



OBOE-Mail Blast

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Dear Orange School Community,

This holiday season is a time for special reflection. While we are thankful for the great work and accomplishments of our students and staff, we know that the school year was marked with several catastrophic events. We are coping with the unspeakable tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut, Superstorm Sandy that devastated parts of our state and fires that have left several Orange families homeless. We have suffered the loss of several young people in our community, along with respected staff members and more recently the untimely passing of an esteemed colleague, Mr. Anthony Moffitt, a former teacher and the Network Administrator and Webmaster for the Orange Public School District. His passing, on December 15, 2012, is a shock to all and we send our deepest condolences to his wife and family. In the face of our loss, we can hold in our thoughts the fond memories that we have of our colleague and his contributions to our district. It is in these times that we are reminded what is important to us, a loving and caring family and extraordinary friends who provide the support needed to cope with the harsh realities of life.

Still, in the face of such unexpected events, we look to happier days ahead. We look forward to 2013 and many exciting academic competitions to challenge our students and partnerships to enhance our community. I want to thank our teachers and staff for the extraordinary work they do to prepare our students for the future and for making a difference in their lives.

I hope you enjoy this much needed and well deserved holiday break and may the New Year bring hope, health, and happiness to you all.

I thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you when the district reopens on January 2, 2013.

Sincerely,
Ronald C. Lee
Superintendent of Schools



Belize 2012 Videoconference

On December 13, Orange Preparatory Academy's (OPA's) science department participated in a live video-chat with a scientist in a remote eco-lodge in the Belize Rainforest, near the border of Guatemala. Assistant Principal, Mrs. Samantha Sica-Fossella, organized the event for science teachers, Ms. Olivia Silva, Ms. Jennifer Brown and Mr. Jarrett Hesselbirg's eight grade science students in three separate sessions. The conference was led by Dr. Jacalyn Willis, director of PRISM (Professional Resources in Science and Mathematics) at Montclair State University. She video conferenced from a location in the rainforest that has the highest density of jaguars in the world. Students participated in sessions regarding food webs, snakes, jaguars, and diversity. The videoconference featured live conversations with Dr. Willis, her associate, Ann Mazaro and included students in Ms. Nyree Delgado's science class at the Rosa Parks Central Community School. The sessions were interactive, with students asking and answering questions of and from the team in Belize.



Pictured: Scenes from OPA's videoconference with Belize.



At Park Avenue School, students in Ms. Maria Beaghen and Ms. Sandra Layton's 4th grade class (shown left) also participated in a videoconference with Dr. Willis in Belize. Erika Hackett, Supervisor of Science, K-7, organized the videoconference through Montclair State University. The students were given opportunities to ask questions that Dr. Willis answered very thoroughly. The 4th graders expressed great concern for the animals living in the rainforest and preserving their homes. Dr. Willis emphasized the importance of educating people about the significance of the rainforest, which students grasped with concern and understanding. Dr. Willis also shared a PowerPoint presentation that showed some of the animal and plant species living in the rainforest. The most exciting part of the videoconference was when two monkeys climbed up a tree right in front of the camera and the students were able to watch them move and eat!



Robotic Surgery Success

(Reprinted with corrections)

On December 19, approximately fifty students, parents and educators from Orange High School (OHS), Orange Preparatory Academy (OPA) and the Career and Innovation Academy of Orange (CIAO) participated in a "Live Robotic Surgery Videoconference" from Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. The "Live Robotic Surgery" is a nationally recognized program for high school students sponsored by Johnson and Johnson, Atlantic Health System and Liberty Science Center. Dr. Patrick Howell, Assistant Principal at Orange High School, organized the event, the second live surgical presentation for the year. The goal of the live robotic procedure is to help promote awareness of medical issues and the latest in technological advancements in science. The presentation allowed students to ask questions of the surgical team while they performed a Fibroid/Hysterectomy procedure. The surgeon, Dr. Michael Pitter, Chief of Gynecological Robotic & Minimally Invasive Surgery at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, commented to Dr. Howell that he was extremely pleased and proud of Orange's students for their level of participation. Tashawn Hayden, a senior at Orange High School, thought this opportunity was a life-affirming experience. "Not only did I like it . . . my goal of being a doctor has been renewed, he said, "We need more of this to show students that they can make it." Tashawn echoed the sentiments of many of the students adding, "The robotic surgery was a success . . . and to the people who conducted it, thank you."

