



OBOE-Mail Blast



September 18, 2015

Volume 5, Number 3

News and Events

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The Orange Public School District in Spotlight NJ Segment on News 12



Acknowledging the Orange Public School District's participation in the American Public Education Foundation's annual singing of the National Anthem on September 11, News Anchor Della Cruz, featured images from Orange's Sing-Along during her Spotlight NJ segment on the September 14 news broadcast. She noted that the occasion was also a moment of remembrance for the 14th anniversary of the September 11th attacks on America. She further noted that the American Public Education Foundation's movement, which began two years ago, provides free educational resources on the history and writing of the National Anthem.

Its Back To School Night in the Orange Public Schools

Orange Early Childhood Center II



On September 10, parents of pre-school students met in the Oasis Café for Back-to-School-Night at the Orange Early Childhood Center II (OECC II). The program opened with remarks from Principal Karen Machuca (**pictured left**) who oversees the OECC II classes housed at Scholars Academy. Mrs. Machuca introduced the teaching staff and outlined expectations of the school, including the importance of information sent home by the school.

Early Childhood Education (ECE) Master Teacher, Mrs. Amy Burns, gave an overview of the district's use of the High Scope curriculum. High Scope is aligned with NJ State Standards and

Common Core and is based on an "active learning approach." After her presentation, attending families visited their child's classroom for a more detailed overview with insights into daily activities and learning.



Pictured: (top, left to right) Mrs. Burns giving overview; Classroom meetings. (bottom row) OECC II staff and parents; Classroom meeting.

Heywood Avenue School Back to School Night

Heywood Avenue School held its Back-to-School-Night on September 15. The evening began with welcome remarks by Principal Faith Alcantara (**pictured right**), followed by the introduction of staff and Assistant Principal, Mr. Gerald Murphy.

Ms. Alcantara then gave an overview of the school's expectations and a preview of the school year which included a video on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). She indicated that they were opening a STEM lab and further clarified that the school's emphasis on STEM also includes a focus on the arts or "STEAM," to prepare students with 21st Century skills. Also, new this year, Heywood's school-wide schedule will operate on a Monday through Friday schedule.

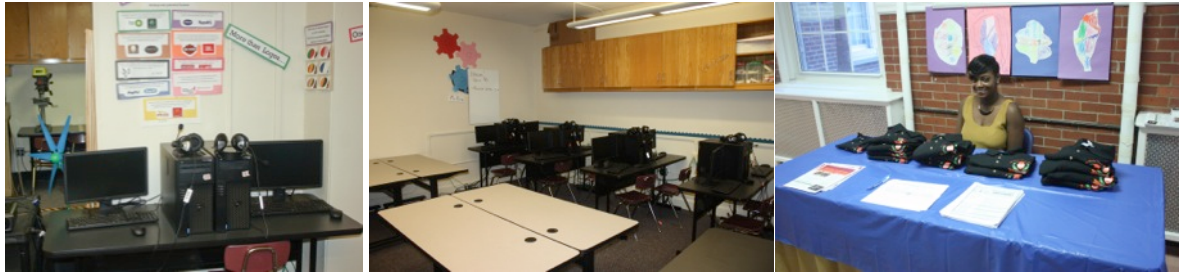
Ms. Alcantara outlined the sequence for classroom visits with teachers and meeting with the various school "specials" (music, dance, world language, physical education, etc.).

Parents visited with teachers to learn valuable information about their child's classroom experience. There was also information about afterschool care, the district's Parent Academy and the PTA, available in the school's lobby.



School Year Preview

- "STEAM" focus for middle school students with new courses added; "Arts" Elective, Pre-Engineering and Coding courses
- Heywood awarded "21st Century Learning Grant" to provide more after school programming for students in grades 4 - 7
- Offer Dance to all students in grades 3 - 7; Physical Education 3x per week to all students in grades 1 - 7
- Offer Spanish as a World Language to students in grades 3- 7
- School-wide schedule operates on a Monday - Friday schedule
- New math program, "Math in Focus - Singapore Math", grade 6; "Balanced Literacy" program in all ELA classrooms
- Numerous technology tools for use by our students



Pictured (left to right): Heywood Avenue School's STEM Lab; the Parent Academy Information table.



Pictured (left to right): Heywood classroom and classroom visits by parents.

Lincoln Avenue School Back to School Night



There were two sessions held for Back-to-School-Night at Lincoln Avenue School, on September 16. Parents of K through grade 4 students gathered in the gymnasium at 5:00 p.m. for an overview from Principal Denise White (***pictured left***). Parents of grade 5 - 7 students met at 6:00 p.m. At both sessions they were introduced to teachers and Assistant Principals Patrick Yearwood and Isabel Colon. The Visual and Performing Arts teachers introduced themselves and discussed their programs.

The school nurse, Ms. Lisa Farrar, also addressed the audience, reminding parents to keep their contact information current, and to submit necessary medical forms, as soon as possible. Parents also heard from representatives of the Rutgers Trio Talent Search program. The program provides students with academic, career, and financial counseling to encourage them to pursue post-secondary education. Ms. Kathleen Feeley, School Counselor, invited parents to take advantage of Family Connections' 14 week family skills program, *Strengthening Families of Essex (SFOE)*. Information on these programs was made available in the school's lobby. In the lobby parents also received handouts regarding the PTO and the Parent Academy and had the opportunity to participate in a fundraiser to benefit the school.



