

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE & MAPLEWOOD

BOARD RECOGNITION
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
May 19, 2014

Nine **Columbia High School** students received a **score of 800 on their SATs** (the highest possible score) in the following categories:

Henry Conrad Poor – Reading
Nina Knight – Reading & Writing
Alexander Schuetz – Reading
Bridget Hawkins – Writing
Theresa Seelbach - Math

Bryn Hammarberg – Reading
Kelsey Moore – Reading
William Chang – Reading
Christopher Kearns-McCoy - Reading

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The **National Spanish Examinations** are online, standardized assessment tools for Grades 6 -12 to measure proficiency and achievement of students who are studying Spanish as a second language. The purpose of the National Spanish Examination is to recognize achievement in the study of the Spanish language, to promote proficiency in interpretive communication in the Spanish language, to assess the national standards as they pertain to learning Spanish and to stimulate further interest in the teaching and learning of Spanish.

Students with outstanding scores on the National Spanish Examinations are recognized in the category of **gold, silver, bronze** or **honorable mention**. The following Students at high school and middle school students were recognized for their scores for the **2014 National Spanish Exam**:

Columbia High School:

Eleanor Engelhard - *Silver*
Teacher - **Ms. Laura Meischenguiser**

Rory Yarter – *Honorable Mention*

Jhamani Ashcraft - *Bronze*
Mathew Henegan - *Bronze*
Christina Jones - *Bronze*
Ella Pauly - *Bronze*
Teacher - **Ms. Debra Gomer**

Julia Cintron-Burch - *Bronze*
Rohan Kremer Guha - *Bronze*
Matilda McDougall - *Bronze*

Matthew Salort - *Honorable Mention*
Teacher - **Ms. Jessica Cavagnaro**

Maplewood Middle School:

Evelyn Lazen – *Bronze*
Kate Ciolkowski-Winters – *Honorable Mention*
Teacher - **Ms. Gina Fernandez**

Marc Saint-Louis – *Honorable Mention*
Ruth Eustache – *Honorable Mention*

Maritxell Gallart-Bekkedahl - *Bronze*
Isabella Jacques-Haerberle – *Honorable Mention*
Jacob Zakian – *Honorable Mention*
Teacher - **Mrs. Laurence Seltzer**

Zahavah Rojer – *Honorable Mention*
Danielle Samake – *Honorable Mention*

South Orange Middle School:

Zoe Broncel - *Silver*
Naomi Lynch - *Bronze*
Toibat Ayankunbi – *Honorable Mention*
Taylor Davis – *Honorable Mention*
Alexandra Krim – *Honorable Mention*
Teacher - **Ms. Ana Barrios**

Hanna Cox - *Silver*
Sarah Braka - *Bronze*
Olivia Pryor - *Bronze*
Yasmine Barboza – *Honorable Mention*
Georgina Duker-Eshun – *Honorable Mention*
Kevin Tamayo – *Honorable Mention*
Teacher - **Ms. Debra Myers**

Mateo Fuentes – *Honorable Mention*
Teacher - **Ms. Kiina Dordoni**

Hannah Gross – *Honorable Mention*
Teacher - **Ms. Carla Dos Santos**

Brian Rojas – *Silver*

Rebekah Czukoski – *Honorable Mention*
Wendy Gomez – *Honorable Mention*
Amarachukwu Okafor – *Honorable Mention*

Isabelle Wendt - *Silver*
Roberto Fulweiler - *Bronze*

Gretchen Christophe – *Honorable Mention*
Sophia Rothstein – *Honorable Mention*
Lauren Yelner – *Honorable Mention*

Isadora Kianovsky – *Honorable Mention*

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Columbia High School's All School Musical production of **CATS** has been recognized by the **Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards** to be one of the seven best high school musicals in New Jersey this year. Columbia High School was nominated for nine awards. The nominations are:

