Congratulations to...

- Senior Timothy Yang who recently qualified for Gold Skating Skills through the U.S. Figure Skating Association demonstrating his expertise in accuracy, posture and carriage, bilateral movement, strength, power, extension, edge quality, continuous flow, quickness and turn execution.
- Senior Shana Goldsmith on being named the Rockland County Player of the Year for Field Hockey for the second year in a row.

STUDENTS AND STAFF SEL-EBRATE WITH THE THEME: SOUTHERN LIGHTS

On December 15, South’s SEL team created a second SEL-ebration for our students during lunch periods. The theme for the event “Southern Lights” included activities and events that encouraged students to consider how they light someone else’s day and how they light up their own days. The activities included a photobooth, karaoke, a card station, therapy dogs and a bean bag toss. Students enjoyed hot cocoa and popcorn for participating in the activities meant to promote positive feelings among the students and staff.

COPS CORNER: Be Careful Driving Near School Buses

As we prepare to return to school, we'd like to remind all drivers of the law regarding school buses. NYS VTL 1174 “Overtaking and Passing a School Bus” prohibits drivers from passing a clearly marked school bus which has stopped to receive or discharge passengers on a public roadway / parking lot when there is a red, visual signal activated.

Failing to obey this law, could result in a minimum fine of $250, in addition to 5 points on your license. For those that possess a NYS junior license (JD), be mindful that it only takes 3 points to have your license suspended.

Furthermore, be advised that all of the District’s buses are currently being equipped with exterior cameras. These cameras will photograph any vehicle that passes a school bus when the red blinking lights are activated. While you may not be stopped by a police officer, the registered owner of the vehicle will receive a $250 fine in the mail.

Drive safely! Have a happy & healthy 2024!

Sincerely,

Officer Caivano & Officer Rolston
Clarkstown South SROs

SECOND SEMESTER CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 22
The Clarkstown teachers outdid themselves in the United Way’s Hope for the Holidays event. This year, the United Way provided presents for over 315 children, 267 of those children being Clarkstown students. Hope for the Holidays starts with the student assistance counselors, psychologists, teachers, and many others recognizing a need and submitting wish lists on behalf of a child. It continues with various groups volunteering to fulfill those wishes.

International Baccalaureate Program

CONSIDER I.B. CLASSES WHEN YOU PLAN YOUR 2024-2025 SCHEDULE

As a learner, do you strive to be an inquirer, knowledgeable, communicator, open-minded, caring, principled, risk-taker, balanced, reflective? If you answered yes to some or all of these, you reflect the attributes of the IB learner profile!

So, have you ever considered what it might mean to earn an IB Diploma? Consider these statements from these top universities:

"Send us prepared students a la I.B....It is the 'best' high school prep curriculum an American school can offer"

-- Massachusetts Institute of Technology representative

"There is no other curriculum anywhere that does a superior job of both educating students and inspiring a true and broad-based love of learning."

-- Vanderbilt University representative

This is just a sampling of what college representatives have said about the experience for a student working toward an International Baccalaureate Diploma. To earn the diploma, a student needs to take six IB courses and complete the Theory of Knowledge course, CAS, and the Extended Essay during their junior and senior years. Points are earned for the quality of the work done, and if a minimum number of points are gained during this two-year experience, the student is able to earn the IB Diploma, an accolade which tells colleges that he or she has gained worldwide recognition as a high school student. The courses have a global focus with the main thrust being “thinking for creativity” in all subject areas. The required subjects mirror what most liberal arts college programs expect, i.e., a variety of academic courses in different subjects with college-level reading and writing expectations. However, a student is not expected to be ready for college when he or she enters the IB Diploma Program. He or she is merely expected to become college ready during his or her last two years of high school.

IB student presentations will take place in all 10th grade English classes the week of January 16th. If you have any questions, reach out and make an appointment with Ms. Balducci-Flugger, IB Coordinator (mflugger@ccsd.edu).
SENORS:

**RCC Application Day** (report to the upper library with your laptop if you plan to apply for the Fall of 2024)
When: Wednesday, January 10th and Thursday, January 11th, from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm
Where: South High School Upper Library
Note: The application fee will be waived

The January 10th session is open to all. The January 11th session is dedicated to those students who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or any senior absent from school on January 10th.

**Dominican College Instant Decision Day** (report to the school counseling office with your laptop if you plan to apply for the Fall of 2024)
When: Friday, January 5th, from 9 am to 11 am
Note: The application fee will be waived

**Transcript Request Forms:** Counselors will be accepting and processing Transcript Request Forms for those seniors who are still applying to college.

**Post High School Planning:** seniors in need of help applying to college, or with making other post graduation plans, please see your counselor asap.

**Scholarships:** Seniors should access their Naviance account to apply for scholarships: [https://www.ccsd.edu/Page/2428](https://www.ccsd.edu/Page/2428)

JUNIORS:

Register for a College Board Account and link your PSAT results to Khan Academy. Students who need help with this should contact their school counselor.

College Process Meeting for Parents of Juniors: January 4th @ 7:50 am in the South HS Auditorium. An evening presentation will be scheduled at a later date for those who cannot attend the AM session on 1/4.

**January Extended Homerooms (period 2)**
The school counselors will be meeting with each grade level in extended homeroom to discuss the course selection process for the 2024 - 2025 school year.
- January 9th: Freshman
- January 16th: Sophomores
- January 23rd: Juniors

**8TH GRADE STUDENTS TO VISIT CLARKSTOWN SOUTH**
The future Class of 2028 will visit Clarkstown South on January 10th during the school day to meet staff and hear about the many elective opportunities at Clarkstown South to meet the students’ fine arts requirement for graduation. In addition, the students will learn about scheduling and a typical freshman schedule, learn some of the routines and practices at South and receive a tour of the school given by school counselors. On the evening of the tenth, eighth grade parents are invited to experience the same presentation their students viewed and to tour the school as well.