



OBO *E-Mail* Blast

NOVEMBER 9, 2012

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Damaged by Super Storm Sandy, the Orange Early Childhood Center Finds Temporary Shelter

Super Storm Sandy not only closed the Orange Public School District, leaving 6 of its buildings without power, it damaged one of the school district's newest facilities, the Orange Early Childhood Center. Previously the YWCA building, which housed a preschool center, the structure located on Park Avenue in Orange was taken over by the Orange Public Schools this past summer. The district moved its Early Childhood Education Department into the building and also took over the preschool center serving the needs of 120 three and four year old students.

The building sustained roof damage and water infiltration, which required that the children and staff be moved into a temporary shelter while the building is repaired. Members of the Early Childhood Department came in while the district was closed to move their offices and classrooms into Scholars Academy, formerly Mt. Carmel School, the district's location on Capuchin Way. The building serves as a location for "gifted and talented" students who attend school there one day a week from each of the elementary schools. With ample classroom space the OECC has found a temporary home. Students are dropped off at Scholars or meet at the Park Avenue location to be transported to Scholars. On the first day back after the storm, the transition was smooth and all are adjusting well.

Please note that Scholars Academy is also able to function fully and will resume normal operations this coming Monday, November 12, 2012.



Pictured: Preschool students arrive at Scholars Academy and are escorted to the building where they settle in for the day.



Orange Board Of Education Receives \$30,784.18 Safety Grant from the New Jersey School Boards Association Insurance Group

At its September regional members meeting, the New Jersey School Boards Association Insurance Group (NJSBAIG) awarded the Orange Board of Education a safety grant in the amount of \$30,784.18. The grant money must be used to invest in safety and security-related improvements and or training within the district.



Mr. Adekunle James, School Business Administrator, Mr. Akindele Ayodele, Assistant School Business Administrator and Ms. Lisa Abdul, Accounting Officer, were in attendance and accepted the grant check on the board's behalf. The district applied for the safety grant in May of this year, and in accordance with its application, will use the funds for security cameras and equipment district wide.

In keeping with its mission to minimize exposure to risk and stabilize insurance costs for New Jersey public schools, NJSBAIG established a public school safety grant program in 2009 and has continued to award safety grants over the past

four years.

The grant program promotes proactive risk management and provides funding districts otherwise would not have to invest in safety-related projects and improvements. NJSBAIG partners with many organizations that can help your district with their risk management programs and ultimately help New Jersey public schools keep dollars in the classroom. "These

grant awards continue a tradition of cooperation between NJSBAIG and our member districts that can really contribute to the development of a strong safety culture in our N.J. school district communities” said NJSBAIG Director, Marty Kalbach.

NJSBAIG is awarding \$4 million in safety grants to member districts in 2012. The insurer awarded \$16 million in safety grants over the last 4 years.



Super Storm Sandy Reminds Us to Stay Connected

Superintendent of Schools, Ronald C. Lee, made daily announcements from Sunday, October 28 through Wednesday, November 7, broadcasting school closures related to “Super Storm Sandy” that left most of our schools and homes without power. He delivered messages via the district’s mass telephone messaging system to reach all staff, parents and students.

The district’s mass telephone messaging system was the main point for communicating with staff and students with important, real-time information, in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. The system is relied upon to give event announcements and information beneficial to the school community. It is also the district’s primary emergency alert vehicle. For the telephone broadcast vehicle to function as it is intended, it is imperative that all staff members update their phone numbers with the district, providing a working cell or home phone number to receive any and all messages. It is also critical that each school maintain current telephone numbers and addresses in the student records system Genesis. For more information contact your school’s secretary.



Direct Deposit, A Benefit During An Emergency

The Orange Public School District offers all staff direct deposit of their paychecks into an authorized bank account. This service is provided to employees as a convenience and, in an emergency, a benefit. Whenever available through your employer, personnel should consider this method of managing their pay without live checks. Direct deposit avoids delays in receiving your pay and insures that you have funds in your bank accounts in an emergency. District employees are asked to contact the business office for more information.



The Norfolk State Choir Made a Joyful Noise for the Students in Orange Public Schools

The Norfolk State Choir performed for Orange school students on Friday, October 26, 2012, at the behest of Mrs. Belinda Scott Smiley, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent for Operations and Human Resources. Having heard them perform the previous year, Mrs. Smiley vowed to expose the students of Orange to the wonderful music produced by the concert choir of this historically black university. With the assistance of the Orange Education Foundation and the Orange Education Association who sponsored the group’s attendance, and coordination efforts of Mr. Peter Crosta, Supervisor of Visual and Performing Arts and Mrs. Maren Sugarman’s stage crew team, Mrs. Smiley brought the esteemed choral group to Orange.

