



OBOE-Mail Blast

September 4, 2015

Volume 5, Number 1

**HAPPY
LABOR
DAY**

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Welcome Back!

The Annual Superintendent's Forum



On September 1, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Ronald C. Lee, welcomed staff to the 2015-2016 school year, at the annual Superintendent's Forum, celebrating the *Year of the Scholar*. Superintendent Lee commented on taking the district higher and digging deeper. He wasn't convinced his audience was responded loudly enough. That was the cue for Ms. Tammy Baldwin, Stage Crew Advisor, to say, "Let me see what I can do." She then pumped up James Brown's *Doing It to Death*, beginning a rousing production

facilitated by Ms. Debbie Rembert, Park Avenue's Dance Instructor and Director of the Orange Dance Conservatory. The Conservatory students danced into the auditorium and onto the stage to the rhythms of *Gonna Have A Funky Good Time*. As the music died down and the dancers left the stage, the curtains opened and the Orange Staff Dance Ensemble, accompanied by the district's instrumental teachers and Principal Robert Pettit, as James Brown, revved up the audience with more music and dance.



Orange Dance Conservatory students.



Mr. Pettit and Orange instrumental instructors.



Orange Staff Dance Ensemble.



Pictured above and right: Opening and closing scenes from the Superintendent's Forum.

After the enthusiastic performance, the audience heard important remarks from Ms. Belinda Scott Smiley, Assistant to the Superintendent for Human Resource Operations. She reviewed several state requirements for educators. There were also comments by the Board President, Ms. Cristina Mateo, as well as remarks by the President of the Orange Education Association, Mr. William Nussbaum and the President of the Orange Administrator's and Supervisor's Association, Ms. Faith Alcantara.

The City of Orange Township was well represented by councilmembers and remarks from the Honorable April Gaunt-Butler, City Council President, and the Honorable Mayor Dwayne D. Warren, Esq. All commented on the district's achievement and expressed anticipation for a successful school year.

With the audience energized, Superintendent Lee gave an overview presentation that included landmark accomplishments for the district, including a projected 91% graduation rate for the high school, being placed on the high school AP honor roll and other student achievements. He also discussed the district's completion of the Middle States Accreditation and the completion of the district's Strategic Plan for 2014-2021. His detailed presentation ended with key initiatives for the school year, all of which will soon be found on the district's website.

His presentation also included several videos highlighting STEM at Scholar's Academy and the Robotics Summer Program that will precipitate a more involved robotics program later this year. The final video was an inspirational piece, by Dr. Peter Benson: *How Parents Can Help Ignite the Hidden Strengths of Teenagers*, which served as the keynote address.

Mr. Lee concluded his presentation by acknowledging staff, schools and departments making notable contributions to the achievement of district goals and objectives. The award designations and recipients are shown below:

<i>Awards</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Position</i>
New Teacher Exemplar	Roshawna Cooper	Park Avenue	ELA, Third Grade
	Joel Lempke	OPA	Global Studies
	Matthew Perkins	OHS	Algebra II
Support Staff Exemplar	Tya Marsch	District	Human Resource Manager
	Joan Purkiss	District	Communications Officer
Paraprofessional Exemplar	Danita Puryear	Early Childhood	
	Maryellen Berberich	Early Childhood	
	Andrea Lee	Early Childhood	
	Bronwyn Stewart	Early Childhood	
Mentorship	Bernard Rawls	Heywood	LtD Teacher
Parental Involvement	Rachel Bland	OACS	Community School Coordinator
	Barry Devone	RPCS	Community School Coordinator
	Stephanie Desanges	OPA	Community School Coordinator
Community Relations	Brian Murdoch		Montclair State University
Technology Integration	Rodney West	District	IT Manager
	William Grenger	District	Database Manager
	Lisa Spotswood Brown	District	Registrar/Information Support Services Manager
	Jason Cordes	District	Technology
	Levar Nelson	District	Technology
	Fay Marchman	District	Technology
	Celestine Onyeagocha	District	Technology
	Tia Burnett	District	Supervisor Testing
	Linda Epps	District	Supervisor Social Studies/Technology Coordinators
	Ellen Raimondi	RPCS	Teacher of Technology
	Tyrina Vaughn	RPCS	Technology Coordinator
	Miriam Martin	Cleveland	Technology Coordinator
	Neurones Plaisimond	Forest	Technology Coordinator
	Anthony St. Jean	Heywood	Technology Coordinator
	Omar Mitchell	Lincoln	Technology Coordinator
Linda Lloyd	OACS	Technology Coordinator	
Denise Harlem	Park	Technology Coordinator	
Tera Phipps	OPA	Technology Coordinator	
Bernice Budhu	OHS	Technology Coordinator	
Naheelah Irving	OHS	Technology Coordinator	
Best Practices	Karen Miola	Oakwood Ave	ELA
	Larry Willis	Oakwood Ave	ELA
	Doreen Cruz	District	CST
	Marcdaline Jean	RPCS	Math
	Hooman Behzadpour	OHS	Math
	Omar Mitchell	Lincoln Ave	Technology Coordinator
	Nina Hefter	Lincoln Ave	ESL
	Jane Siebert	Rosa Parks Community School, CIAO, Scholars	School Nurse
Leadership	Robert Pettit	OACS	Principal
	Yancisca Cooke	Forest	Principal
Superintendent's Award	Laura Sacks	OPA	Nurse
	Belinda Smiley	District	Assistant to the Superintendent for Human Resource Operations
	Dr. Tina Powell	District	Director of Math
	Elliott Lee	District	Community Relations Officer
	Forest Street School	Group Award	
Math and Science Department	Group Award		



