

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE & MAPLEWOOD

BOARD RECOGNITION
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
November 24, 2014

Fourteen **Columbia High School** students and graduates received a **score of 800 on their SATs** (the highest possible score) for tests taken up to June 2014 in the following categories:

Nora Barry – Reading & Writing
Henry Conrad Poor – Reading
Tyler Farnsworth – Math
Bryn Hammarberg – Reading
Matthew Heffley – Reading & Writing
Christopher Kearns-McCoy – Reading
Alexander Schuetz – Reading

William Chang – Math & Reading
Avinash Duvvuri – Math
Serin Feldman – Writing
Bridget Hawkins – Writing
Nina Knight – Reading & Writing
Kelsey Moore – Reading
Theresa Seelbach – Math

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The following Columbia High School honor roll students made the “**2013-2014 Principal’s List**” by earning all “A’s” for all four quarters:

Rebekah Adams
William Chang
Eleanor Engelhard
Emily Grew
Christina Johnson
Asma Makhdoom
Jeremy Payano
William Unterkoefer

Benjamin Belov
Eleanor Cohen
Samori Etienne
Bridget Hawkins
Jacob Kalodner
Rocheny Noziere
Filip Saulean
Annie Yaris

Danielle Brandis
Natalie Dix
Hanae Garrison
Sydney Hom
Phoebe Labat
Julia Oppenheim
Alycia Storch

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Columbia High School students **Abigail Baker** and **Jared Loadholt** were the recipients of the **South Orange Historical and Preservation Society (COHPS)** scholarships for their essays. The SOHPS’ goal is to further the study of the history and architecture of the Village of South Orange. The students shared their award winning essays at the South Orange Local History Fest held earlier this month.

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The **Columbia High School Girls Volleyball Team** won the Colonial Division of the SEC, under the leadership of Coach Juan Bas.

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Eric Guadara, a Teacher of English at Columbia High School, with the help of friends, family, and coworkers in the SOMSD, raised \$1,053 for **Extra Life**, a charity that supports Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. Click the [link](#) to see his message and for more information.

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Bonita Samuels, Principal of Marshall School, was one of 20 elementary and middle school principals across the nation to receive a “**Champion Creatively Alive Children**” school grant. **Crayola** and the **National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP)** selected 20 schools to receive the grants, which will fund innovative programs aimed at fostering children’s critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication skills through arts education. Marshall School received a \$2,500 monetary grant and \$1,000 worth of Crayola products. The full press release along with pictures can be viewed on the district’s website.

Ms. Samuels was also awarded a grant by the **Foundation for Educational Administration**. Marshall Elementary teachers, **Jessica Fong**, Art Teacher, **Robin Margent**, Reading Teacher and **Heather Merrigan**, Kindergarten Teacher, attended this 3-day Institute on Marshall's behalf. The focus was "Using Arts-Infused Instruction to Enhance the Common Core" and was held on the campus of Princeton University.

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Victoria Schodowski, Special Education Teacher at Marshall Elementary, won the **Teacher of the Year Award** from the **New Jersey Division for Early Childhood (NJDEC)**. Ms. Schodowski was nominated as an “exceptional early childhood special educator,” who “engages with families in a way that builds trusting and respectful partnerships.” NJDEC stated that they were “excited to honor a teacher who puts such high priority on the needs of her students and their families.”

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The Action Research Team at Marshall School was selected to participate in the **MSUNER Action Research Project for 2014-2015**. Each team member will participate in an action research project and will submit a written report of their work In June 2015 and will also present the results of their work at the 2015 MSUNER Summer Conference. Team members receive a stipend of \$500.00 as well as funds to be used for materials and supplies to support Action Research Project work. The Marshall Research Team is comprised of the following staff:

Rhonda Wyche, Kindergarten Teacher – Team Leader
Michele Kaesshaefer, Special Education Teacher – Team Member
Tanya Barr, Special Education/Intervention Teacher – Team Member
Heather Merrigan, Kindergarten Teacher – Team Member
Bonita Samuels, Principal – Team Member

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Nancy Ring, Teacher of Art at Seth Boyden Elementary School is currently exhibiting artwork at "73 See Gallery" in Montclair, NJ in an exhibit called "**Art For Living**."

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Lisa Conrad's Newark Print Shop celebrated its One Year Anniversary which included a silent auction from contributing artists that have exhibited and created prints at Newark Print Shop in the last year. Ms. Conrad is a Teacher of Art at Columbia High School.

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Melissa Butler, Teacher of Language Arts at South Orange Middle School, was chosen to present at the **NJEA Convention** in where she presented on taking the classroom global with Google Hangout, Edmodo and Twitter. Ms. Butler also presented as an Edmodo Certified Trainer and Ambassador.