- **Outstanding Overall Production of a Musical**
- **Honorable Mention for Outstanding Actor in a Featured Role - Isaiah Thomas**
- **Outstanding Performance by a Chorus**
- **Outstanding Achievement by a Teacher or Outside Director – Ms. Tricia Benn and Ms. Bethany Pettigrew**
- **Outstanding Achievement in Music Direction – Ms. Jamie Bunce-Arraial and Mr. Peter Bauer**
- **Outstanding Scenic Achievement – Mr. Mark Halliday and Mr. Jon Zaccone**
- **Outstanding Lighting Achievement – Ms. Tara Marie Abbondante**
- **Outstanding Costuming Achievement – Ms. Barbara Canace and Ms. Carol Rutledge**
- **Outstanding Hair & Make-up Achievement – Ms. Tricia Benn and Ms. Bethany Pettigrew**
- **The Educational IMPACT AWARD**

Mr. Michael Healy, Assistant Principal of Columbia High School, is the Producer of the All School Musical.

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The Columbia High School Girls Track Team, **Olivia Baker, Aigner Bobbitt, Imani Coleman** and **Emilie Cowan** won for the second straight year at the Penn Relays. It was the second straight 4x800 title for Columbia, which became the first U.S. team to win the girls 4x800 at the two times at the Penn Relays.

In addition, **Olivia Baker** was named the **High School Girls Athlete of the Meet for Relay Events** at the **Penn Relays** for the second straight year.

Baker ran a meet record split of 2:02.55 on to overcome a 5.5 second deficit on the anchor leg of the 4x800-meter relay Championship of America and brought Columbia across first in 8:45.37, a New Jersey record and the second fastest time in U.S. history.

The Stanford-bound Baker also threw down a 52.93 anchor leg in the 4x400 trials, and ran a 54.10 anchor to bring Columbia across fifth overall and first among American teams in the 4x400 Championship of America race in 3:45.27.

Baker is the sixth girl to win two straight High School Girls Athlete of Meet awards, and the second from N.J. to win it back-to-back years.

Coach Lisa Morgan and teammates greeted Baker at the finish line. Additional coverage can be viewed on the district's [website](#).

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The American Scholastic Press Association announced that ***The Columbian*** won a second place award for its 2014 newspaper competition!

The Columbian staff is comprised of Columbia High School students:

Rachel Katz, Co-Editor in Chief

Rachel Wong, Design Editor

Sophie Fisher, Art Editor

Ben Sender, Copy Editor

Courtney Franks, Arts & Entertainment Editor

Molly Mantus, Opinions Editor

Hannah Kaplan, Co-Editor in Chief

Bryan Quick, Design Editor

Arthur Hunking, Photo Editor

Madeleine Faust, In-Dept Editor,

Max Gould, News Editor,

Josh Skoller, Sports Editor

Design Team:

Julian Armstrong

Grace Malloy

Chris Szafranski

Madeline Duncan-Huffman

Isabella Popa

Alexandra Young

Drew Kawalek

Leilani Schultz-Joy

Mr. Joshua Enyeart (English Dept.) and **Ms. Cindy Malhotra** (Fine Arts Dept.) are Co-advisors for *The Columbian*.

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Three South Orange Middle School students, all 6th graders, participated in the **2013-2014 Library of Congress Letters About Literature Contest**. **Saffron Payne**, won **First Place** in NJ, and **Hudson Hassler** and **Ethan Goldman** both received an **Honorable Mention**.

Letters About Literature is a reading and writing contest for students in grades 4-12. Students are asked to read a book, poem or speech and write to that author (living or dead) about how the book affected them personally. The letters are judged on state and national levels. Winners will be announced around the beginning of May 2014.

Saffron, as a state winner, has been invited to attend a statewide reception in the spring at the Gardens for Sculpture in NJ and will read her letter at the reception. Read more on the district [website](#).

