



# OBO E-Mail Blast

SEPTEMBER 28, 2012

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 4



## October 1, 2012 Kicks-Off the Orange Public School District 25 Book Challenge, "Pages for All Ages"

**READY, SET, READ!**

Orange Public Schools presents the

**PAGES FOR ALL AGES  
25 BOOK CHALLENGE!**

October 1, 2012 - May 31, 2013



The district's 25 Book Challenge, "Pages for All Ages" officially kicks-off on Monday, October 1, 2012. Students, families, and community members will be challenged to read 25 or more books now through May 31, 2012. Students in Grades Pre-K may have books read to them to qualify, while students in Kindergarten and First grade will read independently beginning in January 2013. All other students are expected to read chapter books for the challenge.

Schools are gearing up for the 25 Book challenge. Lincoln Avenue School had a kick-off on Friday, September 28, with student performances, and pledges to participate. Cleveland Street School, who

accumulated the most readers last year, also sent pledge notices to families to get a higher rate of participation.

The reading challenge is beneficial to improving the academic strength of students, with an aim of boosting reading levels and comprehension, however, the benefits don't stop there. Incentives and recognition will be given based upon the books entered into the Book Challenge database. Book tickets will be available in all school libraries, the Orange Public Library, and via download. On May 31, 2013, the database will be closed to new entries. The Orange Prize Patrol will be back on the road in June 2013 to recognize the efforts of all students and schools.



Pictured: Lincoln Avenue School kicked-off The 25 Book Challenge with two assemblies, encouraging students to read and meet the district challenge.



## Great American SpellCheck

The Great American SpellCheck will be administered on Wednesday, October 3, 2012. All students in grades 1 – 8, district-wide, will participate in the spelling test for an opportunity to be the best grade level spellers in their school and to prepare for their school Spelling Bees.



For more information about the Great American SpellCheck and the school Spelling Bees, email [orangeis12beat@orange.k12.nj.us](mailto:orangeis12beat@orange.k12.nj.us).

Word lists can be found at <http://www.spellingcity.com>. To access the lists:

1. Select find a list.
2. Select search by username in the dropdown box.
3. Type in orangeis12beat.
4. Select search.



## Teen Summit 2012



The Orange Board of Education presents Teen Summit 2012 on Friday, October 12, 2012, from 6:00 – 9:30 p.m., and Saturday, October 13, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., at Lincoln Avenue School. The Friday evening program will feature, OHS staff member, Mr. Elijah Brown, who will perform in his play, "ManUp". The Saturday program will have a full day of events.

The Teen Summit is open to a limited number of 6th and 7th grade students on Saturday and to 8th through 12th grade students on both days. Flyers and registration forms will be available in all schools and can be found at the end of this newsletter.

There will be a raffle for 2 iPod Touches during the event. To be entered in the raffle, students must return their permission slips by Friday, October 5th. Permission slips will be available in the main offices of all schools, or found at the end of this newsletter. Signed permission slips should be returned to the main offices, in each school, as well.

Learn more about the Teen Summit 2012 on Facebook: <http://Facebook.com/OrangeTeenSummit> and see there promotional video: *Orange Teen Summit 2012 is almost here!!!!*



## Orange High School Ranked the 5th Most Improved High School in New Jersey

Orange High School students have shown significant growth over the past four years, according to an annual New Jersey Public High School ranking compiled and reported in New Jersey Monthly magazine. The August 17, 2012 publication ranked Orange High School (OHS) as the 5th most improved high school in New Jersey. The rankings were based on data reported by the district to the Department of Education for the 2010-2011 school year. OHS has moved from being ranked 315 in the state to a position of 232, representing an improvement of 83 places for the analysis period.



