

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Columbia High School

Volume 12, Issue 4
Spring 2017

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hello Parents/Guardians:

With the 2016-17 school year wound down, I would like to extend congratulations to all the students as they finish this school year, especially to the Seniors as they move on to their next endeavors.



This year we will graduate the Class of 2017 on Saturday, June 24th 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 our
CHS
Students!**

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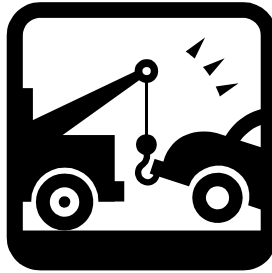


PARKING UPDATE

In order to better accommodate next year's Seniors, completed parking applications and fees will be accepted at Columbia High School on Wednesday, August 23, 2017, 10 AM to 2 PM in the Senior's A.P. Office.

Parking Applications can be obtained in the Main Office at Columbia or can be downloaded 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** **valid** documents explained in the application and the necessary payment. Class schedule is not required.*

CHS Parking is SENIOR PARKING ONLY. Thank you.



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 2017, which will be held on **Thursday, June 22nd** at 11:30 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 111 students. We look

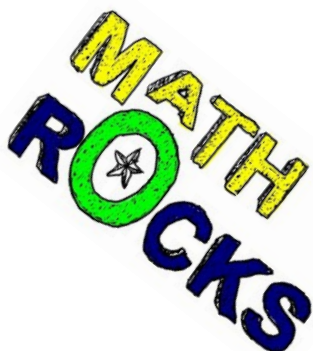
forward with anticipation to an additional 17 O.G. graduates in June.

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 2017



Columbia's NYS Mathematics League had another wonderful year.

Connor Roizman earned first place, scoring the highest cumulative points in six contests! Sam Koblenky had the second highest cumulative points and Ron Wei 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 For 4th Year!

Columbia's Science Olympiad team finished another incredible season with a fourth consecutive trip to the National Tournament held at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio on May 18 - 20, 2017. The tournament includes the top sixty teams from across the country who have earned an invitation to attend based on their performance at state level competitions.

The team finished the event in 15th place among the top teams in the country. The team maintained a steady and consistent performance throughout the event, with members striving to achieve the best scores possible to assist the entire team.

Columbia earned two national medals:

- **4th place finish in the Game On event for Sarina Xin and Peter Sergay**
- **4th place finish in the Write It Do It event for Haley D'Angelo and Allie Radin.**

Additional top ten finishes include:

- 7th place in Disease Detectives for Yang Yang and Abby Radin
- 8th place in Rocks and Minerals for Elizabeth Vlieg and Sydney Sill

Top Fifteen Finishes:

- Dynamic Planet: Katie Grifferty and Fritz Howard
- Electric Vehicle: Neil Laya and Abby Radin
- Forensics: Yang Yang and

Natasha Montiel

- Hovercraft: Sam Koblensky and Peter Sergay
- Invasive Species: Elizabeth Vlieg and Allie Radin
- Optics: William Grasso and Sam Koblensky
- Remote Sensing: William Grasso and Sydney Sill
- Robot Arm: Fritz Howard and Neil Laya
- Wind Power: Katie Grifferty and Sam Koblensky

Top 25 Finishes:

- Anatomy and Physiology: Sarina Xin and Allie Radin
- Hydrogeology: Katie Grifferty and Natasha Montiel
- Microbe Mission: Yang Yang and Abby Radin
- Towers: Albert Chang and Sarina Xin



Science Research Symposium

This year's Science Research Symposium was held on May 24th, 2017. This event marked the 18th annual symposium. 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.

This years Seniors are: Megan Fey, Nafisul Ghani, Henry Klee, Allison Puglisi and Aric Sanchez.



Computer Club



The new CHS Computer Club, with Ms. Hladik, began the first week of April 2017 and met every Wednesday in the HVCC computer lab after school.

In our first few meetings, we discussed the "Bridge Problem", which is a famous puzzle and was also used by Google in some of their past interviewing processes; examined the Towers of Hanoi, an ancient puzzle

with some neat results (and a fun applet to play on the computer); and used a Java coding tutorial for each student to build his or her own digital snowman.



We also saw a demonstration of a raspberry pi (a tiny computer created to promote computer science education and programming) by one of our own members.

Other topics are engaging students in some logic & strategy board games, such as Mastermind and Robo Rally, possibly holding tournaments, and participating in the 10th year anniversary of the Scratch programming language created at M.I.T. by exploring the free tutorials on the Scratch website. We hope to continue with the club next year and beyond.



SPORTS NEWS

For all things Athletic,
please check out the Athletics webpage at:
<http://egcsd.org/athletics/>

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Five former student athletes, one coach and the 1992 state champion softball team were inducted into the Columbia Athletic Hall of Fame on April 28.

James Westman '79 - Cross Country, Indoor Track, Outdoor Track
Matthew Thompson '92 - Soccer, Basketball, Baseball

Lindsay Pieper '03 - Cross Country, Basketball, Lacrosse

Lyndsey (Marquit) Lutz '03 - Soccer, Basketball, Softball

Bryan Rose '03 - Football, Basketball, Baseball

Timothy Lange - Coach for Football, Softball, Golf, Baseball and Boys' Basketball

1992 NYS Softball Champion Team

"Congratulations to the 2017 Columbia Athletic Hall of Fame inductees," said Athletic Director Michael Leonard. "You show the true spirit of our athletes and bring the past and present together as one. Thank you to all for paving the way for all our young athletes and teaching them how hard work, integrity, strength, and pride can pay off. You are the pride of the East Greenbush School District Community and the Columbia Athletic Family."



