



OBO *E-Mail* Blast

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Superintendent's Forum Kicked Off the School Year with The Orange Academy Awards

Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Ronald C. Lee, opened the 2012 -2013 school year for staff members with the *Orange Academy Awards*. The event, conducted in the fashion of an awards ceremony, opened with Mr. Lee addressing the audience from the new Smart Lab at Orange Preparatory Academy and introducing some of the many innovations that staff can look forward to this school year. Following the opening video, Mr. Lee entered the stage and welcomed back 1,000 plus Orange Public School District staff members, declaring that this year's Superintendent's Forum was about "them" and acknowledging the contributions they have made to the district.

There were brief comments from Mrs. Patricia Arthur, President of the Orange Board of Education, Ms. Tency Eason, President of the City Council, who spoke on behalf of the Honorable Mayor Dwayne D. Warren, Esq., Ms. Faith Alcantara, President of the Orange Administrators and Supervisors Association and Ms. Mary Karriem, President of the Orange Education Association. When the speakers concluded, Mr. Lee introduced the [2011-2012 District Report](#), a 20-minute video on the district's activities, initiatives and budget overview for the past year. The report was well received by the audience.

Following the report, Sankofa, the district's staff choir, led by vocal music teacher, Mr. Ryan LaBoy, wonderfully sang "Hero" written by Mariah Carey, which Mr. Lee dedicated to the great job all the district workers do for the students of Orange.

The awards portion of the program commenced with acknowledgement of new staff members who stood in the audience along with newly promoted administrators. Following were presentations of certificates to the district's Common Core State Standards Professional Learning Community, Technology Coordinators, National Board Certified staff and those on their way to receiving their certifications through the Take One! program. For award details visit www.orange.k12.nj.us.

Next on the agenda were the district's "Oscars". Aided by Orange High School students, award categories were read and Mr. Lee presented awards to teachers, administrators, support staff and members of the community for their contributions and support. Staff members were presented with awards in the areas of Best Practices, Leadership, Innovation, Family Advocacy, New Teacher Exemplar, Team Excellence, Support Staff Exemplar, Orange Citizenship, Community Relations, Mentorship, Perfect Attendance and the Superintendent's Award. Community members, Mr. Lloyd Price and Mrs. Alesia Price, received an award for Volunteerism/Support for their dedication and contributions to the parent organizations and the schools. Ms. Barbara Clark, retired Director of Special Services, received the Community Relations award for her work with the Orange Education Foundation and the district's Bridge teams.

The *Orange Academy Awards* ended with check presentations, from \$500 to \$10,000, for improvements made in student academic achievement. All of Orange's schools were recipients of checks to be added to their budgets for notable academic standings in such areas as: greatest increase in proficiency for English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science; percent proficient students in each of these test areas and numbers of students with perfect scores. Cleveland Street School received the most check awards of all the schools and Orange High School (OHS) was awarded a plaque for "Significant Improvement and Turnaround". This plaque was given to OHS for significant improvement in the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) scores. This improvement was recently recognized in New Jersey Monthly Magazine's report on the top public high schools in the state. Orange High School was rated the 5th most improved high school over a two year period, moving from the 315th ranked high school to the 232nd ranked school; moving 83 positions in a 2-year period. Staff members applauded all schools for their achievements and cheered the grand finale, a dance performance by the staff dance ensemble, led by dance instructor, Ms. Debbie Rembert. The program ended as staff dancers left the stage to "Celebration", by Kool and the Gang and what a celebration it was!

Mr. Lee recognized those involved in the coordination of the program and the students for giving their time to assist in the *Orange Academy Awards*. The students presenting awards were: Lounie Germain, Aphnie Germain, Micaelia Gibson, Uchenna Eze, Serena Constant, Tiffany Bowman and Khatiana Constant. Also thanked was former student Miles Mosley, for his assistance during the opening segment, and OHS junior Keith Greene, for providing exciting drumrolls.

Images from the Orange Academy Awards



Pictured above: Orange Academy Awards student presenters; New staff members are acknowledged; Mr. LaBoy conducts Sankofa.