2012 RANK	2010 RANK	2-year change	High School	County	DFG
148	294	146	Elizabeth	Union	A
177	280	103	Asbury Park	Monmouth	A
173	262	89	Pinelands Regional (Tuckerton)	Ocean	B
85	173	88	Pompton Lakes	Passaic	F
232	315	83	Orange	Essex	A
94	176	82	Butler	Morris	D
195	266	71	Pemberton Township	Burlington	B
197	268	71	Burlington City	Burlington	B
125	195	70	Wallkill Valley Regional (Hamburg)	Sussex	D
191	261	70	Rahway	Union	C

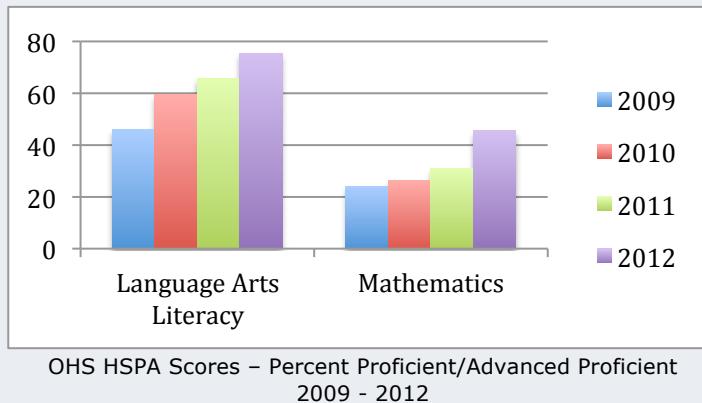
Copyright © 2012 New Jersey Monthly Magazine

"This significant improvement is a testament to the hard work by our school staff and students, our administrative team,

and a supporting community," said Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Ronald C. Lee.

The school's upgrade is largely driven by the improved High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) scores for Orange High School. This past school year, 75.5 percent of all OHS juniors scored as proficient or advanced proficient on the language arts portion of the test, while 45.5 percent scored proficient or advanced proficient on the math segment.

These numbers are significant for the district whose scores have increased steadily over the past four years:



As previously reported by the school district, the 2012 HSPA results are even more significant when the HSPA scores are presented for general education students. When those classified as special education students and students with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) are excluded from the total student population scores, 90.8 percent of students scored proficient or advanced proficient in language arts and 58.6 percent scored proficient or advanced proficient in mathematics.

Orange High School is making great strides in its quest to perform equally with their suburban counterparts that have higher socioeconomic classifications. None are more pleased than the principals of Orange High School, Co-Principals, Ms. Faith Alcantara and Ms. Kalisha Morgan, both graduates of OHS and former elementary school principals within the district. They have been in their current positions for one year.

Both attribute the rise in the school's ranking to the push to offer students afterschool tutoring, SAT and HSPA preparation courses, a variety of extracurricular activities including Robotics, Foreign Language Clubs, Visual and Performing Arts Clubs and organizations and athletics. Orange High School's athletic program mandates that all participating students attend tutoring sessions.

"We have expanded our academic support services for students to give them an opportunity to excel," said Co-Principal, Ms. Faith Alcantara. Students have an individualized plan that provides them with a clear path to prepare for their future beyond high school. Ms. Alcantara adds, "Every Orange High School graduate will leave, either going to a 4 yr. college, 2 yr. college, technical school, the military, or to gainful full time employment." To facilitate workplace readiness, students are supported through vocational training, which will soon include a state of the art culinary program. Further, students are afforded a technology infrastructure to assist them in developing 21st century skills and to provide access to resources to guide their individualized plan. All Orange High School students have school email addresses and families have access to Naviance (a web based career exploration and college preparation tool) and Genesis Student Information System through the Parent/Student Portal, to make both parents and students more knowledgeable and accountable for their plans.

"We are offering students more options and courses for graduation and better equipping students for today's job market," states Co-Principal, Ms. Kalisha Morgan. Orange High School is offering more Advanced Placement (AP) classes and dual credit courses.

"Our partnership with Seton Hall, Montclair State and Kean universities, as well as Essex County College, gives many of our students the opportunity to take college credit courses while still in high school and to experience the rigors of higher education."

