

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Columbia High School

Volume 11, Issue 4
Spring 2016

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hello Parents/Guardians:

With the 2015-16 school year quickly winding down, I would like to share some important points.

Once again this year, in order to ensure the safety of our students, there will be no student parking on Thursday, June 9, Friday, June 10th and Monday, June 13th - All student lots will be closed off.

Locker clean-out takes place the last week of school. Lockers will be securely locked on Monday, June 13th at the end of the school day.

This year we will graduate the Class of 2016 on Saturday, June 25th at 1:00

pm at Hudson Valley Community College in the McDonough Sports Complex. Parking is free for our parents and guests. (More details on last page)



As always, I thank you for your continued support.
Your Partner in Education,
John P. Sawchuk

KUDOS EDITION!

**We are Very
Proud of
CHS
Students!**

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PARKING UPDATE

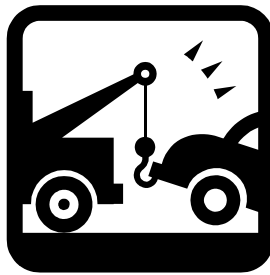
In order to better accommodate next year's Seniors, completed parking applications and fees will be accepted at Columbia High School on Wednesday, August 24, 2016.

Please check our website over the summer for specific dates and times. Parking Applications can be obtained in the Main Office at Columbia or can be download-

ed from our website. NHS students should indicate "NHS" in the upper right hand corner of the application. Please make checks or money orders payable to "East Greenbush

Central School District". We cannot accept cash.

*No applications or partial applications will be accepted without copies of **ALL six valid** documents explained in the application and the necessary payment. Class schedule is not required.*



Transcript Requests / Proof of Graduation

Transcript request forms can be found on our website www.egcsd.org, under Forms. Please complete the transcript request form and mail along with a check made payable to the East

Greenbush Central Schools. There is a \$5.00 fee for each transcript requested. This fee does not apply to students currently enrolled at Columbia High School.

If you have any questions regarding a transcript,

please call the Columbia High School Guidance Department at 207-2020.

Operation Graduation News

Columbia High School is proud to announce the **Operation Graduation** Celebration for the June Class of 2016, which will be held on **Thursday, June 23rd, at 12:00** in the auditorium. We will conduct a short graduation ceremony followed by refreshments for our graduates and guests in the cafeteria.

Since 2011, our program has successfully graduated 96 students. We look

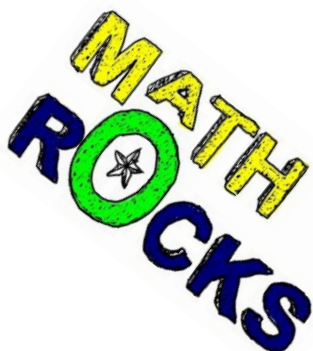
forward with anticipation to an additional 15 O.G. graduates in June.

As in previous years this ceremony is the culmination of not only the students' efforts but the many who have assisted them in their success. These students have the rare opportunity to make a personal video that honors these significant people.

It is an inspirational event and will affirm your commitment to the education of our students.



NYS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE 2016



Columbia's NYS Mathematics League had another wonderful year.

Marc Roizman earned first place, scoring the highest cumulative points in six contests! Parth Bhide had the second highest cumulative points and Connor Roizman achieved the third place in overall points.

Over 145 participants competed this year, and thanks to a donation by Stewart's, each will receive a free ice cream coupon.

Congratulations to all who participated in a very challenging set of problems in this year's competition and math challenges. Good luck to all of our graduating seniors!

Science Olympiad Goes To Nationals Again!

Columbia's Science Olympiad team was crowned the State Champions at the NYS State Finals held in March. The team was first among the top 54 teams in NY, and earned the State Champion title for the second year in a row. The team earned a grand total of 19 medals in the twenty five events, including a State Champion title for Danielle Allen and William Grasso in the Chemistry Lab event. As state champions, Columbia's team went on to represent New York at the National Finals at the University of Wisconsin - Stout in May.

At the National Finals, Columbia's team was competing against the top 60 teams in the country. The team did

extremely well at this level. They completed the event with fourteen top ten finishes out of twenty different events. This included 8 top ten finishes. Among the top ten finishes were a national silver medal in Write It / Do It for Hailey Konisky and Haley D'Angelo, and an amazing NATIONAL CHAMPIONS - gold medal win for Yang Yang and Abby Radin in Disease Detective. The completed event ranked 16th among the top teams in the country. This is the third straight year that Columbia's Science Olympiad team has been ranked among the top 20 teams in the country.

