



Orange Township Public Schools

Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.
Office of the Superintendent



April 21, 2023

Good Day Orange School District Families and Staff,

I hope this communication finds you well. We had yet another exciting week within the Orange Public School District. As a reminder, continue to visit our district website www.orange.k12.nj.us under latest news and information as well as our social media handles to get the most up to date district updates. As promised, we will continue to provide information in real time, so you are always in the know.

Snow Day Give Back Days: As you know, the district has 2 snow days remaining. In the effort of families and staff planning in a timely fashion, the district is sharing again, the dates that we will utilize the snow days as shared on Monday, March 27, 2023, via blast as well as on the district's social media handles.

- ✚ Friday, May 26th
- ✚ Friday, June 16th

Instructional Spotlight of the Week: This week's Instructional Spotlight is from Cleveland Street School. Families recently enjoyed Family Literacy Night at Cleveland Street School. Teachers created several literacy-based learning stations throughout the school for families to enjoy, including but not limited to:

- Orthographic mapping
- A book tasting
- Activities related to adjectives
- Rhyming Words

Mrs. Layman's learning station focused on tapping, mapping, graphing, and writing words. This process is known as Orthographic Mapping. Orthographic Mapping is the mental process we use to permanently store words for immediate retrieval and become fluent readers.

First, Mrs. Layman reviewed different types of letter/sound combinations like short vowel words, digraphs (two letters that make one sound), blends (two letters that make two sounds pushed together), and many more. Then, the students and family members got to practice using a word mapping worksheet to identify all the sounds in a word to map, graph, & write it!

Finally, the students paired up and practiced mapping other words with a peer. At the conclusion of the event, students and their families were able to take home the mapping worksheet and a word list to keep practicing!



Ms. Paris' and Ms. Copeland's created a book tasting event, which exposed students and families to different genre and various types of books. They were able to create a relaxing, reading "cafe" ambiance. They wanted to give our students and their families the opportunity to choose books they wanted to read instead of being assigned a particular book.

There were different tables set up with different genres (fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels, biography, and the mystery special). The mystery special was a big hit! The students and families were not able to see the cover of the book. They judged it solely on reading what was inside. The students and families were then given a book tasting rating pamphlet and they were able to rate the books they browsed through.



Families who explored room 114 had the opportunity to engage in activities relating to adjectives. Ms. Sibia explained the meaning of an adjective and gave some examples before reading the story *The Napping House*. Students and family members identified adjectives throughout the story. After reading the story, students and families walked around the room to find numerous characters from popular children's books and Television shows. With post-it notes, students labeled the characters with different adjectives. Students got to take home a bookmark listed with adjectives to continue adding more adjectives to their oral and written language.



Mrs. Baguidy shared a PowerPoint presentation with families that gave the parents information on the following... stats about early literacy suggestions on how to keep their young children engaged in reading. She then read a story with rhyming words and worked with the parents and students to create a rhyming word make and take.



Ms. Sequeira presented a lesson, discussion and activity about poetry geared to upper elementary and middle school students. Students and families engaged in a conversation about what constitutes poetry and what are the attributes of poetry needed to create a successful poem. Topics of discussion ranged from poetry structure to figurative language and rhyme. Students and families were able to select from a variety of poetry templates and leave with their own self-created poems.



At the end of the evening students and families were able to help themselves to FREE "Grab n' Go Books" to continue reinforcing what they learn during the literacy night and continue to foster a love of reading. All and all the Family Literacy Night was a huge success.

Student Representative for the Board of Education SY 23-24: The Orange Board of Education seeks a rising junior or senior to serve as a student representative for School Year 2023-2024. The application deadline is Thursday, April 27, 2023.



Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation will host an Open House: All current 7th-grade parents and students, district-wide, are invited to an Open House at the Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation on Monday, April 24, at 6 PM to learn about the 8th grade.



Women's History Wax Museum at Scholars Academy: At Scholars Academy, Grade 2 students, as part of Gifted and Talented Student Month observed in March, presented the Women's History Wax Museum on April 13. Students researched and created poster boards about their chosen person, with many dressed in character. Family members were present to support the students, hearing details from each personality. The first graders also gathered information from the wax figures on display, including Mae Jemison, Mary McLeod Bethune, Ida B. Wells, Maya Angelou, Madame C.J. Walker, Misty Copeland, Wangari Maathai, and Tu Youyou, among others. The students were prepared, discussing the women they represented with a clear understanding of their contributions to history.



Autism Grant Secured by Ms. Stewart from John Robert Lewis Early Childhood Center: April 12th was an exciting day at the John Robert Lewis Early Childhood Center. PSD teacher Mrs. Bronwynne Stewart was one of four special educators, out of nearly 900 submissions nationwide, to receive the ARIS Thrive Grant for Autism Educators from Stages Learning. Two representatives from Stages

Learning came to notify her personally, citing that Mrs. Stewart's heartfelt letter and application stood out among the other applicants and presented her with a grant worth \$10,000 in autism resources and support! Ms. Stewart's husband and their daughter's Godmother were there for the grant award presentation, with balloons and her favorite flowers. **Congratulations** to Ms. Stewart on your dedication to your students.



Reminder: Kindergarten Orientation Meetings: Please mark your calendars. As shared via our social media handles as well as the district website, the time has come to open our doors for Kindergarten Orientation. The teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators are working diligently to create a great program for you. Come with your walking shoes as well as burning questions that you may have. The Orange School District team is ready and excited for our prospective parents to walk our classrooms and engage with the academia as well as social emotional supports that we have in place.

