

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE & MAPLEWOOD

BOARD RECOGNITION PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

December 17, 2012

Three Columbia High School students, **Nathaniel Pham** and **Ryan Morey**, juniors, and **Matthew Schilling**, sophomore, were selected as members of the **2012-2013 North Jersey Area Symphonic Band**. Nathaniel was accepted on flute. Matthew was accepted on bass clarinet and also earned a qualifying score on both alto clarinet and contrabass clarinet. Ryan, who will be joining the Area Symphonic Band for the second year in a row, earned third overall chair part in the trumpet section.

Members of the **Columbia High School Fencing Team** made an extraordinarily impressive showing at the **United States Junior Olympics Qualifying Tournament** held at Rutgers University on November 24th and 25th. Ten (10) CHS Fencers qualified to participate in the Junior Olympics to be held in Baltimore in February of next year:

In the Women's Events:

- Juniors **Alexandra Viqueira** and **Celia Accardi** qualified to compete in sabre;
- Junior **Najiyyah Clark** and freshman **Samantha Viqueira** qualified to compete in foil.

In the Men's events:

- Juniors **John Kirk** and **Jared LeBron** qualified to compete in foil;
- Junior **Max Gould** and **Ravi Cho** and Sophomore **Bryn Hammarberg** qualified to compete in epee;
- and freshman **Andrew Doddo** qualified to compete in sabre.

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Columbia High School junior, **Lienne Harrington**, won an internship at the **New York Historical Society**. Lienne's "Connections Project" in physics class last year contributed to this achievement. Her project focused on the history of glassmaking which led to the creation and development of "gorilla glass," the glass found on the Apple iPad and smart phones.

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Several Columbia High School fall athletes earned all-conference honors. **Jhon Estama** and **Evens Saint Jeans** earned 1st Team All SEC-Conference for boys' soccer. **Andrew DeFluri** and **Max Yergan** earned 2nd Team All SEC boys' soccer. **Grzegorz Burzynski** was named honorable mention for boys' soccer and **Kelsey Earle** was named honorable mention for girls' soccer. The **Columbia High School Girls' Soccer Team** was named the team with the best sportsmanship in the SEC Conference for this fall.

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Maplewood Middle School special education teacher **Ms. Erin Murphy** and Columbia High School special education teacher **Ms. Julia Leider** both earned National Board Certification. Teachers go through intensive study, expert evaluation, self-assessment and peer review to reach this high standard.

This brings the total number of district teachers who have achieved this prestigious certification to 13. The district offers support for any teachers interested in pursuing National Board Certification, including to the two staff members who are currently engaged in the rigorous work necessary to receive this national recognition.

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The **Achieve Foundation** awarded 44 grants to district teachers for projects of their own design to be carried out in the 2012-13 school year. **Achieve Teacher Grants** are intended to support innovative ideas that enhance the district's educational program, pilot novel strategies, and expand the curriculum.

Each year, Achieve receives many innovative grant requests, and some of which were approved but not funded, and some of which received only partial funding. Achieve now invites the community to help support these innovative projects by contributing to Direct Grant Funding. A complete list of this year's grant recipients and their projects, as well as a list of the teachers and grants available for Direct Funding, can be found at achievefoundation.org.