Members of this very successful team include:
Danielle Allen
Avery Ball

Parth Bhide
Erin Boughel
Haley D'Angelo
William Grasso
Katelin Grifferty
Fritz Howard
Evan Iler
Hailey Konisky
Neil Laya
Abby Radin
Allie Radin
Matthew Van Auken
Elizabeth Vlieg
Sarina Xin
Yang Yang



Science Symposium

The 17th Annual Science Research Symposium was held at Columbia High School on May 17, 2016. Science research is a three year program where students determine a unique experimental question and then complete a research protocol under the supervision of a qualified mentor. The students involved in the program presented their work to this point at the symposium. Sophomores presented posters and discussed plans for future work. Juniors gave poster presentations that gave the audience a glimpse into their projects which are currently being completed. Our seniors presented their final projects. This represents 3 years of conscientious and devoted work. Their titles are:

*Parth Bhide "Development of Organic-Semiconductor Nanocrystal Bulk Hetero-

junction Photovoltaic Cells"

*Kara Blakeman "The Self-Healing polymer EMAA"

*Erin Condo "The Genetics of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Among African Americans and Latinos"

*Brennan Regensberger "The Effects of Early Morning Start Times on Adolescents"

*Morgan Torre "The Effect of Pressure on PP32 Protein"



The seniors should be commended for their hard work and dedication to this program. A special shout-out to Parth Bhide who was invited to present his work at the International Science and Engineering Fair in Phoenix Arizona May 8-13th and also competed in The State STANYS Science Congress at SUNY Buffalo June 4th.

CTE/Business Department Honors Student

Jillian Leggiero has been named Columbia High School's 2015-2016 Outstanding Business Education Student by the Business Education Department. This honor was awarded to Leggiero not only for academic achievement in business classes but also for her

outstanding citizenship and positive attitude.

Leggiero, her parents and Columbia teachers Donna Shepardson and Katrina Gruet attended the awards dinner on May 5, which was sponsored by the Business

and Marketing Educators' Association of the Capital District.



Columbia Places 3rd in Computer Programming Competition



A group of Columbia students placed third among 37 high school teams in Siena College's annual Computer Programming Competition on April 1. Columbia senior Kevin Phoenix,

junior Yang Yang and sophomores Aviraj Mukherjee and Connor Roizman solved five of seven number theory problems correctly.

Cosmetology Congratulations!

Alyssa Casatelli showed off her technical ability in the SkillsUSA State Tournament, placing second in the job skill demonstration event and first among cosmetology

students. She earned a spot in the National Championships on June 22 in Louisville, Kentucky, the first time a Columbia student has made it that far in the competition.



SPORTS NEWS

NYSPPHSAA Scholarship/Athlete Team Awards for the 2015-2016 School Year

CONGRATULATIONS:

CHS is pleased to announce that the New York State Public High School Athletic Association has recognized our varsity spring athletic teams as recipients of the Scholar/Athlete Team Award. In order for a team to receive this prestigious award, the team must have at least a ninety average.

SPRING TEAMS:
Baseball
Balls' Lacrosse
Girls' Lacrosse
Girls' Outdoor Track
Boys' Outdoor Track
Softball
Boys' Tennis

2016 ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES - Saturday, May 7, 2016

(L-R Seated): Kayln Smith, Richard Nead, Nancy Nicsevic / (L-R Standing): Zachary Crain, Andrew Rose / (Missing): Gary Tremblay



2016

NEW YORK STATE CHAMPIONS COLUMBIA GIRLS BOWLING



Front Row (L-R): Heather Aiken, Samantha Hart, Rachel Steele, Alexandra Syrotynski
Second Row (L-R): Coach Lisa Johnas, Jessica Finn, Sarah Steele, Sarah Jesmain, Coach Bill Neumann

League Record 15-1
1st Place Section 2 Class A
Rachel Steele NYS Top Series

1st Place Suburban Scholastic Council
NYS Champions
Samantha Hart SSC Co-Bowler of the Year

FALL SIGNING COMMITMENT LETTERS

A press conference was held on May 25, 2016 where the following student-athletes made a commitment/announcement to where they will attend to continue their academic & athletic careers.