"While we still have more work to do, we are very pleased with Orange High School's progress and congratulate our staff and students for their efforts. Our schools are all positioned to support our drive for increased academic excellence and we are pleased with the acknowledgement of our hard work," said Superintendent Lee.

For more information about Orange High School, visit the school's webpage at:  
<http://www.orange.k12.nj.us/ohs/site/default.asp>.

For more information about New Jersey Monthly magazine's 2012 high school rankings, visit:



## Orange Represented at the NBC Education Nation's Teacher Town Hall



Holly Gamble, Special Education Master Teacher for the Orange Public School District, was honored to be one of 300 teachers invited from across the nation to participate in NBC's Education Nation Summit. The third annual event covered three-days of dialog about education by the country's "thought leaders in education, government, business, philanthropy and media".

On Sunday, September 23, Ms. Gamble was a guest at Education Nation's 2012 Teacher Town Hall. The event covered three days and included the two-hour "Teacher Town Hall" held at the New York Public Library.

The Teacher Town Hall aired live on MSNBC. It was moderated by news anchor Brian Williams and featured national correspondent Tamaron Hall and TODAY Show contributing correspondent Jenna Bush Hager. Topics discussed included teacher effectiveness, poverty as it relates to student performance, the Common Core State Standards and parent involvement.

The theme of this year's event was "finding solutions to today's educational issues. Ms. Gamble and other National Board Certified teachers were invited to attend by The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). Ms. Gamble represented Orange Public Schools and NBPTS. She works closely with the National Board and is a member of The DREAM Team (Direct Efforts to Recruit Minorities and a Candidate Support Provider/Mentor to other teachers pursuing National Board Certification. Ms. Gamble mentors teachers in Orange pursuing their certification. "I was proud and honored to have been included in a national dialogue about education," said Ms. Gamble. "It was a thought provoking, interesting and valuable experience."



## Forest Street Welcomes Students and Families at Three Very Important Events

### Forest Street School Starts the New School Year Right!

On September 17th and 18th, Forest Street School welcomed parents for Back to School Night! On September 17th, parents of Forest's Pre-K through fourth grade students attended this exciting event. On September 18th, parents of Forest's fifth through seventh grade students attended despite the inclement weather conditions. On both nights, parents met veteran and new staff members and learned of the great things that Forest's Family has in store for the upcoming year! In addition to meeting the staff, parents had the opportunity to register to vote. Forest's staff and parents came out to show their support and helped to make the new start of the school year one for the books! Go Team Forest!



### **Calling All Grandparents!**

On September 21st, Forest Street School invited students' grandparents to celebrate and honor them! In the weeks leading up to this cherished annual event, classroom teachers had their students write a letter (the lower grades also provided an illustration) to their grandparents. With the help of Ms. Peters, Ms. Giordano and other staff members, students were selected to represent each class. These students were then able to share their letter and illustration with all of the grandparents and students. Grandparents were treated to breakfast and had the opportunity to take a "professional picture," with their grandchild(ren) by Forest's own Mr. Veloz. It was a truly wonderful event that was enjoyed by all!



### **Forest Celebrates the New School Year with a Kick-Off!**

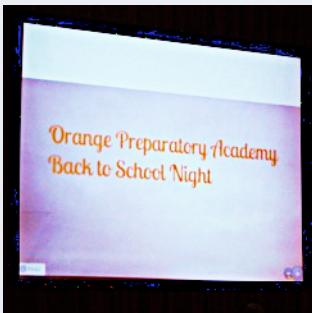
On September 21st, Forest Street School jump-started the year with its annual "Back to School Kick-Off"! From 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., students, parents, and staff enjoyed the opportunity to "kick-back" and to "kick-off" the new school year. Students, parents and staff enjoyed the beautiful afternoon with music, dancing, karaoke, and great food! We would like to thank all of our Forest Street School Families that donated food and their time to make this event a great success! Seeing parents, staff, and students working together while having fun is setting the tone for an awesome school year. GO TEAM FOREST!