MUSIC NEWS

Columbia Students Receive Nominations at High School Musical Theatre Awards

Two CHS students received nominations at the High School Musical Theatre Awards at Proctors Theatre on May 20th for their performances in Columbia's production of "Sweet Charity" in March.

Laura Haney (2019) was nominated for Best Supporting Actress and Nikhil Bhat (2018) was nominated for Best Supporting Actor. Both students performed at the awards ceremony along with other nominees from 16 Capital District schools.



Laura Haney, left, and Nikhil Bhat, right, performing at the awards ceremony

Rensselaer County School Music Association Scholarship Competition

Congratulations to Sarina Xin and Maggie Dickson for winning 1st and 2nd place in the 11-12 grade division at the Rensselaer County School Music Association Scholarship Competition.

Sarina Performed Unaccompanied Bach Partita for violin and will receive a \$300 scholarship to supplement her musical studies this summer.

Maggie Dickson performed "La Flute de Pan" by Jules Mouquet and will receive a \$150 scholarship to supplement her musical studies this summer. Maggie will be minoring in music at Marist College in the fall.

Congratulations to Kaitlyn Evensen for winning 2nd place in the college division at the Rensselaer County School Music Association Scholarship Competition. Kaitlyn performed Unaccompanied Bach Sonata for cello and will receive a \$500 scholarship to supplement her musical studies this summer. Kaitlyn will be attending SCCC in the fall where she will major in music.



Caitlin Lallier Places 2nd at Questar III Juried Art Exhibit

Three Columbia students had artwork accepted to Questar III's Annual Juried High School Invitational Art Exhibit

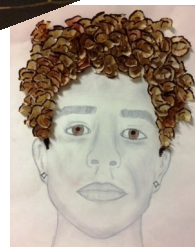
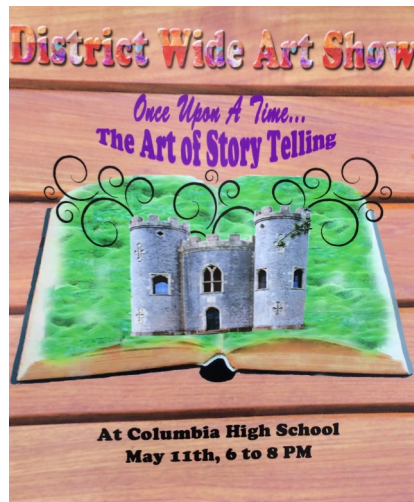
at Hudson Valley Community College last month. One of the students, Caitlin Lallier, placed second for her painting

"MLK."

The exhibit featured artwork from 15 local school districts.



Talent From This Year's Art Show



CTE/Business Department Honors Students

The Business Education Department would like to congratulate Kayla Scott and Miraj Patel recognized as Columbia's 2017 Outstanding Business Education students. This honor was awarded to Kayla Scott and Miraj Patel not only for their academic achievement but also for their outstanding citizenship and

positive attitude. The awards' dinner was held at the Raddison Hotel in Colonie where 17 area high schools recognized their outstanding business student.

Mrs. Shepardson and Mrs. Gruet are very proud of Kayla and Miraj's accomplishments in the Business Department.



Laughter is a weapon
of mass construction.
– Kat Caverly

MASTERMINDS!

The Columbia MasterMinds team made it to the championship game of the regional tournament. After going undefeated through the playoffs, Columbia finished as runners up to regional champions, and #2 in the region.

The season was highlighted with a co-league championship, and great run through the playoffs. Contributions were made by all team members in this very successful season.



Valedictorian and Salutatorian 2017

Seniors Anna Sesonke and Yang Yang highlighted the 2017 Columbian Awards as they were named Valedictorian and Salutatorian, respectively. Congratulations!



RAINBOW GAMES!

This year's Rainbow Games took place on May 25th. A great time was had by all!



UNIFIED BASKETBALL TEAM CHS

The 2017 Unified Basketball Team played a great season! These student athletes worked extremely hard but also had LOTS OF FUN !!!!!

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.

Our team, comprised of 34 students this year, is the largest turnout in the 4 years the program has been available to us. It has been amazing each day to see these kids work with each other, all at varying levels of basketball/athletic skill.

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

ROSTER:

Abhi Gudapati
Ethan Reynolds
Jarrett Johnstone
Antonio Lebron
Gabby Nusbaum
Austin Schultz
Carolyn Berry
Bryel Weinlein

Jamilla Battle
Brendan Fila
Lindsey Schanz
Bridget Austin
Bahiyiyh Rubin
Nellie Severson
Johnny Lee
Lillian Wilkes
Caitlyn Lallier

Keenan Cosgrove
Sean Freehill
Mallory Prespare
Sean Murphy
Manuela Martinez
Ryan Snyder
Nahsir Chestnut
Richard Hodges
Jimi McCarthy

Kaylie "Braden" Kilcher
Justin Hollingshead
Sean Fila
Nicole Presti
Guillermo Gonzalez
Dora Hayes
Kaitlyn Valenti
Matt Dzembo



CLASS OF 2017

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 23rd 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 23rd.

Is there a graduation rehearsal?

Yes, there is a mandatory graduation rehearsal. This will be held at 10 a.m., Friday, June 23, 2017 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 24, 2017 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 24, 2017. 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.

