

# Franklin Township Public School District 2010 Convocation



# 2010 Convocation Agenda

**Welcome Back – Edward Q. Seto, Superintendent**

**Welcome – Eva M. Nagy, Board President**

***World: “What kind of world do you want?”***

***By Five for Fighting***

**Convocation Address – Edward Seto**

**New Staff Introductions – Edward Seto**



# *World by Five for Fighting*

***“What kind of world do you want?  
Think Anything  
Let's start at the start  
Build a masterpiece  
Be careful what you wish for  
History starts now...”***



# *What kind of world do you want?*

- A world where people support each other and celebrate their life's passions
- A world in which all people are valued for who they are
- One where confidence, integrity, and trust in the education system are earned and shared by all stakeholders
- One that is seen through the eyes of a five year old
- A world where all children are every adult's first priority; a world that understands the magnitude of their potential and is willing to invest all of its resources, time and energy into shaping their lives, growing their potential, building their capacity and loving them enough to sacrifice themselves – without reward or recognition
- Peaceful, Polite, Moral, Courteous, Friendly, Compassionate, Helpful, Understand, Non-violent, Non-judgmental, Healthy



# *What kind of world do you want?*

**A world where children are truly valued and caregivers are truly supported**

- What
- Why
- Who
- When



# 2010 Convocation

**Celebrating Our Achievements**

**Continuing Our Work**



# Celebrating our Achievements

## Franklin High School

Principal: Dr. Neely Hackett

- **FHS Teacher of the Year: Michael Pinnix**
- **Somerset County Teacher of the Year: Carl Blanchard, in running for State Teacher of the Year**
- **HSPA Cycle 2 2010 Results, first time 11<sup>th</sup> graders**
  - **In the area of LAL HSPA 86.1% of our total students achieved proficiency, an increase of 4.6% from the previous school year**
  - **Also in LAL, 45.9% of special education students achieved proficiency, an increase of 10.6% from the previous school year**
  - **In the area of Mathematics, 65.9% of our total students achieved proficiency, an increase of 1.3% from the previous school year**





# Celebrating our Achievements

## Franklin High School's New Field





# Celebrating our Achievements

## Franklin Middle School

Principal: Roberta Mitchell

- Teacher of the Year: Michelle Murray
- Joined the Rutgers Institute for Improving Student Achievement (RIISA) Middle Grades Network, five teachers and Principal attended workshops about differentiated instruction, formative assessments, connecting literacy and math to other content areas and attending to 21st Century challenges
- Posted motivational wall posters and pictures
- Reconfigured the building creating content hallways to increase collaboration between teachers and classrooms



# Celebrating our Achievements

## Sampson G. Smith School

Principal: Eileen Brett

- Teacher the Year: Robert Burt
- Established a partnership with the PTO leadership where the members of the school family work together to learn more about the reading and writing workshop in order to better support and encourage student achievement in the area of literacy



# Celebrating our Achievements

## Conerly Road School

**Principal: Donna Silva-Burnett**

- **Teacher of the Year: Lisa Ann Zoldi**
- **Acknowledged by Rutgers University for participating in the U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Science “Classroom Strategies Scale” from which a tool will be created to improve elementary education and instruction**
- **Peacemakers and Movie-Makers received Township commendation for dedication to educating youth**
- **Accepted into Rider University Teacher Leadership Institute, a two-day event with professional development for teacher leaders and mentors**



# Celebrating our Achievements

## Elizabeth Avenue School

Interim Principal: Nubeja Allen

- Teacher of the Year: Patricia Martinelli
- Planted an Edible Garden made possible through a grant from the Franklin Foundation for Educational Excellence
- Sent two teams to the regional level of the Odyssey of the Mind competition





# Celebrating our Achievements

## Franklin Park School

**Principal: Nicole Scott**

- **Teacher of the Year: Jaya Maharajh**
- **Franklin Park School teachers participated in a monthly book study of selected professional texts relative to literacy, math and best practice, these texts were shared amongst the staff and newly learned strategies were applied to daily lessons**
- **Pre-k-4 students read 306,289 minutes in the FPS 10 Day Reach for the Stars Reading Program**
- **Dr. Dana Sheriden from Princeton University Cotsen Children's Library presented trunk shows to k-4 students, making rare books come alive**



# Celebrating our Achievements

## Hillcrest School

**Principal: Joan Harris**

- **Teacher of the Year: Alexandria Thomas**
- **Fifth year school has held Caring Drives collecting items for soldiers, the second drive this year resulted in 16 boxes that Adopt-a-Soldier-Platoon shipped out to 11 different units in Iraq and Afghanistan; students messages were included**
- **Offered special activities for TV Turn-Off Week including contests and a special night featuring a “bookworm-like” experience, and a game-like bingo**
- **Encouraged participation in summer reading contests**





# Celebrating our Achievements

## MacAfee Road School

**Principal: William Grippo**

- **Teacher of the Year: Fran Diamante**
- **Implemented a “Garden of Readers” reading incentive program for students, including several parent/child reading nights, one of which featured guests from the Rutgers Football Team**
- **Opened a greenhouse made possible by the Franklin Foundation for Educational Excellence**
- **Established a school-wide and parent Wellness and Nutrition Committee**



# Celebrating our Achievements

## Pine Grove Manor School

Principal: Jennifer Whitner

- Teacher of the Year: Caroline Chemerynski
- Launched Reading is OUT OF THIS WORLD Summer and 2010-11 Reading Initiative; continued to provide all students with five new books for summer reading
- Implemented Cultural Literacy Connections-Summer Enrichment for PGM Families made possible through an FTEEA grant
- Planted edible garden made possible through grant from Franklin Foundation for Educational Excellence



