Congratulations to the class of 2015!

Under the guidance of counselors Kristin Harris and Karlette Fuchs and with the help of Tom Harvey and Ann Paul from the college office, 100% of CSS’ second graduating class applied to college and all were accepted to a 2- or 4-year college/university.

Here is a partial list of institutions where students were accepted:
- Alleghany College
- Bates College
- Bard College
- Barnard College
- Clark University
- Columbia University
- Cooper Union
- CUNY (City University of New York)
  - Baruch
  - Brooklyn
  - City (Macaulay Honors)
  - Hunter
- Fordham University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Lafayette College
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- NYC College of Technology
- New York University
- Oberlin College
- Polytechnic Institute of NYU
- Pratt Institute
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Rutgers University
- Sarah Lawrence College
- Smith College
- SUNY (State University of New York)
  - Binghamton
  - New Paltz
  - Stonybrook
- Syracuse University
- University of Connecticut
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- University of Wisconsin
- Wesleyan University

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Number of Columbia University Courses open to CSS students expands greatly

Over 50 CSS students have been admitted for summer and fall 2015 classes at Columbia University (CU). Three of the courses, Calculus 1, Intro. to Psychology and Intro. to Statistics, have been taken by CSSers in the past. Students will take several CU classes for the first time: different levels of Bengali, German and Spanish; East African History; and Computer Science classes for Engineering. The rising CSS sophomores, juniors and seniors who submitted applications were able to choose from over 100 courses now available to CSS students as opposed to the 20 - 30 that have historically been options. Certain aspects of the CU experience remain the same: classes are free, students must meet academic criteria and course pre-requisites, and CU classes must not interfere with the CSS schedule.

The increase in CU opportunities results from a new agreement between CSS and the University whereby qualified students are able to take any 100-level (introductory) class offered through the School of Continuing Education that aligns with one of these major areas of study at CSS: Math, ELA, Science, History, Philosophy, Engineering, Language and/or Art.

continued on the other side
CSS teachers shine across disciplines

Engineering
In addition to shepherding this year’s First Robotics team to the regional competition, Prof. Nate Finney helped develop the summer research outreach program at the CU Engineering School. He also worked to develop a materials-testing device that is much cheaper for schools to use to test material strength in science classes. His prototype is being refined for use in other schools in the district.

Language
Department Chair Marisol Weiner was chosen by the Academy of Teachers to attend a Masters Class in recognition for her excellence in teaching a foreign language.

Philosophy
Philosophy teacher and Contrariwise adviser Diana Senechal published an article about CSS’ philosophy curriculum in the prestigious national education journal American Educator. You can see her article here: http://www.aft.org/our-news/periodicals/american-educator

Science
The Science department had a strong presence at the National Science Teacher Association Conference in Chicago in March with three teachers attending, presenting workshops and Prof. John Russell receiving the Edward C. Roy Award for Excellence in K-8 Earth Science Teaching from the American Geosciences Institute.

Science Department Chair Diana Lennon presented two AP Environmental Science workshops: “Pigeon Watches to Deer Cams: Environmental Science in the City and Country,” on field-based projects that follow the credo “No Child Left Inside” and “Portfolio Assessment for AP Environmental Science.”

Catherine Burke, 6th grade science teacher, co-presented on integrating rigorous engineering design projects while utilizing Next Generation Science Standards, “Engineering Design Experiments for Middle School Classrooms.”

Thanks to a new partnership between CSS and the Pace University Chemistry Department, each of 20 CSS sophomores was assigned a different Pace Undergraduate Science Major to shadow on “Experience Chemistry Day” on March 26. They attended lectures, labs, seminars, and even spent time in the student activity center. The event was made possible by the efforts of CSS Chemistry Prof. Pravin Jammula (Prof. Jay), PU Prof. JaimeLee Rizzo and the American Chemical Society.

Prof. Russell was also named a 2015 fellow by Fund for Teachers, which enables him to travel to Iceland this summer to study the confluence of North American and Eurasian Plates.

The practices of CSS science teachers were featured in an article in DNAinfo.com.

Students take MUN honors
At the Educational Simulation/Model UN conference at CU in April, two CSS team members won honors. Senior Ayesha Schmitt, founding member of the CSSMUN elective, got the highest award of Outstanding Delegate for her role as an Iraqi delegate in the UNESCO committee. Junior Leone Baldonello received a verbal commendation for his role as Juan Hernandez Valle in the 1948 committee on the Partido Nacional Puertorriqueño. Way to go!!!

Join the 4th Annual CSS AIDS Walk Team!
Have fun with fellow CSSers on Sunday, May 17, raising funds for a great cause and earning community service credit. There are two ways to help: 1. Join the team and have people sponsor your walk; 2. Make a financial contribution. Visit: https://ny.aidswalk.net/Team/View/7651/Columbia-Secondary-School-3916 Or search “NY AIDS WALK” and enter our team number: 3916

CU classes, cont’d
Unlike at other universities where the Continuing Education offerings are different than ones matriculated students take, at Columbia, students enrolled through CE and regular Columbia students sit side by side in class. Classes offered through CE are also offered to regular CU students; the designation means the class is open to visitors. Registration will now be completely online.

Eligibility Requirements
Each grade has eligibility requirements to be considered for enrollment in a CU class (see below) For all students, attendance is considered, a strong performance in the content area is required (e.g. in math if applying for Statistics), and students with any failing grades are not considered.

Grade-Specific Requirements
-9th Graders (for a Fall Class Sophomore year): 95% or higher overall average
-10th Graders: 90% + overall average.
-11th Graders: 85% + overall average; 90% or better in content area
-12th Graders (for a Spring Class): 80% + overall average; 85% + in content area.