Performing arts students from each of Orange’s schools were invited to attend the performance, at Orange Preparatory Academy Auditorium, along with their teachers, and hear the eclectic musical themes, from baroque, to traditional spirituals, to spirited show tunes. The choir sang with crisp harmonies, mesmerizing the audience with solos and duets from Porgy and Bess and displaying a broad range of song styles.

Dr. Carl Haywood, the masterful director of the choir, addressed the audience and introduced the selections to the spectators, giving a synopsis about the type of music they were performing. He talked about the organization of the choir, the section leaders and gave onlookers an understanding of the make-up of the group. He also explained the courses offered at his school and what it takes to gain admittance to the university, the requirements for music majors, the amount of practice it takes to be a part of the choir and the commitment that goes along with being a member. There was a question and answer period where students asked how long it takes to learn a new song and how do they remember all of the words? The group received a standing ovation from the young audience who was certainly in awe of the singers on stage. The students were impressed not only with the beautiful voices but with the prospects of applying to Norfolk State University. Mrs. Smiley was delighted to hear that several of the high school students were so impressed with the music program described that they wanted to hear about their dance program as well.

Ronald C. Lee, Superintendent of Schools thanked the choir for their splendid performance and Mrs. Smiley for her vision to invite them to Orange. He thanked the Orange Education Foundation and the Orange Education Association for their support and the audience for their kind reception. Before leaving the stage the choir graciously acknowledged an alumna, Ms. Bola Powell, Lincoln Avenue staff member and Secretary of the Orange Education Association and took photos with her and the Rosa Parks Central School Chorus.

After their performance, a luncheon was held at Scholars Academy for members of the choir. The food was prepared and served by students participating in the culinary program at Career Innovations Academy of Orange under the direction of Mr. Michael Spillman. After welcoming remarks by Mr. Peter Crosta, Mr. Spillman explained the efforts of the culinary students to perfect their craft and their business acumen. The choir sang their blessings before the meal and thanked their hosts. The Norfolk State Choir was a special treat for the Orange School District.



Pictured: Mrs. Smiley introduces choir; Norfolk State University Choir; Dr. Haywood; Norfolk State University Choir with soloist.



Pictured: Soloists perform during concert and Mr. Lee and Mrs. Smiley thanking choir.



Pictured: Choir soloist; Choir with RPCCS students; Choir with Ms. Powell.



Pictured: Scenes from the luncheon at Scholars Academy catered by culinary arts students from Career Innovation Academy of Orange.



Orange Students Go On A Power Outing

The Orange Board of Education, in collaboration with JP Morgan CHASE sponsored Orange's CHASE Success competition with NY GIANT Victor Cruz. The student winners were invited to attend the November 4 GIANTS V. Steelers game at the MetLife stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. Orange students were escorted by Ms. Candace Goldstein, Director of Special Programs and Ms. Erica Stewart, Administrator for Special Projects. Those attending, from Orange, were ninth grade students Ela Urbina and Deion Garrison, and eleventh grade student Chinwendu Obi.

The NY GIANTS' community relations department hosted the Orange students in a VIP suite replete with food, drink, and heat. For a short time, the children were able to forget that there has been no power in Orange for nearly a week. Student winners from the Boys and Girls Club, in Paterson, were also given a brief reprieve from the devastation of Hurricane Sandy.

Students bonded over football and frankfurters. Excitement grew each quarter with the realizations that they were recipients of the generosity of organizations like JP Morgan CHASE, the NY GIANTS, and Victor Cruz.

Orange student, Deion Garrison, who created a movie trailer for Cruz's book *Out Of The Blue*, regaled executives with the tales of how his winning project evolved. Ela wrote three chapters of her life: *Line of Scrimmage*, *First and Goal*, and *Touchdown*, while Chinwendu wrote an acceptance speech for a Lifetime Achievement Award as a Clinical Psychologist. The young ladies shared the inspiration for their winning projects as well. The students articulated their goals and talents; Chinwendu may even get an opportunity to audition to sing the Star Spangled Banner at a NY GIANTS football game.

"I told my friends that I am going to the game because hard work pays off", says Ela. "The GIANTS may have lost, but I was here to see it". Three Orange winners who were unable to attend to were: Shaun McRimmon, Avionne Wallace, and Jesse Donat.