Pictured: Parent Academy member, Mr. David Armstrong, shares PTO and Parent Academy information; Parent registering student for Rutgers Trio; Fundraiser table.



Pictured: Lincoln Avenue classroom visits.

Khalilah Camacho-Ali Visits Orange Schools

Khalilah Camacho-Ali, Muhammad Ali’s second wife, visited students from Orange High School at Orange Preparatory Academy Auditorium on September 10. After a frank discussion with female students, she visited Rosa Parks Community School to further inspire students to follow their dreams, asking each what they wanted to be when they grow up.

Ms. Camacho-Ali married the internationally recognized champion boxer when she was only 17-years-old. They were married for 10 years, from 1967-1977. In her discussions, Ms. Camacho-Ali indicated that she had supported Muhammad Ali during the “hard times,” as he regained his title and moved up in the boxing world. She also indicated that she had written some of the rhymes used so famously by Ali before his fights. Most importantly for the students, she recounted her personal accomplishments. Ms. Camacho-Ali can converse in seven languages; she has an advanced black belt in karate, and is an established horseback rider who can also pilot a fighter jet. She has branched out into acting and has appeared in movies. These examples stressed to students that they could pursue their interests to the highest of their abilities.



Pictured: Superintendent Lee welcomes guests; Mr. Murad Muhammad, Ms. Camacho-Ali’s manager, makes remarks and introduces her; Ms. Camacho-Ali addresses students; Orange High School students at Orange Prep.

Ms. Camacho Ali discussed proper student behavior and relationships, manners and setting goals, while entertaining questions from students. She shared information about the coloring book she has published and gave out autographs to students and staff. She also enjoyed taking “selfies” with the high school students.

The impromptu visit came about through Rosa Parks Community School teacher, Ms. Amina Mateen, who, along with Ms. Camacho-Ali’s manager, Mr. Murad Muhammad (a former body guard for Muhammad Ali and a former boxing promoter), arranged the visit with Superintendent Ronald C. Lee. While at Orange Prep, Ms. Adrienne Wooten, Deputy Director in the Department of Community Services for Orange Township, presented Ms. Camacho-Ali with a proclamation, on behalf of the Honorable Dwayne D. Warren, Esq., Mayor of Orange.



Pictured (left to right): Ms. Adrienne Wooten, Superintendent Lee, Mr. Muhammad, Ms. Camacho-Ali and Ms. Mateen; Students taking “selfie” with Ms. Camacho-Ali.



Pictured (left to right): Ms. Mateen, Mr. Muhammad, Ms. Camacho-Ali pose with Orange High School students, along with Superintendent Lee and OHS Co-Principal Dr. Kalisha Morgan; Ms. Camacho-Ali and Ms. Mateen speaks with Orange Prep teacher and Stage Crew Advisor, Ms. Tammy Baldwin, who provided audio visual support for the visit at Orange Prep.



Pictured: Ms. Camacho-Ali visits with students at Rosa Parks Community School (RPCS); Assistant Principal, Mr. Oliverito Agosto, Principal Debra Joseph Charles, Ms. Camacho-Ali, Mr. Muhammad, and RPCS teacher Ms. Mateen.

FYI

Art Show

The Cleveland Street School Board of Education Lobby Art Show has been rescheduled for Monday, September 28, 2015, from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. at 451 Lincoln Avenue.

Back-to-School-Night Schedule

Orange Early Childhood Center	September 21 & 23	6:00-8:00
Rosa Parks Community School	September 22	6:00-8:00
Park Avenue School	September 24	6:00-8:00
Career and Innovation Academy of Orange	September 29	6:00-8:00
Orange Preparatory Academy	September 29	6:00-8:00
Orange High School	September 30	6:00-8:00



September 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Superintendent's Forum, 8:30-11:00 ^{AM} at OPA; 12:00 ^{PM} District Professional Development	2 District Professional Development	3 District Professional Development	4 District Professional Development 12:30 ^{PM} Dismissal for Staff	5
6	7 	8  Monthly Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 ^{PM} at OPA	9	10 Back To School Night Scholars Academy 6:00-7:30 ^{PM}	11	12
13	14 Back To School Night Forest Street School 6:00-8:00 ^{PM}	15 Back To School Night Heywood Avenue School 5:30-7:30 ^{PM}	16 Cleveland Lobby Art Show 6:00 ^{PM} - Board Office Back To School Night Lincoln Avenue School 6:00-8:00 ^{PM}	17 Back To School Night Cleveland Street School, 5:00-7:00 ^{PM} Oakwood Avenue Community School 6:00-8:00 ^{PM}	18	19
20	21 Back To School Night Orange Early Childhood Center 6:00-8:00 ^{PM}	22 Back To School Night Rosa Parks Community School 6:00-8:00 ^{PM}	23 Back To School Night Orange Early Childhood Center 6:00-8:00 ^{PM}	24 Professional Development 12:30 ^{PM} Dismissal for Students Back To School Night Park Avenue School 6:00-8:00 ^{PM}	25	26
27	28	29 Back To School Night - Career and Innovation Academy of Orange 6:00-8:00 ^{PM} Orange Preparatory Academy 6:00-8:00 ^{PM}	30 Back To School Night Orange High School 6:00-8:00 ^{PM}			