

# District Highlights

## Superintendent Opens District With Bells



Superintendent Dr. B. LeFra Young and principal Linda Bailey join board members and assistant superintendents on the steps of Cramer School to ring in the 2007-2008 school year.

September 6, 2007 marked the first day of school for Camden City Public School students. Superintendent Dr. B. LeFra Young, board members and administrative staff rang in the 2007-2008 school year with an official "bell ringing" ceremony on the steps of the Alfred Cramer Elementary School. Principal Linda Bailey was presented with a monogrammed brass bell that welcomed students and parents to the school.

School Board President Sara T. Davis, Vice President Martha F. Wilson, and Board Members Susan Dunbar-Bey and Kathryn Blackshear joined the superintendent and her staff as she toured the schools. Symbolic bell ringing ceremonies and bell presentations to principals were held during the two-day tour.

*"We should celebrate the beginning of the school year with our students and parents,"* stated Dr. Young. *"A bell ringing is a traditional and symbolic way to start a new era in education in the city of Camden."*

## Grand Opening: Catto School & Boys and Girls Club Partner



Pictured (left to right) Mayor Gwendolyn A. Faison, Board Vice President Martha F. Wilson, Principal Robin Wyche, Superintendent of Schools Dr. B. LeFra Young, Boys and Girls Club Director Milford Liss and School Board Member Susan Dunbar-Bey pose with students during ribbon cutting ceremony.

The new Octavius V. Catto Community School and the Boys and Girls Club of Camden County opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, August 22, 2007. Sponsored by the Camden Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and the Camden City Public School District, city officials and district personnel welcomed the community to the new facility. Milford Liss of the Boys and Girls Club of Camden County and Principal Robin Wyche will head the new facility. The school has a 500 seat auditorium and a new gymnasium. The olympic-size swimming pool in the attached Boys and Girls Club will be available during the day for district activities.

## Student Wins Local Soap Box Derby

Congratulations to seventh grade student Caliph Washington, from South Camden Alternative School. Caliph was the Region 10 winner in Camden's Soap Box Derby Stock Car Division competition held June 16, 2007.

Students ages 8 - 17 years are required to build their own cars, with some help from an adult, to be used in the race. The event, sanctioned by the All-American Soap Box Derby and sponsored by the Camden Department of Health and Human Services, was held at the Dr. Ulysses S. Wiggins Waterfront Park, Camden, New Jersey.

Since 1934, the goal of the Soap Box Derby has been to teach children skills such as workmanship, the spirit of competition and the perseverance to continue a project to completion. The program promotes family and offers children an opportunity to build not only cars, but experiences that last a lifetime.



Student Caliph Washington holds his trophy with principal, Dr. Mary Edwards-Andrews.

## Actress Speaks at District High Schools



Actress and Camden native Tasha Smith (far right) signs copies of posters from her latest movie Tyler Perry's "Why Did I Get Married?" for Camden High School students.

Camden native Tasha Smith visited Camden students in October bringing a message of hope. Ms. Smith shared her story of growing up in the mean streets of Camden. She encouraged students to "follow your dream" and "don't give up." During her visit to Camden High School, Smith received a key to the city from Mayor Gwendolyn A. Faison.

While promoting her recent film, Tyler Perry's "Why Did I Get Married?", the actress took time out of her busy schedule to come home to Camden, New Jersey. After speaking to students, Ms. Smith signed posters of her new movie for students. Her other film credits include "The Whole Ten Yards," "ATL" and "You, Me and Dupree."

## Music Teacher Wins Milken Foundation Award

Keeping a secret in a small school is one thing, but keeping a secret about an award as prestigious as the Milken Educator Award was hard to bear. On October 11, 2007 the secret came out. At a surprise ceremony held at the Creative Arts High School, Commissioner of Education Lucille E. Davy announced Jamal Dickerson, music teacher at the school, as the recipient of the Milken Family Foundation Educator Award.

The Milken Family Foundation was established in 1985. It is the largest teacher recognition program in the United States. The award comes with an unrestricted financial award of \$25,000. Congratulations Mr. Jamal Dickerson!