Pictured above: Take One teachers receive certificates; Support Staff Exemplar awardees; Sucrurity Gaurds, Dawn Latney and Frank Bowen, Team Excellence awardees.



Pictured: Ms. Gloria Stewart receives the Orange Citizen Award; Dr. Terri Russo receives a Superintendent's Award; Check award to Cleveland Street School.



Pictured: Mr. Lee presents more check awards; OHS receives plaque for significant improvement; Dr. Howard presents Mr. Lee with an award for his leadership.



Pictured: The staff dance ensemble performs at the Orange Academy Awards.



Pictured: Award recipients Barbara Clark and Mr. and Mrs. Price; Group picture of award recipients; Professional Learning Community certificate recipients.



New Administrators Named for the Orange Public School District

At the monthly Board of Education Meeting on August 14 and August 30, 2012, the Orange Board Members, led by Board President, Mrs. Patricia A. Arthur, approved the following appointments:

- Dr. Mary Teresa Russo was appointed Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Professional Development and Assessment after serving as Teacher on Assignment in that position during the latter part of the 2011-2012 school year.
- Ms. Linda Epps was appointed to the position of Supervisor of History/Social Studies and Technology, which includes responsibilities for the district's history curriculum, the technology coordinators and technology integration in the classroom.
- Mr. Darrell Medley was confirmed as the Principal of Orange Preparatory Academy. He has served as Interim Principal, since Ms. Shelley Harper took the position as Interim Director of Special Services.
- Ms. Shelley Harper was confirmed as Director of Special Services, after serving as Interim Director. She will oversee all special services needs, HIB Policy, Registration, Guidance and Health requirements in the district.
- Ms. Shadin Belal was appointed to the position of Assistant Principal, Orange Preparatory Academy, replacing Mr. Medley. As part of her responsibilities, Ms. Belal will support literacy instruction.
- Dr. Patrick Howell, Assistant Principal at Orange Preparatory Academy was transferred to Orange High School, following the promotion of Assistant Principal, Jason Belton. At Orange High School, Dr. Howell will also support the science curriculum for grades 10 – 12.
- Ms. Samantha Sica Fossella was named Assistant Principal at Orange Preparatory Academy, replacing Dr. Howell. Ms. Fossella was formerly a Science Master Teacher for the district. As part of her role as Assistant Principal, she will support the science curriculum for grades 8 and 9.
- Ms. Erika Hackett is the new Science Supervisor for students in grades K – 7. Ms. Hackett was formerly a Science Master Teacher for the district.
- Mr. Jason Belton (previously approved) is the new Principal for the Career and Innovation Academy of Orange (CIAO). CIAO is a new school replacing the Orange Alternative Program housed at 123 Cleveland Street.



Art Club Personalizes Classroom With Verve

Under the direction on Christopher Cosmillo, art instructor at Orange High School, several of his art club students met during the summer to redo his classroom with a visual display of their talents. They also lent their talent to painting murals at Central School. The art club students involved are: Maquelin Santana, Natasha Andrews, Garfield Amay, Ashanti Van Eckelen and alumni Dillon Smartt.



Pictured: The entrance to Mr. Cosmillo's classroom and inside the class, located in trailer B paintings inside the class.



