

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE & MAPLEWOOD

BOARD RECOGNITION
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
March 17, 2014

Gunjan Jacinto, a third grader at South Mountain Elementary was honored at SOPAC and was the first student to become “**Honorary Village President for a Day**” in South Orange Village. Gunjan presided over the **February 24th Village Board of Trustees meeting**, attended by her enthusiastic third grade peers. A special proclamation was read; Gunjan then called the meeting to order, did the roll call, lead the Pledge of Allegiance and the moment of silence, and performed other duties.

Gunjan’s teachers are **Jennifer Feinberg** and **Catherine Sinnicke**, 3rd grade teachers at South Mountain Elementary.

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Columbia High School junior, **Okeria Goodwin**, received a judge’s certificate of recognition for her submission in the **Pingry Highschool Photography Exhibition** on February 8th. Okeria’s photography teacher is **Jon Fisher** at Columbia High School.

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Eleven students from Columbia High School were selected as members of the **2013-2014 Essex County Honor Band**. The students are:

Gillian Basedow (French Horn)

Nicole Braden (Alto Saxophone)

Gabriel Kaufman (Trombone)

Micah Lind (Trombone)

Matthew Schilling (Bass Clarinet)

Ella Thibodeau (Alto Saxophone)

Jamelia Blake (French Horn)

Hannah Buckner (flute)

Holly Lehren (Trumpet)

Caroline Passalacqua (French Horn)

Kayla Shuster (French Horn)

The students were selected from a large pool of musicians representing nearly every high school band program in Essex County. **Peter Bauer**, Director of Bands, is their music teacher at Columbia High School.

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Seven South Orange Middle School students competed in the **2014 MATHCOUNTS Competition Series**. The students took individual tests as well as a team test. As a school, SOMS ranked 9th out of 34. Participating students were:

Richard Acosta
Archie Jones
Isabelle Wendt

Adam Friedman-Brown
Lars Langreth

Alex Glynn
Sumer Maini

The MATHCOUNTS Foundation strives to engage middle school students of all ability and interest levels in fun, challenging math programs. Alex Glynn won the highest score SOMS. **Emily Skiff** of South Orange Middle School is their math teacher.

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Music teacher, **Barbara Santoro**, of South Orange Middle school was invited and attended the **New Jersey Music Educators State Conference** in East Brunswick and guest conducted the February concert of the Imperial Band of South River, NJ.

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Boris Gavrilovic, Columbia High School Teacher of Art will be facilitating/hosting a Film/digital media workshop (along with Chris Corey - TV production teacher at Middletown High School) at the **Warren County Teen Arts Program**.

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Music Teacher, **Jake Ezzo**, of South Orange Middle School was invited to be a participant in the choral conducting **summer institute at Oxford University in Oxfordshire, England** this summer! The institute is in July and will include Dr. James Jordan, leading American Choral/vocal pedagogue, James Whitbourn, an English composer who wrote the music he recorded for the Grammy nomination and a BBC higher up who coordinated the music for the Royal Wedding and the Queens mother's funeral, and many other world-renowned musicians and artists.

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Tuscan Music Teacher **Jennifer Dodge**, who is also a violist in the Central Jersey Symphony Orchestra, played in two performances of Mozart's "**The Magic Flute**". This was a collaborative effort between the **Central Jersey Symphony Orchestra** and the **Light Opera of New Jersey**.

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Ellen Weisbord's art piece, a Columbia High School art teacher, was accepted into the **Monmouth Museum exhibit** titled **Expressions of the Natural World** opening March 16th.