Staff acknowledged for receiving their Ed.D



New Teacher Exemplar



Parental Involvement



Mentorship and Support Staff Exemplar



Technology Integration



Technology Integration



Best Practices Exemplar



Leadership Exemplar



Superintendent's Award



Paraprofessional Exemplar

Teachers that achieved the Highest Student Growth Percentile for the 2013-2014 school year, as determined by data received through the New Jersey Department of Education's NJSMART system, were acknowledged for their achievement. They are:



- Jamiliah Rawls
- Wanda Dickson
- Samantha Lazewski
- Sheerene Brown
- Lisa Cantanzarite
- Maisha Jones
- April Stokes
- Elizabeth Tague
- Monique Walker
- Tyarra Hunter
- Marcdaline Jean
- Yolanda Moses
- Louise O'Shea



Heywood Principal F. Alcantara and former Principal K. Machuca



RPCS and Forest Principals, D. Joseph-Charles and Y. Cooke.

The top three schools with the highest overall SGP were acknowledged:

- Heywood Ave
- Forest and Rosa Parks Community School (tied)

The Superintendent also presented awards for *Innovation*, to recognize staff members or programs that bring about change and expanded opportunities for students through innovative initiatives that accelerate academic and artistic achievement, environmental awareness and cultural and social responsibilities.

The awards went to:

1. Early Childhood Department/Scholars' Academy
2. Forest Street School
3. Oakwood Avenue School

Pictured right: OACS Principal R. Pettit, Forest Assistant Principal N. Cowins, OECC Principal J. Blanton and Scholars/OECC II Principal K. Machuca.





OHS former Co-Principal Ms. F. Alcantara and Co-Principals Dr. K. Morgan and Mr. J. Belton

The final award was a plaque presented to Orange High School for *Outstanding Achievement*. **OHS** was recognized for implementing effective change that had a significant impact on the lives of students as evident through improving student achievement and school environment and school climate.

Each recipient school/department was presented with a check to be used to advance their programs.

There is more to share from the Superintendent's Forum - Part 2 coming in next week's E-blast.

What Orange Students Did This Summer . . .

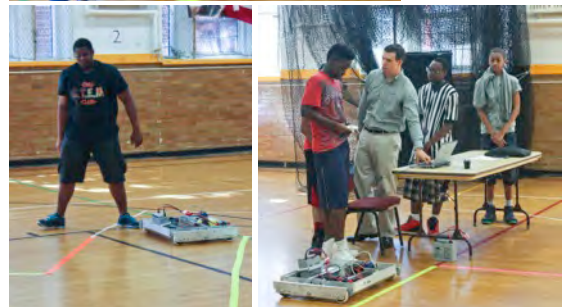
Orange Students Participate in *STEM* Summer Camps

This summer, the Orange Public Schools' Math and Science Department, led by its Director Dr. Tina Powell, launched several learning initiatives for students. These programs provided opportunities for young scholars, as well as teachers, to develop skills for succeeding in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

The *FIRST Lego Robotics & FRC Robotics Programming Summer Camps* offered a 4-week experience to students in grades 4-12. Fifty students participated in the camps.

The *FIRST Lego Robotics Camp* introduced students in grades 4-8 to real-world engineering challenges. Students in this program had the opportunity to design, build, test and program robots using LEGO EV3® technology. They applied real-world math and science concepts, researched challenges facing today's scientists and learned critical thinking, team building and presentation skills. The culminating activity, closing out the summer program, was a robotics tournament amongst the camp members held on August 31. The winning team members were each awarded a Samsung Galaxy Tablet.

Students in grades 9 - 12 who participated in the *FRC Robotics Programming Camp* were taught engineering basics along with engineering design techniques, through the construction of a working FRC Robot.



They demonstrated their programming by having a floor robot dance to music and follow an outlined path, during the culminating event that was attended by family and staff.

The Director of the Robotics Summer Program was Mr. Naseed Gifted. The Program Supervisor was Mr. Shafeek Mohammed, a district Science Supervisor.

Nine of the camp instructors were district teachers who will facilitate robotics programs at each of the district's schools during the school year.



Pictured above and left: Scenes from the Robotics Competition.

In addition to the Robotics Summer Program, the Math & Science Department also launched the Young Science Explorers Camp for rising 6-7th graders interested in hands-on Science and STEM learning. In partnership with Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowship Program at Montclair State University, the program served the purpose of training the young explorers in the use of engineering design processes to solve real problems in the Orange community. Orange Preparatory Academy's Vice Principal, Mrs. Samantha Fossella, led the program.