*These highlights were submitted by Forest Street School.*



### **Back To School Night at Orange High School, CIAO and Orange Preparatory Academy**



During this past week Orange Public Schools hosted its remaining Back to School Nights providing parents with the opportunity to learn more about their child's schools, their teachers, and the instruction their children will receive in each of their classes. At the various Back to School Nights there was also an opportunity for each school's leadership team to acquaint parents with the school's policies, procedures, and administration. Additionally, there were informational tables offering parents and students voter registration and registration for the various parent/student/teacher organizations. The Back to School Nights took place as follows:

- Orange High School – September 25, 2012, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- Career and Innovation Academy of Orange (CIAO) – September 26, 2012, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- Orange Preparatory Academy – September 27, 2012, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

At Orange High School students and parents heard about senior graduation pictures, visited the library where the Parent Student Teacher Organization (PTSO) offered refreshments, and parents received information from a local physician. There were school service displays including OHS Space.

At CIAO, parents toured the facility and received information about the school's commitment to the students and plans for the year.

At Orange Preparatory Academy, teachers, students and parents heard opening remarks from Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Ronald C. Lee, saw a presentation from the newly appointed principal, Mr. Darrell Medley and were introduced to his administrative team: Assistant Principals, Shadin Belal, Noel Cruz and Samantha Sica Fossella. Parents were able to sign up for the PTSO and received information about the Small Learning Communities, healthcare and the Male Student Support Program.



Pictures (left to right) : At Orange High School parents register for Back to School Night; Co-Principals, Ms. Alcantara and Ms. Morgan greet parents; Space @ OHS display.



Pictured (left to right): Board President, Mrs. Patricia A. Arthur volunteer and "Voters Registration" table, Parents hear from teacher; PTSO serve refreshments.



Pictured (left to right): At Orange Preparatory Academy Principal Medley's presentation to teachers and parents; President of the PTSO, Mr. Lloyd Price, encourages registration; Administrative staff provides information for parents; Families visit Smart Lab



## Orange Athletics Present Cancer Awareness Recognition Day, October 5, 2012



Through Orange High School Athletics, under the direction of Assistant Principal, Mr. Jason Green, Orange Public Schools will again participate in raising funds for Cancer Awareness with its annual Pink-Out Day and football game, scheduled for Friday, October 5, 2012. Last year the district raised \$3,000, which was donated to the American Cancer Society, totaling \$9,000 contributed in three years.

In support of this effort, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Ronald C. Lee has authorized a dress down day to raise funds for this worthy cause. Students who wish to participate and not wear their uniforms will be asked to make a \$1 donation. Employees are asked to make a \$5 donation. Further, the day will culminate with the Pink-Out football game where the Orange High School Tornadoes will play Millburn High School at 7:00 p.m. at Bell Stadium. T-shirts will be sold during the week and at the stadium and all who purchase and don the

