



M362 – CSS
Columbia Secondary School
for Math, Science & Engineering

CSS BRAINYACS SHINE

Six CSS high school students spent six weeks doing mentored research in the neuroscience laboratories at Columbia University as part of the *Brainyac* program. Gabriela Gonzalez, Maria Isidoro, Sandra Li, Fiorella Mota, Cynthia Quito and Stormi Smith researched and presented on topics like “Neural Mechanism Underlying How Stress Hijacks the Reward System”



SPORTY SUMMER...

Junior Eli Taylor-Kerman reached the round of 16 for CSS in the boys' varsity singles in the Mayor's Cup Championship in June. Over the summer, he attended tennis camp at Fordham and worked as the only high school tennis instructor at the 93rd St. Clay court Camp, and went to Glasgow, Scotland, to play in a tournament and meet with coaches at Edinburgh and St. Andrews universities.

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Miriam Nightengale, *Principal*
Lenice Nelson, *Assistant Principal*
Dan Novak, *Assistant Principal*
Andi Velasquez, *Parent Coordinator*

Welcome to the 2015-2016 School Year!

The CSS staff is delighted to welcome you to the new school year. This newsletter edition highlights some of our students' summer activities and new aspects of the CSS experience.

Music Maestro

This year 9th and 10th graders will take music classes for their art credit. Professor Lisa Harrigan will be teaching theory, composition and choral exercises to students twice a week.

College Ready

The Office of College Guidance is ready to work with rising seniors and juniors on their college research, application and financial aid processes. Carla Shere is the new Director. Joining her in the room 417 is Counselor Gina Jones, who is bilingual (English-Spanish). Tom Harvey will continue with the team helping students with their essays.

New teachers and staff members will be highlighted in the October edition.

New online student record system

Replacing ARIS is the NYC Schools account, which gives information like your child's attendance, grades, and test scores on a computer, phone, or tablet. You can register for your account from any computer or internet-connected device.

To register, you need your child's 9-digit student ID number, (found on report cards) and a unique Account Creation Code specific to your child. You can obtain the code by emailing parent coordinator Andi Velasquez at andivelasquez@columbiasecondary.org or stopping by the OSS (room 503) to get a hard copy of the code with instructions on setting up the account.

CSS has the codes for all students in grades 7-12 except for students who did not attend CSS during the 2014-2015 school year. Families of 6th graders and other new students should contact students' previous school to obtain them.

CSS Philosophers participate in PLATO; invite you to join roundtables this year

In June, the founding (student) editors of our journal *Contrariwise* presented at the prestigious PLATO conference in Seattle. Professor Diana Senechal and student Kelly Clevenson also participated.

In addition to being connected to national and international philosophy programs, CSS Philosophy is special for its unique curriculum, one-of-a-kind journal, and philosophy roundtables open to the entire CSS community. Roundtables give all students, parents and staff the opportunity to engage together in philosophical discussions led by Professor Senechal in an informal

setting. You're invited: 6:00-7:30 p.m. on the 6th floor the following dates: October 22 and December 3, 2015; February 24, April 7 and June 2, 2016. Mark your calendars!



Pictured from left to right: Professor Alessia Marabini, from Italy, Professor Senechal, outgoing *Contrariwise* Editor-in-Chief Ron Gunczler and incoming Editor-in-Chief Kelly Clevenson.