

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE & MAPLEWOOD

**BOARD RECOGNITION**  
**PUBLIC BOARD MEETING**  
June 15, 2015

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:*

<b>Lua Amanat</b>	<b>Jacquelyn Gualpa</b>	<b>Danielle Samake</b>
<b>Emma Beretta</b>	<b>Lucien Kisch</b>	<b>Abigail Strugger</b>
<b>Lyle Berkley</b>	<b>Alexander Rabney</b>	<b>Mia Weinberg</b>
<b>Ruth Eustache</b>	<b>Laura Robert-Ubaechu</b>	

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**.

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The **Columbia High School Step Team, Infinite Ballistics**, won **Best Team** in competition at high school competition event held on May 9th!

**Christina Alexandre**  
**Jhamani Ashcraft**  
**Jennifer Destra**  
**Abeo Gora**  
**Regina Jacques**  
**Laurine Jean**  
**Chris Jones**

**Imani Noble**  
**Patricia Ogbonna**  
**Rebeca Rosario**  
**Jah'Mekea Shaw**  
**Kemi Talabi (Captain)**  
**Mecca Watts (Captain)**  
**Eartha West**

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

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Jefferson Elementary School 5<sup>th</sup> grader, **Kate Kampner**, won **2<sup>nd</sup> place** in the **4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> 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.

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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.

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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

**Tessa Farruggia**  
**Ruby Melman**  
**Gabriel Roth**

Viola

**Kaylin Baugh**  
**Nia Gandaho**  
**Phoebe Holt-Reiss**  
**Haley Lowenthal**  
**Noah Stevens**

Cello

**Mia Gilbert**  
**Devin Healey**

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

Violin

**Natasha Lyons**  
**Allie Mishkin**  
**Sophia Plaitakis**  
**Wenona Taiping-Moccia**

Viola

**Alex Klint**  
**Courtney Provilon Louis**  
**Sasha Sinkler**

Cello

**Zander Rhodes**  
**Tess von Brachel**

Bass

**Jason Meusel**

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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**  
**Katherine Camara**  
**Alexis Caruso**  
**Sophie Fisher**  
**Julien Hryshko**

**Holly Hunking**  
**Joy Kelson**  
**Sarah Noll**  
**Austin Romanoux**  
**Keza Ruranga**

**Margaux Temmerman**  
**Daisy Tyler**  
**Alisa Weinberg**

Three Digital Animations are also being shown by:

**Jacob Correa**  
**Jacob Hirsch**

**Edward Willshire**  
**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.

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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.