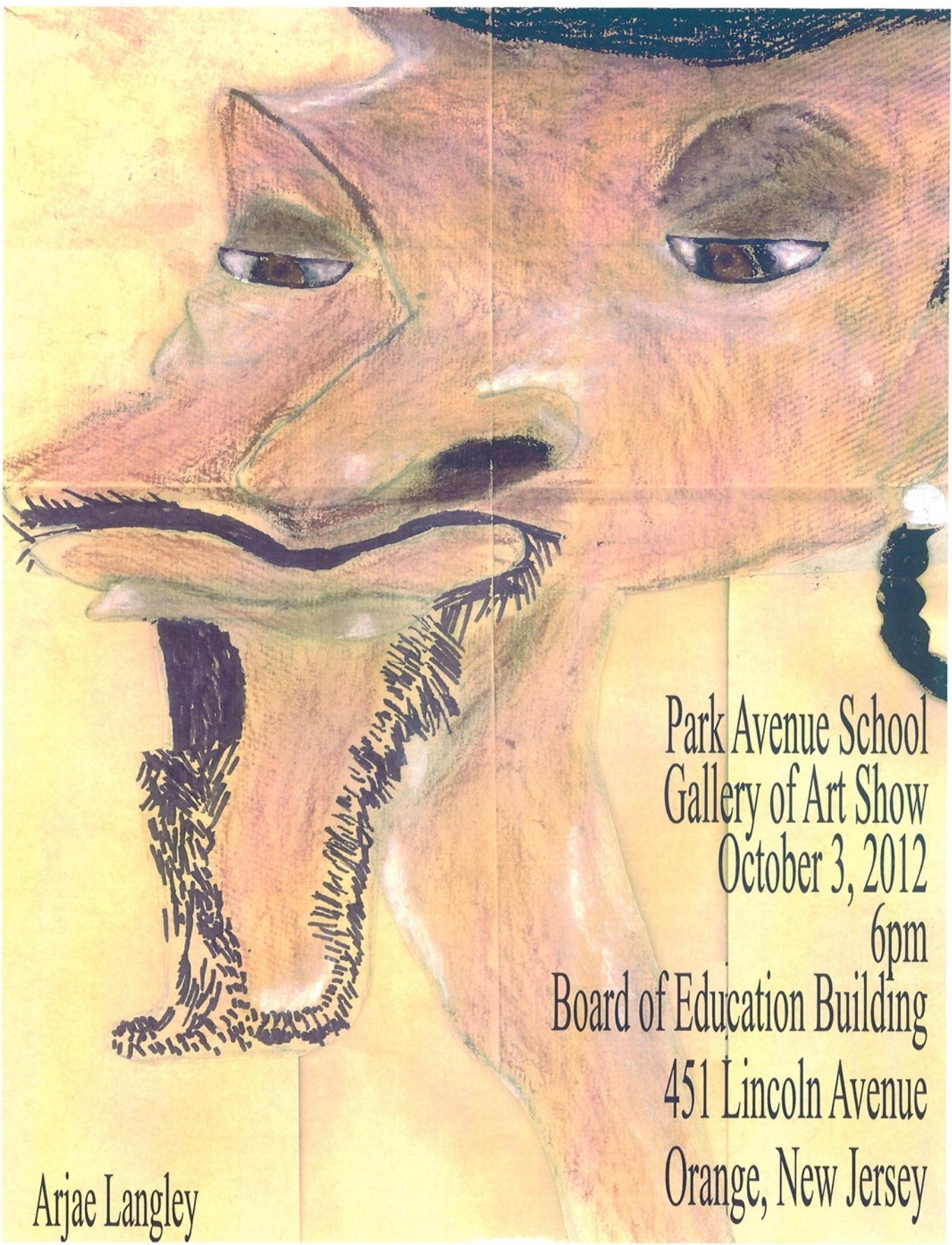
OHS pink cancer awareness shirt will gain free entry to the football game. Shirts purchased last year and worn the night of the game, will also gain fans free entry.



Scenes from 2011 Pink-Out Game event and check presentation to the American Cancer Society.

