

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE & MAPLEWOOD

**BOARD RECOGNITION**  
**PUBLIC BOARD MEETING**  
October 20, 2014

**Melissa Butler**, Teacher of Language Arts at South Orange Middle School, was awarded the **2014 National Bammy Award** as ***The Middle School Teacher of the Year***, at the 2014 Annual Bammy Awards celebration. "The Bammy Awards is a NATIONAL celebration of the value of education, educators and life-long learning, presented by the [Academy of Education Arts and Sciences International](#), which includes an eclectic cadre of leading educators, education leaders, education professors, journalists, editors, researchers, commentators, advocates, activists, visionaries and pioneers.

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Columbia High School Track and Field Head Coach, **Lisa Morgan**, will be inducted into the **Newark Athletic Hall of Fame** at the **26<sup>th</sup> Annual Induction Dinner** later this month. Ms. Morgan is a CHS alumnus and has been the coach for both the boys' and girls' track and field teams since 2008. "Ms. Morgan received the Essex County Coach of the Year honors eight times and is the only coach in Essex County history to garner the Coach of the Year honors for both boys' and girls' teams in the same year. Ms. Morgan is also a three-time NJ State Coach of the Year." Additional details regarding Ms. Morgan's accomplishments can found at [essexnewsdaily.com](#).

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**Columbia High School's Athletic Program** received the **2014 NJSIAA ShopRite Cup for Best Athletic Program Award**. The award was presented to Athletic Director, **Larry Busichio** during half-time of Columbia's first home Varsity football game at Underhill Field. This is Columbia's first time receiving this award that honors "top athletic performing high schools in their Group during that year." For more information about The ShopRite Cup and the NJSIAA, visit their website: [www.njsiaa.org](#).

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**Jennifer Latimer**, Media Specialist at Clinton Elementary School, was named **Teacher of the Month for June 2014** by [Code.org](#). Code.org® is a non-profit dedicated to expanding participation in computer science by making it available in more schools, and increasing participation by women and underrepresented students of color.

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**Judy LoBianco**, Supervisor of Health, Physical Education and Nursing Services represented the school district in co-facilitating a national webinar on behalf of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in collaboration with **SHAPE America** (Society of Health and Physical Educators). Ms. LoBianco's topic was "**The Role of Community Stakeholders in Supporting Comprehensive School Physical Activity Programs.**"

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**Diane Grant**, Teacher of Science and **Lisa MacPherson**, Teacher of Art, both at South Orange Middle School were accepted to **Stevens Institute Summer STEAM (Integrating Arts into STEM) program**, and brought STEAM to the students of SOMS in an afterschool program.

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**Charles Schneekloth**, teacher at Maplewood Middle School, was hired by the **United States Embassy** to coach the **Nicaraguan national track and field teams** for the month of August. In addition, Mr. Schneekloth educated the national coaching staff on training theory and current best practices. Additional information can be found online at [mycentraljersey.com](http://mycentraljersey.com) and the [US Embassy's website](#).

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**Nancy Ring**, Teacher of Art at Seth Boyden Elementary School, was awarded **Artist-In-Residence Studios** at **The Virginia Center for Creative Arts** in Amherst, Virginia for the month of June and at **Soaring Gardens** in Laceyville, Pennsylvania for the month of July.

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**Faraja Thompson**, Teacher of Technology at Maplewood Middle School was named among the **Top Ten Livebinder's** of the year for **2014**, for creation of the link, [Copyright and Censorship](#). [LiveBinders.com](http://LiveBinders.com) is a social bookmarking website used by teachers to create and share content. LiveBinders is used to organize and access bookmarks on any computer and the site can be searched to find content others have bookmarked.

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**Kaitlyn Walker**, Teacher of Music in the middle schools, is performing **Tchaikovsky's 4th Symphony** with the **Monmouth Symphony Orchestra** at the Count Basie Theater in Red Bank, New Jersey. She is also serving as a **Young Professional Artist** consultant for the **International Double Reed Society** this January at their annual meeting in San Diego, California. Kaitlyn has also been invited to perform for the first time in **Asia** at the **44th Annual International Double Reed Society Conference in Tokyo**, Japan. She is scheduled to perform a solo recital for Oboe and Percussion. Her recital is scheduled for the end of August.

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**Kate Dodd**, Teacher of Art at Columbia High School, is showing work in the **Thou Art Mom exhibit** and discussion panel at **Pierro Gallery**. She also is taking part in the **In-Site: The Intersection Between Art and Architecture - 20 recycled gaslights off SO Ave, "Disposable Habits"**, site-specific installation at Drawings Rooms in Jersey City, and was invited to propose artwork for Cranford train station by NJ Transit.

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**Lisa Conrad's** Newark Print Shop has formed a partnership with Rutgers Newark with new facilities as part of a **Rutgers Development Project**. The project—to be called **Express Newark**—is expected to spark new shops, galleries and a restaurant. A formal announcement can be found in the [Star Ledger](#). Ms. Conrad is a Teacher of Art at Columbia High School.