School	Date and Time During the Day In-Person
Heywood	1:30 PM Wednesday, May 3rd
Forest	9:30 AM Friday, May 5th
Lincoln	9:00 AM Tuesday, May 2nd
Central	10:00 am on May 4th
Oakwood	2:00 PM on May 4th
Park	2:00pm on Friday May 5th
Cleveland (Located at Our Lady of the Valley)	9:00 AM on Wednesday May 3rd

Pre-Kindergarten Registration Program: Thank you to Team Early Childhood for showing up and out on Saturday, April 15, 2023 for the Preschool Registration Fair. What a great experience for our families to get a sense of how we are educating our youngest learners within our school district and through our provider sites. The following preschool were registration locations:

- 🚦 Orange Early Childhood Center, 397 Park Ave
- 🚦 Neema Preschool of Orange, 237 Scotland Road
- 🚦 Montclair Child Development Center, 261 William Street
- 🚦 Norjenes Day Care, 95 S Essex Ave
- 🚦 Valley Settlement House, 33-41 Tompkins Street

Preschool registration will also be held on April 25, 26, and 27 from 10 AM - 12 PM at the same locations. For more information, visit www.orange.k12.nj.us/domain/528 or email prekindergartenregistration@orange.k12.nj.us.

Reminder: April is Autism Awareness Month: In celebration of Autism Awareness Month, Park Avenue School is hosting Autism Awareness Day, on Saturday, April 22, 2023, from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Get your free tickets to the event at <https://www.eventbrite.com/.../park-avenue-school-autism...>. There will be speakers, vendors, and activities for the children.



Parent University Sign Up: Orange School Community: It's not too late to register for the April-May 2023 Adult Learning & Parenting Academy Virtual Course Offerings and take advantage of this week's classes: Parenting Adverse Childhood Experiences, Basics of Investing, and Empowering Yourself and Family. For more information and to register for Parent University courses, visit <https://bit.ly/3JhalF4> or scan the QR code on the flyer.



Reminder: Update from the Visual and Performing Arts Department: Have you purchased your tickets yet??? You have to be present for the play, it is going to be simply the best! The Orange Public School District Visual and Performing Arts Department presents "Freaky Friday, The Musical" on Friday, April 21, 2023, at 7:00 PM, and a matinee at 2:00 PM on Saturday, April 22, 2023, at the Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation Auditorium. Join the cast and crew for this hilarious, energetic, and moving musical comedy about a teenager and her mother who magically swap bodies on the weirdest, craziest, and freakiest day of their lives. Tickets are \$10 at the door and can be purchased in advance for \$8. It's fun for the whole family! See the flyer for details.



Reminder: Orange Page Turners Competition Returns to the Orange Public School District: The Orange Page Turners Reading Challenge is back. So, are you ready to log those pages? Students, staff, parents, employees, city residents, and local businesses can help promote literacy throughout the City of Orange Township by joining our quest to read 1.5 million pages from Thanksgiving to May Day (May 1st). Visit www.orange.k12.nj.us/PageTurners for more information, a promotional video, and to sign-up for the

challenge. We can make it when everyone joins in to participate. The question is, have you signed up for the challenge? Encourage your neighbor, friend, and/or peer to be part of the challenge!

Elementary and Secondary Breakfast as well as Lunch Menus for the Month of April 2023: Each month, the district through Mr. Tyrone Dorsey's Office (Manager of Food Services) provides all families (pre-kindergarten, elementary and secondary) with robust breakfast and lunch menus. Yes, the district in collaboration with our food services provider Chartwells have created a pre-kindergarten menu as well. All menus are evident on the district and school websites under latest news and information. Please find the link to view all the food choices for the Month of March:

Pre-K: <https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01000601/Centricity/Domain/1/AprilPreschoolMenus.pdf>

Elementary: <https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01000601/Centricity/Domain/1/AprilElementaryMenus.pdf>

Secondary: <https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/cms/lib/NJ01000601/Centricity/Domain/1/AprilSecondaryMenus.pdf>

Board Meeting Dates: The Board of Education voted to change their monthly meetings from Tuesday to Wednesday evenings at the Reorganization Meeting. Kindly review the new dates for SY 22-23.

2023 Board of Education Business Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

Wednesday, July 12, 2023 (This meeting per the BOE will be cancelled)

Wednesday, August 9, 2023

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

***Wednesday, January 3, 2024 - Organization Meeting**

Public Board Meeting Reminder

The next Orange Board Education Public Board Meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 7:30p.m., held at Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation in the Auditorium, 400 Central Avenue, Orange, NJ, 07050. Will Recess until 6:45pm, but no later than 7:30pm.

District Calendar: Families and staff, as you plan your days and weeks, the following link (<https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/Page/31659>.) to the district calendar approved by the Board of Education in February 2022. The calendar can assist you by knowing all days in session and off session. Should you have any questions, you are encouraged to email reopeningofschools@orange.k12.nj.us. Please find the district calendar for SY 23-24 using the following link: <https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/Page/32723>.

District Goals and the Strategic Plan Reminders

As we continue to Move into Greatness, I want our families and staff to continue to engage with the strategic plan and district goals.

The following link is for the District Goals: <https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/Page/30018>.

The following link is for the Strategic Plan: <https://www.orange.k12.nj.us/domain/3344>.

Throughout the course of this year, the reopeningofschools@orange.k12.nj.us email has remained intact in order to answer questions that you may have. While email responses are often returned within hours of receipt, please allow 24-48 hours for an email response. The district wants you to hear from us with all questions that you have. It is very important to keeping staff and families informed, particularly during these times but more importantly for you to get your questions answered directly from district personnel.

As always, I thank you for your continued support and belief in our school district. I extend to each of you a great weekend.

Educationally yours,

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Superintendent of Schools