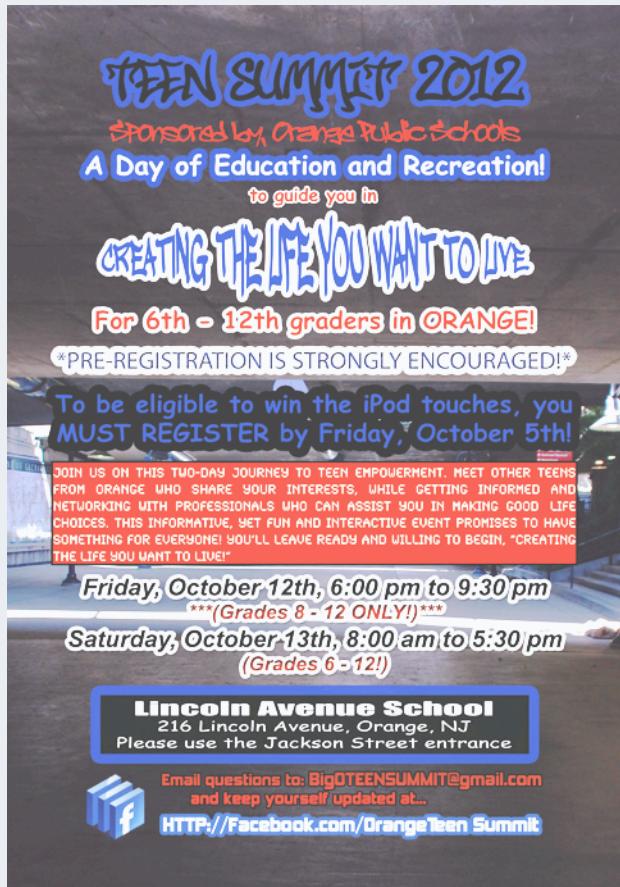
## Coming Attractions

- **Monday, October 1, 2012 – Orange Board of Education 25 Book Challenge Kick-off, "Pages for All Ages"**
- **Wednesday, October 3, 2012 – Orange Board of Education Art Opening, featuring Park Avenue School, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Board of Education Building, 451 Lincoln Avenue, Orange (See flyer below)**
- **Wednesday, October 3, 2012 – Students in grades 1-8 will participate in the "Great American SpellCheck"**
- **Friday, October 5, 2012 – District Pink Out – Cancer Awareness Day Fundraiser and Football Game, 7:00 p.m. at Bell Stadium**
- **Friday, October 12 and Saturday, October 13, 2012 – Teen Summit 2012 at Lincoln Avenue School (See flyer/registration below)**
- **Tuesday, October 16, 2012 – Fire Prevention Assembly for Gr. K-4, 9:30 a.m. at Park Avenue School**
- **Thursday, October 18, 2012 – Welcome Breakfast for parents of ELL students, 7:30 a.m. in library at Park Avenue School**
- **Thursday, October 18, 2012 – Lincoln Avenue School Hispanic Heritage Celebration, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Gymnasium**
- **Sunday, October 21, 2012 – Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, Walk with AAngelsNJ, Orange PBA and Not Orange Organizations, 10:00 a.m. at Military Park, Newark (See flyer below)**
- **Thursday, October 25, 2012 – Welcome Breakfast for parents of Special Needs students, 7:30 a.m. in library at Park Avenue School**
- **Thursday, October 25, 2012 – Forest Street School Hispanic Heritage Celebration, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room, after Starry Story Night event**
- **Friday, October 26, 2012 – Spanish Heritage Celebration, 1:30 p.m. in Café at Park Avenue School**
- **Wednesday, November 7, 2012 – "Jeans for Troops", \$5 Donation to Support Veterans (See flyer below)**



Arjae Langley

Park Avenue School  
Gallery of Art Show  
October 3, 2012  
6pm  
Board of Education Building  
451 Lincoln Avenue  
Orange, New Jersey



**ORANGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TEEN SUMMIT 2012**

**CREATING THE LIFE YOU WANT TO LIVE!**

**Friday, October 12th and Saturday, October 13th**

**Registration**

**Orange Teen Summit for Students in Orange:**

**Friday, October 12th - 6pm to 9:30pm (8th - 12th Grades only)**

Dinner and "manUp" a great play by OHS teacher Mr. Elijah Brown with invited special guest speakers!!

**Saturday, October 13th - 8am to 5:30pm (6th - 12th Grades only)**

Breakfast, Lunch, Performance Workshop, AM/PM Workshops, Division 1 Scholarship Program .... lots more fun and interesting information!

Challenge yourself at our morning performance workshop with the All Stars Talent Show Network and at your selected morning and afternoon workshops:

- Presentation by Rutgers' athletes about Division 1 Scholarship Eligibility and Clearinghouse Information
- Presentation on relationships & responsibilities (for high school students), Project with Orange Inc. (for 6th & 7th grade students)  
\* New this year - Caring Project - Seminars for Newcomers' Academy students (in Creole and Spanish)  
Yan Proje Kap Ede-w & Proyecto de Solidaridad

Place: Lincoln Avenue School, entrance on Jackson Street - Cost: Free!