After the game, students had a chew and chat with Victor Cruz on the bottom floor of the stadium. He sat in an intimate gathering with the Orange and Paterson students, signed their ticket stubs, and NY GIANTS memorabilia. Victor Cruz and fiancé/manager Elaina Watley displayed a genuine interest in the children and their aspirations. They exchanged Twitter handles. JP Morgan CHASE and Victor Cruz plan to follow the students on Twitter. The culminating activity, as if the entire day wasn't enough, was photos on the MetLife field with Victor Cruz.

Filled with food and fond memories, the students returned home excited about the continued partnership with Victor Cruz and anticipating the next opportunity to earn a chance to be included in future endeavors with JP Morgan CHASE, the NY GIANTS, and their newest hero, Victor Cruz. Ms. Stewart shared, "our children were treated like royalty. It was an amazing and memorable experience for them. They left rejuvenated and well lit on the inside."



Pictured: Orange students on a "power outing" at the GIANTS game against the Pittsburgh Steelers, as special guests of Victor Cruz, the NY GIANTS and JP Morgan CHASE.



Pictured: Students enjoy the game in box seats at MetLife Stadium.

Contributed by Ms. Erica Stewart



Board of Education Monthly Art Display Getting Back On Track

An apt display of presidential buttons, created by second and fourth grade students at Park Avenue School, was exhibited at the Board of Education office during the month of October.



The November schedule for the monthly exhibition was interrupted by Hurricane Sandy and will be back on track this coming Wednesday, November 14, 2102 at 6:00 p.m. A new display, completed by district preschool students attending the Orange Early Childhood Center and the Central School location, will be on exhibit.



Oakwood Avenue School Received Valuable Evacuation Preparedness During Their Week of Violence Prevention and Safety

During Oakwood Avenue School's Week of Violence Prevention and Safety, students, faculty and staff participated in the school's first emergency evacuation drill for the 2012 – 2013 school term. The actual drill took place on Wednesday morning October 17th. The scenario: a phone call received by the School Safety Team Coordinator gave rise to an emergency alert. The announcement came over the intercom system:

"This is an important announcement. Prepare for an Emergency Evacuation Drill to our "Safe Haven". All students, faculty and staff are to prepare to evacuate the building. We repeat, prepare to evacuate the building. We are to evacuate to our "Safe Haven", St. Matthew AME Church."

With the code alert, Oakwood needed to evacuate to their Safe Haven. All were prepared with the instructions they received, prior to the drill, regarding evacuation procedures.

The members of the School Safety Team, as well as other key school personnel were assigned various responsibilities to help the transition from Oakwood to the "Safe Haven" take place without incident. The Orange Police department gave a hand to assist the school during the emergency evacuation drill. An officer was dispatched to the school. The officer ensured their safety, as they walked to St. Matthew AME Church.

The Emergency Management Team of Orange Township would in fact be in charge, if there were an actual emergency. The officials would meet with the Mayor who would be in contact with the police department, fire department and the Superintendent of Orange Public Schools.

During the drill, students were instructed to listen for directions from Oakwood's principal, Ms. Luckey, as well as the School Safety Team, to maintain silence during the evacuation. In an actual emergence, in the event of Ms. Luckey's absence, all would follow instructions from her designee.

Upon arrival at the "Safe Haven", the students were asked several questions about safety procedures for different types of drills. Students were able to describe the differences between a fire drill, a lock down drill and the emergency evacuation drill.

Another highlight of Oakwood's Week of Violence Prevention and Safety was a visit from the Orange Township Mayor Dwayne Warren and the Orange Fire Department. His Honor the Mayor Dwayne Warren set the tone for a very exciting morning filled with activities that were informative and fun! The mayor encouraged the students to stay focused and do well in school in order to return to the community as responsible adults committed to keeping Orange safe.

Contributed by Oakwood Avenue School



Correction notice:

In the October 26, 2012 issue of the OBO E-Mail Blast, Dr. Patrick Howell was incorrectly referenced as being responsible for science, grades 8 – 12, in the article "Live Cardiac Surgery Broadens Students Exposure to the Medical Field". So let's perform a surgical procedure on the district's science organization, to correct things: Dr. Howell is an Assistant Principal at Orange High School and, as such, he is responsible for the science curriculum at Orange High School. Ms. Samantha Sica Fossella, Assistant Principal at Orange Preparatory Academy, is responsible for their science curriculum. The science curriculum for elementary school students is the responsibility of Ms. Erika Hackett, Supervisor, K-7 Science and Mr. Terry Caliste is the Director of Mathematics and Science, K-12, for the Orange Public Schools.

Further, the live broadcast event was postponed due to Hurricane Sandy. The surgery is rescheduled for Monday, November 12th for invited students and guests.