Students Signing: Jillian Leggiero (Track-SUNY Cortland), Rachel Steele (Bowling-Daemen), Estelle Yedynak (Track-Ithaca), Fiona Shea (Field Hockey/Track-Utica), Jesse Simoni (Football-Endicott), Taylor Hickey (Field Hockey-St. Thomas Aquinas), Shannon Ryan (Volleyball/Lacrosse-Arcadia), Shannen Barrett (Lacrosse-Western New England), Samantha Hart (Bowling-Fairleigh Dickinson), Joseph Somerville (Track-UAlbany)



New York State Wrestling State Championships at the Times Union Center February 27, 2016



Front Row: L to R: Coach Anthony Servidone, John Devine, Dylan Dubuque, Michael Gonyea, Coach Joseph DeNizio
Back Row: Coach Brandon Lapp

Columbia has 3 wrestlers earn "All State Honors";

John Devine NYS Finalist 2nd

Dylan Dubuque NYS Finalist 4th

Michael Gonyea NYS Finalist 6th

Top 6 in each weight class earn "All State Honors"

Columbia Wrestling finished 3rd as a team in the NYS (school record)

Top team finish amongst all Section 2 teams

32-3 Overall Record

Tied school record for most wins in a season

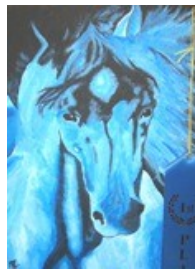
Missing: Trent Nadeau Section 2 Champion - Top 8 NYS Championships

Students' Art Work Honored

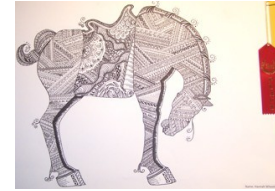
Columbia freshman Maddy Taylor won first place at the "Horsing Around with the Arts" Show at the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs on April 27th. Senior, Hannah Wheeler, earned second place for her equine themed drawing and honorable mentions were awarded to junior, Emily Kane, as well as freshmen students Anisha Anukuru and Matthew Fallon.

Also accepted into the show was the work of:

- Amanda Eager-12th
- Vanessa Holzeis-12th
- Lindsay Davis -10th
- Courtney Baird-9th
- Margaret Boyagian-9th
- Naomi Chojnacki-9th



(1st Place—Maddy Taylor)



(2nd Place—Hannah Wheeler)

"When asked about anything he created, Andy Warhol never felt the need to explain. Art doesn't need a verbal explanation. If it's connecting to you, then it's working."

MORE STUDENT ART KUDOS

Columbia senior Amelie Hild and sophomore Anne Cass both had artwork selected for the 17th annual High School Regional Juried Art Exhibition at The Albany Center Gallery this spring. Their work was displayed in the exhibition from April 1-April 23. This is the fourth consecutive year Columbia has had students accepted to this juried art show.



(Amelie Hild/Anne Cass)

Columbia sophomore
Caitlin Lallier's self-portrait

placed third at the 27th annual Questar III High School Invitational Art Exhibit on March 30 at Hudson Valley Community College. The art exhibit judged 38 entries from 13 local school districts.



(Caitlin Lallier)

Student Wins Statewide Poster Contest

Columbia Junior Ronnie Shuhart combined his computer and artistic skills to advocate for online safety in a statewide poster contest. He created an anti-cyber bullying poster in his Computer Graphics class using Adobe Photoshop CS4.

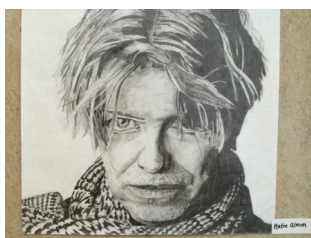
Shuhart was one of 12 winners from throughout New York State (450 submitted entries). His poster design will be displayed on the NYS Keeping Kids Safe Online webpage and in the "Kids Safe Online" calendar published this fall.

"I've always been against bullying," Shuhart said. "It's good people will see this."

Shuhart's poster design has been automatically entered in the National K-12 Poster Contest, conducted by the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center.



Talent From This Year's Art Show



Valedictorian and Salutatorian 2016

Seniors Parth Bhide and Noah Schwenzfeier highlighted the 2016 Columbian Awards as they were named Valedictorian and Salutatorian, respectively. Congratulations!