# Celebrating our Achievements

## Departments

- **Assessment and Accountability:** Provided Reporting Achievement newsletters (English, Spanish, and Gujarati) to parents to explain the new k-4 Standards-Based Report Card; topics included Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies
- **English Language Learners:** Met both AMAO benchmarks (the AYP of English Language Learners based on the ACCESS State test)
- **Fine Visual and Performing Arts:** Honored by being selected to host site the annual NJ State Council on the Arts annual spring meeting due to recognition as a "Model School for Excellence" in the Arts; a spokesperson from the group said we were the most finely articulated K - 12 FVPA program in the state and likely the nation



# Celebrating our Achievements

## Departments

- **Health and Physical Education:** Added several different electives into activity schedule that meets the interest of all students, such as Pilates, yoga, kickboxing and the rock wall
- **Language Arts Literacy:** Marked the end of the first year for READ 180 with huge success for 6th and 7th grade students, with plans to expand the program to include 5th and 8th grades so more may benefit
- **Mathematics:** Instituted a common midyear mathematics assessment for grade 6 students to help raise teacher expectations of students, assessment based on newly created, detailed, standards-based curriculum maps, sample lesson strategies and benchmark assessments



# Celebrating our Achievements

- **Science/Mathematics:** District chosen as one of seven partners in the region to be awarded a Math Science partnership grant from the NJDOE, made possible through Federal funding, to support professional development for math and science teachers; total amount of this grant, up to \$592,000
- **Science:** Received a \$92,500 Bridge to Employment grant from Johnson and Johnson in conjunction with Raritan Valley Community College to assist students in their preparation for college or pursuit of a healthcare career; summer session held at FHS was a huge success
- **Social Studies:** Instituted “Reading Like a Historian” from Stanford University, as well as, numerous other web-based tools to integrate technology into the curriculum
- **World Languages:** Added Introduction to Mandarin course and Introduction to Hindi course to the FHS 2009-2010 language offerings



# Celebrating our Achievements

## Departments

- **Advocacy and School Management:** Successfully held our third district-wide Harmony Day, celebrating the rich cultural diversity of our schools and community
- **Buildings and Grounds:** Participating in the Somerset County Improvement Authority Renewable Energy Initiative which will result in the installation of solar energy panels at no cost to our District at: Franklin Park School, Elizabeth Avenue School, Pine Grove Manor School and Franklin High School
- **Business Office:** Received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the thirteenth year in a row from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.





# Celebrating our Achievements

## Departments

- **Communications:** The 2010-2011 Budget Newsletter earned a Gold award from the New Jersey School Public Relations Association
- **Food Services:** Instituted MealpayPlus ([www.mealpayplus.com](http://www.mealpayplus.com)), a state-of-the-art online student meal account management service, which parents may access either on the Web or by phone
- **Personnel Services:** Handled placements for over 230 positions this summer
- **Pupil Personnel Services:** Recipient of \$2 million Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Grant to be used to support special education students and will be used to construct four new special education classrooms at the Franklin Park Annex, to purchase one wheelchair van, and to purchase computer carts for the special education program



# Continuing Our Work

## Guided by District Goals

- **Student Achievement**
- **Public Relations/Community Engagement**
- **School Safety and Security**
- **Facilities**



# Continuing Our Work

## All Goals Tie to Student Achievement

***Student Achievement:*** Design, implement and assess high quality learning activities and opportunities that improve teaching and the academic achievement of all students, as measured by district and state assessments.



# Continuing Our Work

## 2010-2011 Professional Development Plan

- A focused framework that aligns professional development opportunities with identified priority problem areas and school level plans
- The four big ideas of professional development:
  - Standards Based Instruction
  - Reporting Achievement
  - Formative Assessment
  - Positive Behavior Support Program
- Transition to using multiple types of data to guide planning from using single standardized scores to determine needs
- NJ's new professional development initiative requires district professional development plans to include integration of school based plans



# Continuing Our Work

## 2010-2011 Professional Learning Communities

- “A professional learning community is a team or group of teams working interdependently to achieve a common goal for which members hold themselves mutually accountable.” -- Dufour, 2006
- NJDOE currently requires all schools to organize and implement Professional Learning Communities to plan professional learning opportunities.
- The Professional Learning Communities that were launched in all of our schools in 2009-2010 will continue to evolve and strengthen the work that began during the last school year.



# Continuing Our Work

## Aligning Content Curricula to Common Core Standards

- Mission Statement

The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. With American students fully prepared for the future, our communities will be best positioned to compete successfully in the global economy.

- Thirty-six states across the country have adopted the common core standards in all content areas, including New Jersey, on June 23, 2010.





# Continuing Our Work

## Aligning Content Curricula to Common Core Standards

- The review of the newly adopted common core standards has begun in our district and over the 2010-2011 school year we will begin unpacking the standards by:
  - conducting a gap analysis between core standards and current curriculum
  - identifying the content that must be addressed and identifying and providing differentiated instructional strategies per unit of study
- Action Plans were created to guide the work of grade level and faculty meetings as well as in-service days for the upcoming year.



# Continuing Our Work

## Aligning Content Curricula to Common Core Standards

- Aussie consultants, in collaboration with district directors, supervisors and principals, will be facilitating our work as we unpack the common core standards by content area.
- Consultants will be working directly in schools with district and building administrators and teachers.



## What kind of world do we want?

***“Only organizations that have  
a passion for learning will have  
an enduring influence.”***

***-- Covey, Merrill & Merrill, 1996***