Coming Attractions

- ***Monday, November 12, 2012 – Park Avenue School Spelling Bee, 9:30 a.m., grades 1 – 4, 1:30 p.m., grades 5 - 7***
- ***Tuesday, November 13, 2012 – Cleveland Street School Spelling Bee, 9:30 a.m.***
- ***Tuesday, November 13, 2012 – Monthly Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Orange Preparatory Academy Auditorium***

- **Wednesday, November 14, 2012 – Board Lobby Art Opening Featuring Central School/Orange Early Childhood Center, 6:00 p.m. at the Board of Education Office**
- **Thursday, November 15, 2012 - PTO Pasta Potluck Dinner at Park Avenue School, 6:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria**
- **Friday, November 16, 2012 – Heywood Avenue School Spelling Bee, 9:00 a.m.**
- **November 2012 – Valley Arts Events and Activities (See flyer below) and visit www.valleyartsnj.com for weather related updates and changes.**
- **Wednesday, November 21, 2012 – Thanksgiving Recess, Schools Dismissed at 12:30 p.m.**
- **Thursday – Friday, November 22-23, 2012, District Closed for Thanksgiving Recess**
- **Monday, November 26, 2012 – Forest Street School Spelling Bee, time To Be Determined (TBD)**
- **Friday, November 30, 2012 – Fathers Reading Club (See flyer below)**
- **Tuesday, December 4, 2012 – Lincoln Avenue School Spelling Bee, 9:30 a.m.**
- **Thursday – Saturday, December 6 – 8, 2012 – "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged/Revised", 7:00 p.m. and also at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 8, at Orange Preparatory Academy Auditorium (See flyer below)**
- **Friday, December 7, 2012 – Rosa Parks Central Community School Spelling Bee, time TBD**
- **Friday, December 14, 2012 – Orange Preparatory Academy Spelling Bee, time TBD**
- **December 2012, Oakwood Avenue Spelling Bee, time and date TBD**

Orange Public Schools

Fathers Reading Club

Men Reading With Children In School & Beyond

Who Should Attend

- Fathers
- Grandfathers
- Uncles and Big Brothers
- Men's Ministries
- Fraternities
- Mentors




Calling All Men

- ✓ **Join us on the last Friday of each month starting October 26, 2012**
- ✓ **Attend a reading session at your child's school where you read with children**
- ✓ **Help us improve student achievement by reading in and out of school**



How To Participate

1. Contact your child's school for the specific time and details (See below)
2. Ensure that your children are competing in the district's Pages for All Ages 25 Book Challenge
3. Also, join us on Sundays for the **Fatherhood Football Fellowship**. 