Food Services Charging Policy

The East Greenbush Central School District currently has a charging policy to ensure that students do not go hungry if they forget to bring meal money to school. Only regular meals may be charged, and extras and snacks are excluded. A student may only charge up to three meals.

Families may re-pay charged meals by bringing in cash or check or by using the District's online payment system MySchoolBucks.com. If you have any questions, please contact Phyllis Sanford-Krug at SanforPh@egcsd.org or 207-2160.

UNIFIED BASKETBALL TEAM CHS

The 2016 Unified Basketball Team has been playing a great season! These student athletes are making great progress, and are working extremely hard. We also are having LOTS OF FUN !!!!!

The publication of the New York State School Boards Association has posted an article about unified sports teams, and uses the Columbia High School team to serve as an example. Unified sports programs are made possible through a collaboration between high school athletic programs and the Special Olympics. They give students with learning disabilities a chance to compete in a unique setting. The article appears in the NYSSBA's On Board.

As of June 2nd, our current team was 4-2. They played their last regular game and moved forward to Championships on June 4th, Saturday, where they played against Shen.

~ Audra Di Bacco - PROUD Coach of the Unified Basketball Team ~

ROSTER:

Bridget Austin
Brendan Fila
Richard Jenkins
Sam Morone
Brandon Salisbury
Kaitlyn Valenti

Jamilla Battle
Sean Freehill
Taylor Johnson
Gabriella Nusbaum
Austin Schultz

Maggie Berger
Abhijeet Gudapati
Jarrett Johnstone
Devin Post
Janel Severson

Keenan Cosgrove
Justin Hollingshead
Jimi McCarthy
Bahiyiyh Rubin
Ryan Snyder



CLASS OF 2016

Graduation Questions and Answers

PLEASE NOTE THAT INFORMATION MAY BE REVISED PERIODICALLY

When will students receive their cap and gowns?

Cap and gown distribution is scheduled for Friday, June 24th immediately after the **MANDATORY** graduation rehearsal. Students who have not ordered a cap and gown should call Frank Dignard at Jostens (888-248-9084) to order one IMMEDIATELY. Students are required to wear a cap and gown if they wish to attend graduation.

Students will **not receive their caps and gowns if they are on the CHS debt list (they have not returned school books or uniforms, or have an outstanding balance on their cafeteria meal account). The debt list is posted during Regent's week. Students will need to resolve all debts BEFORE the rehearsal on June 24th.

Is there a graduation rehearsal?

Yes, there is a mandatory graduation rehearsal. This will be held at 10 a.m., Friday, June 24, 2016 in the CHS auditorium. Students will need to provide their own transportation as there are no buses on this day.

Why is attendance at the graduation rehearsal mandatory?

We want to make sure the ceremony is a dignified, memorable event for graduating seniors and their families. During the rehearsal we will make every attempt to be sure the student's name is pronounced correctly and that the student understands appropriate graduation behavior.

Will students be receiving tickets for this year's graduation?

Tickets will not be dispersed this year. There is enough seating at HVCC for all.

What time is graduation?

Graduation will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, June 25, 2016 at the Hudson Valley Community College's (HVCC) McDonough Sports Complex.

What is the length of the graduation ceremony?

The ceremony lasts approximately two hours.

What should students wear under their robes?

Appropriate attire should be worn under the student's gown. Light colored dress attire should be worn (dresses for the ladies and dress pants for the gentlemen). Students need to climb and descend stairs and appropriate footwear should be worn. Flip-flops are **not** appropriate and have caused students to fall down the stairs in past ceremonies.

What time do students need to be at HVCC for the graduation ceremony?

Students must be in the meeting rooms at HVCC Sports Complex by **11:30 a.m.**, Saturday, June 25, 2016. HVCC will assign meeting rooms that day so the students need to follow the signs to the appropriate meeting room.

How early should guests arrive?

Guests should arrive no earlier than 11:30 as there is a graduation ceremony taking place prior to ours.

What are the parking procedures?

Parking at HVCC is free. Please follow signs for the McDonough Sports Complex

When will students in the National Honors Society (NHS) receive their gold cords?

Students will receive their gold cords at the graduation rehearsal.

When will students receive their diplomas?

Students will receive a blank diploma holder at the ceremony. Immediately after the ceremony the students need to **return to the meeting room** to pick up their diplomas.