Raffles - 2 iPod touches, gift certificates, prizes from Reebok. Professional Photo Shoot for a Graduating Senior! and more!

Pre-registration is due by Friday, October 5th in order to be in the iPod touches raffle (NO EXCEPTIONS).

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Did you participate in the Teen Summit 2011 - Part 2 last fall? yes \_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student cell number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name and cell number: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* Please select your morning and afternoon workshops on the back of this page.\*\***

**I give permission for my child to attend the Teen Summit 2012:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I give permission for the possibility of photographs, videos and interviews of my child to be in print, videos, on the web, and/or television.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

**Please return this form to the Main Office at your school or Mrs. Sacks at OPA.**

**Please complete back of this form ->**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

## Please select your workshops:

**You will have two workshops.** We will do our best to give you your first choice.

### **Morning Workshops - Part 1(approximately 12:15pm to 1:15pm):**

Please select **1** for your first choice, **2** for your second choice, **3** for your third choice:

- Hip Hop Dance - with Professional Dance Teacher, Debbie Rembert
- The Art of Self-Defense - with Karate Instructor Heru Aket
- So You Think You Can Sing - with Troy Bell, Nationally known Artist, Producer, Songwriter
- For Girls Only! - with Malika Berry, OPA Social Worker

### **Afternoon Workshops - Part 2 (approximately 4:00pm to 5:00pm):**

Please select **1** for your first choice, **2** for your second choice, **3** for your third choice:

- Ultimate Frisbee Fundamentals - with Ben Haim, award-winning Columbia H. S Team Coach
- Kitchen Cabinet Beauty Secrets & Makeovers - with William Marshall, noted Make-Up Artist
- Jazz Funk Dance - with Professional Dance Teacher, Debbie Rembert
- Acting - with Wendy McKenzie, Professional Casting Director and Acting Coach
- HIP HOP Culture in Music and Publishing - with Don Morris, Creative Director of The Source



**Please Join Us!**  
**AAngelsNJ, Orange PBA and Not Orange!**



Come walk with AAngelsNJ, Orange PBA, Not Orange and other community members as we Make Strides and fundraise to support the fight against breast cancer. Celebrate a world with less cancer and more birthdays! Help the American Cancer Society to raise funds for research and to provide more services to cancer patients and families.

If you are interested in joining our Team or making a donation, please register by clicking link below or donate online.

[http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?fr\\_id=47308&pg=team&team\\_id=1212422](http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?fr_id=47308&pg=team&team_id=1212422)

**Making Strides Against Breast Cancer**  
**Sunday, October 21, 2012**  
**Walk begins at 10:00 AM**  
**Military Park**  
**Park Place & Broad Street**  
**Newark, New Jersey**



#### **Mission Statement:**

Our mission is to serve and provide resources to underserved and underinsured individuals and families. We are committed to educating and navigating them through issues surrounding Preventive Care, Pre- and Post- Breast Cancer diagnosis and all aspects of Breast health.

**\$5**  
to help our troops

- Find Jobs
- Go to College
- Get Health Care
- Find Housing

## Jeans For **Troops**

November 7, 2012

To learn more contact Alex Manis at (973) 830-7275 or [manis@gigofund.org](mailto:manis@gigofund.org)

The G.I.  Go Fund  
Where Veterans Go Forward

Participating employers collect a \$5 donation from each willing employee. In exchange, participating employees are allowed to wear jeans to work on Wednesday, Nov. 7. Proceeds are donated to The G.I. Go Fund.

Make checks payable to: The G.I. Go Fund. Contributions can be mailed to: The G.I. Go Fund, PO Box 1777, New Brunswick, NJ 08903  
The G.I. Go Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that assists returning veterans and homeless veterans.