Contact Matt Stevens, Dept. of Special Programs for more information

(973) 677-4000 (ext. 6086) – StevenMa@mail.orange.k12.nj.us

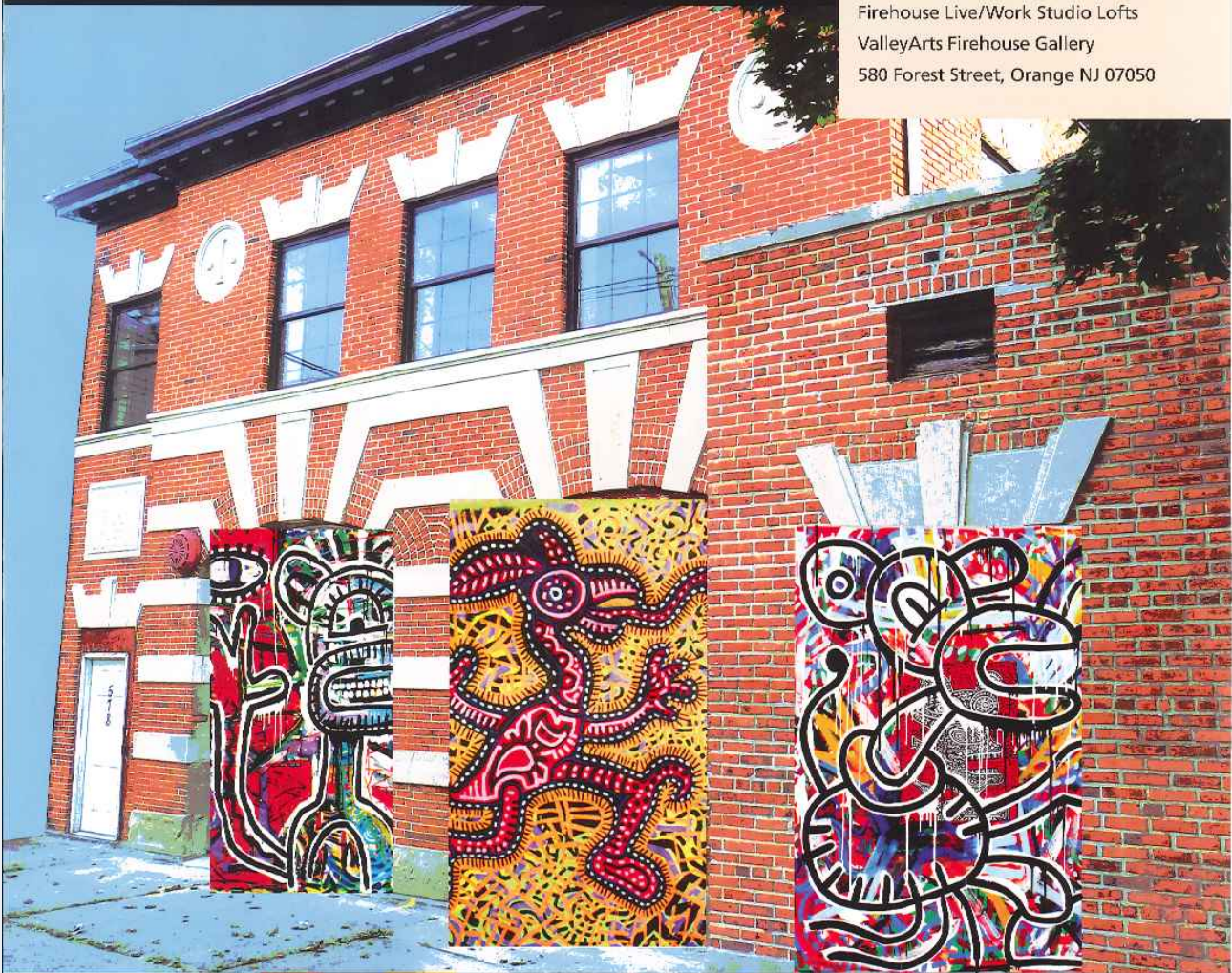
Cleveland St (973) 677-4100	www.Orange.k12.nj.us				OECC (973) 672-0251
Forest St (973) 677-4120	Heywood Ave (973) 677-4105	Lincoln Ave (973) 677-0328	Oakwood Ave (973) 677-4095	Park Ave (973) 677-4124	Rosa Parks/Central (973) 677-4515

See reverse side for October/November Calendar of Events ▶

ValleyArts

The Arts Service and Activist Organization for the Valley Arts District of Orange and West Orange NJ

Firehouse Live/Work Studio Lofts
ValleyArts Firehouse Gallery
580 Forest Street, Orange NJ 07050



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**FIREHOUSE
OPENING
WEEK!**

Sat, Oct 27, 7:30pm *Exhibit 1 – ORNG Ink Fashion Show*

Tue, Oct 30, 11am Official HANDS Ribbon Cutting

Thu, Nov 1, 8:30am Teacher Workshop: *Romare Bearden's Techniques*

Fri, Nov 2, 6pm Firehouse Gallery Grand Opening: *The Art of Dan Fenelon*

Sat, Nov 3, 11am – 4pm Open House Celebration

ValleyArts Anchor Organizations: Arts Unbound | Diversity Youth Theater at Luna | Garden State Urban Farms | Hat City Kitchen Presents | Luna Stage Theatre Co | ORNG Ink | Oualie Arts | ValleyArts Presents | Yema Gallery/ARTSETC

ValleyArts, Inc.
50 Tompkins Street, Orange, NJ 07050

ValleyArts is funded by
The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, JPMorgan Chase Foundation,
Wells Fargo Regional Foundation, Investors Savings Bank,
and Essex County

 get information:
www.valleyartsnj.com

ORANGE BOARD OF EDUCATION
ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL & ORANGE PREP ACADEMY
PROUDLY PRESENT



Funnier than Spark Notes! *Shakespeare's Greatest Hits,*
MINUS the BORING stuff!

The Complete Works of
William Shakespeare
(ABRIDGED) [REVISED]

By Adam Long, Daniel Singer
and Jess Winfield

DECEMBER 6, 7 & 8 2012
THURSDAY & FRIDAY at 7:00PM
SATURDAY 2:00PM & 7:00PM
ORANGE PREP ACADEMY AUDITORIUM
400 Central Avenue, Orange NJ

TICKETS \$5, STU/SR \$3
INFO 973-677-4050 x5020
rhodesdi@orange.k12.nj.us

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