The Orange High School Library Gets A New Look

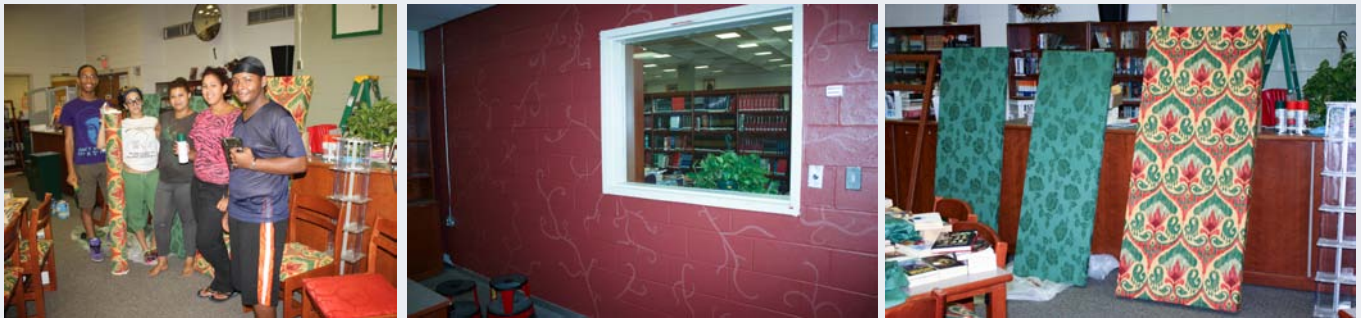
During the summer break, several students from the Orange-U-A-Stich sewing club at Orange High gathered at the school's library to lend a hand redecorating the space. "Working with the librarian, Mrs. Margaret Cunningham, students helped in planning the work to be done to give the library a makeover," said Mrs. Megan Guerriero, the club advisor and fiber arts teacher.

The students met for several days in August to begin work, unloading supplies and preparing the space. This is "decorating on a dime," said Mrs. Cunningham, Media Specialist for the library, who helped to organize the effort and is also planning to update the library's catalog system for student use.

New canvas wall hangings, newly upholstered chairs and a fresh coat of paint are some of the highlights of the redecorated library, which will soon include new curtains to accompany the revamped conference room and reading space.



Pictured: Club members (left to right) Destiny Diaz, Amanda Valentino, Neidalie Guzman, Charles Moss, and Shaun Atkins; Club members shown unloading supplies; Club members preparing library conference room for painting.



Pictured: Club members in the library; The newly painted conference room; The wall hangings.

Coming Attractions

- **Saturday, September 8 – Rising Tide Community Business Academy, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. at Rosa Parks Central Community School (See flyer below)**
- **Monday, September 10 - First Day of School for Students and Million Father March (See flyer below)**
- **Tuesday, September 11 – Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Policy Training, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Board of Education Building**
- **Tuesday, September 11 – Monthly Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Orange Preparatory Academy Auditorium**
- **Saturday, September 15, 4th Annual Hassan C. Miller, Jr. Anti-Violence Basketball Classic, 2012 Monte Irvin Orange Park, from 1:00 PM – 7:00 (See flyer below)**
- **Monday, September 27 – Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Policy Training, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., Board of Education Building**



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To **RSVP** call 201-432-4316 x. 111 or e-mail Tia@RisingTideCapital.org

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CALLING ALL MEN

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on the First Day of School for the

Million Father March

**First 50 Men To Arrive
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**The First in a Series of Activities Designed to Increase
Parental Involvement of Men**

Monday ~ September 10, 2012

- 1. Walk your child to school (Grades Pre k - 5)**
- 2. Meet the Principal and Teacher**
- 3. Obtain information about school activities**

All Elementary Schools Are Participating

**Contact Matt Stevens, Department of Special Programs
(973) 677-4000 (ext. 6086) StevenMa@Mail.orange.k12.nj.us**

Mayor Dwayne D. Warren, Esq.

MOVING ORANGE FORWARD

COME TO THE 4TH ANNUAL HASSAN C. MILLER, JR. ANTI-VIOLENCE BASKETBALL CLASSIC



**Saturday, September 15, 2012
Monte Irvin Orange Park
From 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM
FOOD • GAMES • REFRESHMENTS**

The 4th Annual Hassan C. Miller, Jr. Anti-Violence Basketball classic will begin at 4:00 PM. There will be food, games, refreshments and back-to-school drug & alcohol awareness giveaways. (Giveaways are limited. First come, first serve basis)

For Information

Call Sandra Barrera at 973-266-4003



Honorable Dwayne D. Warren, Esq.
Mayor

Municipal Council

Honorable Hassan Abdul-Rasheed
West Ward Councilmember

Honorable Elroy A. Corbitt
Councilmember-At-Large

Honorable Tency A. Eason
North Ward Councilmember

Honorable April Gaunt-Butler
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East Ward Councilmember

Honorable Edward B. Marable, Jr., Esq.
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