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South Orange Middle School 7th grader **Kyser Christie** auditioned at the world-famous **Apollo Theater in Harlem** and won the **Children's Amateur Night Competition**. Kyser will return to the Apollo Theater to compete in the second round and if selected, the third as well as the final round later in the year. Superstars such as Ella Fitzgerald, Stevie Wonder, Michael Jackson, and SOMS' own Lauryn Hill got their start at the Apollo.

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Maplewood Middle School 6th grade students were selected to participate in the **Region 1 Elementary Honors Orchestra Festival**, held in Randolph, NJ. The Region 1 Elementary Honors Orchestra is open to students in grades 4-6 and sponsored by the National Association for Music Education and provides an opportunity for advanced orchestra students to play in a large ensemble with students of a comparable skill level, participate in small group sectionals. Participating students were:

Max Bryant **Ben Gertner** **Adam Gough** **Caitlyn Huetz**
Frida Rahmani **Benjamin Ribicoff** **Timothy Rohan**
Ms. Jennifer Dodge is their music teacher.

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The animated film, "**Mannequin**," won an award for best **Stop Motion Film**, at the **Ocean County Film Festival** in Toms River. Columbia High School students **Austin Hassler**, senior, **Kyeerah White**, freshman, and **Dominique Rayam**, sophomore, submitted the film that was shown at the **Ocean County Library Student Film Festival** this month. The film was also selected for showing at the **Kent Place Film Festival** and the **2014 Cresskill High School Film Festival**. **Mr. Boris Gavrilovic** is their teacher at Columbia.

In addition, another animated film "**Tasmanian Devil**" by **Christopher Boyer**, junior was selected for the **2014 Cresskill High School Film Festival** that will be shown this month. Christopher is in **Mr. Paul Marigliano's** animation class at Columbia.

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Jaymie Green, art teacher at Tuscan, presented at a conference at **Teachers College, Columbia University**, entitled: **Remixing Art Education in April**. Her presentation was on implementing Green Screen in the Contemporary Art Studio Classroom and implications of digital technology in the art room today. In addition she presented at **Fordham University's Graduate School of Education Research Celebration** where she presented on her preliminary findings as part of a group research team of analyzing data from a western New Jersey school implementing iPad digital technology in the art studio classroom. Her poster was entitled: **A Look at Teacher Efficacy, Student Engagement, and Learning with the Use of iPads in the Art Studio Classroom**.

Ms. Green was also accepted to the **2014 Teacher Institute on Impressionism and Post-Impressionism** at The National Gallery of Art in DC. She was offered the Annetta J. and Robert M. Coffelt Sr. and Robert M. Coffelt Jr. Fellowship of \$2,000 to support her attendance at the 2014 Teacher Institute. Ms. Green also received the **elementary art educator scholarship** to take a workshop at Peters Valley this summer.

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Jefferson Elementary music teacher **Johnathan Holmok** and 5th grade band director, **Jasmine Bloch-Krepfels** will present a musical interpretation of Kandinsky's iconic 1926 painting, **Several Circles**, that will explore the work's cosmic nature through sound is organizing an event next week at the EFA Project Space. Complete details can be found on the EPA [website](#).

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Columbia High School teacher of world language, **Ramon Robles-Fernandez**, published two chapters in two different educational books:

1. Robles-Fernandez, R. (2014). **Becoming an LGBTQ activist: The story of a young queer activist**. In *The Gay Agenda: Claiming Space, Identity, and Justice*. Gerald Walton, Ed. Peter Lang Publishing. New York: NY.
2. Robles-Fernandez, R. (2014). **A GSA's impact on students' beliefs and attitudes toward civic and political participation, civic engagement, and social justice**. In *Gender and Sexualities in Education*. Meyer, E. and Dennis, C. (Eds). Peter Lang Publishing. New York: NY

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Marshall Elementary School special education teacher **Ms. Vicki Schodowski**, will be a co-presenter at the upcoming **NJ Coalition for Inclusive Education annual conference** at Montclair State University this summer. Ms. Schodowski's presentation will focus on using self-regulation strategies in an inclusive classroom.

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