School won the state wide reading competition, Stick With It.  The Stick With It program encourages students to read each day, seven days a week with help from their parents to help them record their minutes on a weekly log. Winners earned a Devils Day at Prudential Center with the NJ Devils.

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Jake Ezzo, South Orange Middle School Choral Director, has been nominated for The Grammy Music Educator Award. He is one of the 213 semi-finalists out the initial 4500!  Click the link for more information.

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Maplewood Middle School Language Arts Teacher, Susan Barry was honored by the Ethical Culture Society of Essex County for her work with Model UN.  This is a new initiative to honor Local Heroes-- people who have done work in the local community deserving of recognition and exposure.

Ms. Meredith Sue Willis is the Chairperson, Social Action Committee, for the Ethical Culture Society of Essex County.
A team of 4 Marshall Elementary School Kindergarten teachers – Ms. Rhonda Wyche, Ms. Heather Merrigan, Ms. Tanya Barr and Ms. Michele Kaesshafer, will present at this year’s summer conference – the 2015 MSUNER Annual Summer Conference - Achieve More! Be More! Social Justice and Equity for Student Achievement sponsored by the Montclair State University Network for Educational Renewal! The team will show their research and the impact play had on kindergarten students!

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South Orange-Maplewood Board Member Elizabeth Daugherty is being recognized by the NJ School Board’s Association for achieving the status of Certificated Board Member (CBM). Areas of study are designed to give members a firm foundation in the essential governance skills needed to carry out their responsibilities. To receive this certification, board members must attend academy programs in at least four of the CBM (Certified Board Member) core areas and meet all of the CBM requirements.