The broadcast/surgery was directed from Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, through the Liberty Science Center, to classrooms at OHS for student viewing. Dr. Howell was pleased again at the outcome and extended Orange High School's gratitude and appreciation to the Orange Board for their continued support and the leadership of OPA and CIAO for their involvement. The participating schools were also thankful. Science teacher Jarrett Hesselberg thanked Dr. Howell for coordinating the robotic surgery in partnership with the Liberty Science Center. He felt that the students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity and spoke positively about the experience while other students inquired when they may get an opportunity to participate. He stated, "The surgery experience provided students with a real time application of knowledge and concepts. The connections between curriculum content and applications proved beneficial for classroom instruction, student achievement, and overall interest in the sciences." He is hopeful that Orange Preparatory Academy students will be included in future programs. The Career and Innovation Academy of Orange also thanked Dr. Howell for inviting their students to attend the "Live Robotic Surgery Videoconference". The CIAO students were very excited and appreciated the opportunity.



Pictured: Scenes from "Live Robotic Surgery Videoconference" at OHS.



A Moment of Silence



In accordance with Govonor Chris Christie's Executive Order #122 , enacted in light of the tragic event on December 14 in Newtown, Connecticut, the Orange Public Schools observed a moment of silence at 9:30 a.m. on Fiday morning, December 21, "in honor of each life that was taken far too soon at Sandy Hook Elementary School."

Pictured left, staff members at the Board of Education office.

Coming Attractions



- *December 24 – December 31, 2012 – Holiday Recess, District Closed*
- *Tuesday, January 1, 2013 – New Year's Day, District Closed*
- *Wednesday, January 2, 2013 – District Reopens*
- *See flyer below for more Winter Concerts in the New Year*

More Winter Concerts in the New Year . . . come out and support the Orange Public Schools at the following events:

ORANGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT WINTER CONCERTS 2012 – 2013

December 4, 2012	Forest Street School Choir	7:00 PM	Livingston Mall-Macy's
December 5, 2012	Cleveland Street Art Reception	6:00 PM	Administration Building
December 6, 2012	Shakespeare Comedy, OHS/OPA	7:00 PM	OPA Auditorium
December 7, 2012	Shakespeare Comedy, OHS/OPA	7:00 PM	OPA Auditorium
December 8, 2012	Shakespeare Comedy, OHS/OPA	2:00 PM	OPA Auditorium
December 8, 2012	Shakespeare Comedy, OHS/OPA	7:00 PM	OPA Auditorium
December 10, 2012	Lincoln Avenue Winter Concert	7:00 PM	Lincoln Gymnatorium
December 11, 2012	Central Winter Concert	6:00 PM	Central Auditorium
December 12, 2012	Heywood Avenue Winter Concert	6:30 PM	Heywood Auditorium
December 13, 2012	Oakwood Avenue Winter Concert	6:00 PM	Oakwood Auditorium
December 17, 2012	Forest Street Winter Concert	6:00 PM	Forest Gymnatorium
December 18, 2012	OPA Winter Music Concert	7:00 PM	OPA Auditorium
December 19, 2012	Cleveland Street Winter Concert	6:00 PM	Park Cafetorium
December 20, 2012	OHS Winter Music Concert	7:00 PM	OPA Auditorium
January 9, 2013	Oakwood Avenue Art Reception	6:00 PM	Administration Building
January 15, 2013	Park Avenue Winter Concert	6:30 PM	Park Cafetorium
January 17, 2013	Park Winter Dance Concert	7:00 PM	OPA Auditorium
January 24, 2013	OPA Winter Dance Concert	7:00 PM	OPA Auditorium
February 1, 2013	OHS Winter Dance Concert	7:00 PM	OPA Auditorium
February 6, 2013	Heywood Avenue Art Reception	6:00 PM	Administration Building

Schedule revised 12/05/2012

Please note that Cleveland Street's concert is being held at Park Avenue School and not Central Avenue as previously published and the Park Avenue Winter Music Concert, previously scheduled for early December, is now planned for January 15, 2013. Also, Rosa Parks Central Community School (grades 2 -7) will not have a winter concert, due to scheduling complications.