The Orange Public School District also joined forces with New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) Center for Pre-College Programs to provide more opportunities for Orange Public School students to develop their talents and skills in STEM subjects. A total of 36 Orange Public School students participated in the 5-week program held on the campus of NJIT. The students participated in various programs such as:

- Women in Engineering & Technology (FEMME)
- Introduction to Chemical Industry in Engineering (IChIME)
- Explore Careers in Technology and Engineering (ExCITE)
- Chemical Engineering (CHEM-ENG)
- Fundamentals of Physical Sciences (FPS)
- Fundamentals of Physical Sciences (FPS) – UNITE
- Environmental Science and Engineering (ESEP)
- Pre-Engineering Program (PrEP)
- Aeronautical Engineering Program (AEP)

Additionally, there were other unique opportunities available to students from Orange Public Schools. Five students participated in **ExxonMobil Bernard Harris Summer Science Camp (EMBHSSC)**. The EMBHSSC was a two-week, academic, residential camp that emphasized increasing students' mathematics and science knowledge and skills while introducing them to college life and stimulating their interest in science and engineering as a potential career path. The program was held on the campus of New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), in Newark. This year's theme was **Engineering Your Place in Space**. The camp was organized to provide activities, experiments, projects, and field experiences for middle school students.

Teachers also experienced summer learning. The **Research Experiences for Teachers (RET)** was a collaborative venture of The Engineering Research Center for Structured Organic Particulate Systems (ERC-SOPS) and the Center for Pre-College Programs (CPCP) at NJIT. Two teachers from Orange Public Schools, Drs. Brian Moshofsky and Latha Nair, participated in this 6-week summer research experience. This program was geared towards developing teachers' skills and knowledge of research and pharmaceutical engineering.

2015 Extended School Year Program

The Special Education Department's Extended School Year (ESY) Program, held at Park Avenue School, accommodated students requiring summer instruction to help maintain educational needs and related services.

The program held an Open House on August 7, displaying specific Thematic Units of Study. Students worked throughout the summer to enhance skills in the core subject areas of: language arts, mathematics, social studies and science. All units of study included the integration of technology:

- Traveling Using Google Earth
- Ocean Pollution
- Summer Environment
- Oceans
- Plants
- Extreme Road Trips
- Recycling
- Cultural Heritage
- Ancient Egypt
- Poetry
- Rain Forest
- Simple Machines





Pictured above: Scenes fro ESY Open House.

Parents and district administrators toured the school, visiting each classroom, viewing the various displays and hearing from the students about what they accomplished during the summer.

Park Avenue Winners at the National Bridge Tournament in Chicago

Submitted by Dr. Denise Harlem, Park Avenue School Bridge Club Advisor



Park Avenue's Travelling Bridge Team went to Chicago, Illinois, in August, to compete in the 2015 National Bridge Tournament. This was an exciting opportunity for the team, as they worked hard all year refining their bridge skills by practicing after school. Their efforts paid off! Two team members placed 1st on August 6, making everyone in Orange proud. Giovanni Peterkin and Sayeed Bennett (*pictured left*) managed to outbid and outplay their opponents.

The rest of Park's Bridge team also played well, especially the students new to this level of tournament play.

While in Chicago, the students enjoyed a double-decker trolley tour of the Windy City, a night out at Navy Pier, a walk down the Magnificent Mile, an outing at Grant Park, Chicago pizza, a Chicago Hot Dog Festival, and a trip to the Lincoln Park Zoo. For some of the students, this was their first trip on an airplane!



Pictured above: (Front row) Momo Sacko, Iyahna Barrett, Tamyra Rumble (Back Row) Salbrina Teal, Sayeed Bennett, Giovanni Peterkin, Ibrahima Sacko, Dr. Denise Harlem

“While not everybody went home with a trophy, everyone went home with a smile,” said Park Avenue’s Bridge instructor, Dr. Denise Harlem, who added, “ I would like to thank the Orange Board of Education, the Orange Education Foundation, the many generous donors, and the faculty, parents, and students of Park Avenues School who all helped to make this trip a reality.

More Summer Program Highlights Coming in Next Week’s E-blast!

FYI

Orange Public Schools - Back -to-School-Night Schedule

School	Date	Time
Scholars Academy	September 10	6:00-7:30
Forest Street School	September 14	6:00-8:00
Heywood Avenue School	September 15	5:30-7:30
Lincoln Avenue School	September 16	6:00-8:00
Cleveland Street School	September 17	5:00-7:00
Oakwood Avenue Community School	September 17	6:00-8:00
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	Spetember 30	6:00-8:00

WELCOME BACK

September 2015

TO SCHOOL

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}			



Back to School Night at Scholars Academy!

- Come meet the teachers!
- Learn about the PreK program.
- Light refreshments available.

Thursday, September 10th

6:00-7:30 p.m.

Oasis Café at
Scholars Academy

268 Capuchin Way, Orange



SEE *You* THERE
→