Flanked by his music students, Jamal Dickerson (middle) holds a replica of a check that is given along with the Milken Family Foundation Education Award.

# Around The District

Throughout the school year and during the summer months, Camden students and staff are busy with training, workshops, academics and other activities that enhance the educational experience. Curriculum and

instruction is supported through after school activities as well as culturally diverse programs. The following are highlights of a few student and staff activities and events that began the 2007-2008 school year.

## State Board of Education

Each month the State Board of Education gives one high school student a chance to speak about a relevant social or education issue. Student Jose Tavarez from MetEast High School was selected and spoke about his life and the positive experience at MetEast High School.



## Wal-Mart Teacher of The Year

Vocal music teacher, (Miriam) Suzzette Ortiz, was named top teacher in the state of New Jersey by the 12th Annual Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year Program. The Wal-Mart Foundation presented the principal, Dr. Coe-Brockington, a \$10,000 educational grant on behalf of Ms. Ortiz.



## School Uniforms

The district's mandatory uniform program is in its second year. Students from the Alfred Cramer Elementary school began the school year with their blue and white. Wearing uniforms make a difference in the way students learn. Uniform colors vary by school. Contact your school for more information.



## Dr. Young Welcomes Students

September 6th marked the opening of the 2007-2008 school year for Camden students. Superintendent Dr. B. LeFra Young, board members and administrative staff greeted students and their parents with handshakes, hugs and smiles as they entered their school building for the first time this year.

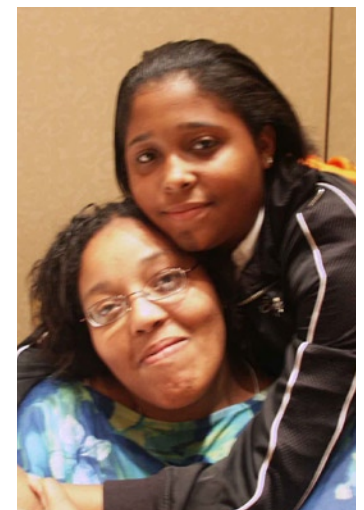
## Administrators Workshop

Each year the district holds a workshop for school principals, supervisors and administrator's. Information regarding curriculum, school finance, accountability, and department of education requirements are presented during the workshop.



## Mother/Daughter Retreat

The School Based Youth Services (SBYS) Program sponsored a Mother/Daughter Retreat in October. The weekend included separate workshops for mothers and daughters and an evening pamper party. Participants received pamper kits, T-shirts and bookbags.





## September 2007 Outstanding Student Attendance

*The following schools have the highest average attendance in their category for the month of September.*

<b>High School</b>	<b>Principal</b>	<b>Attendance %</b>
<b>MetEast High School</b>	<b>Mr. Timothy Jenkins, Vice Principal</b>	<b>97.1%</b>
<b>Middle School</b>	<b>Principal</b>	<b>Attendance %</b>
<b>East Camden Middle School</b>	<b>Ms. Patricia Kenny, Principal</b>	<b>92.7%</b>
<b>Family School</b>	<b>Principal</b>	<b>Attendance %</b>
<b>R.T. Cream Elementary School</b>	<b>Ms. Joyous Carey, Acting Principal</b>	<b>96.8%</b>
<b>Elementary School</b>	<b>Principal</b>	<b>Attendance %</b>
<b>U. S. Wiggins Elementary School</b>	<b>Ms. Danette Sapowski, Acting Principal</b>	<b>96.9%</b>

**Total District Student Attendance for September 2007 = 91.3%**



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201 N. Front Street  
Camden, New Jersey 08102  
(856) 966-2000  
<http://www.camden.k12.nj.us>

### Central Administration

Dr. B. LeFra Young  
Superintendent of Schools

Andrea Kirwin  
Assistant Superintendent

Reuben F. Mills  
Assistant Superintendent

Luis A. Pagan  
Assistant Superintendent

James J. Devereaux  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

### Board of Education

Sara T. Davis, President  
Martha F. Wilson, Vice-President

Amalia Adame  
Kathryn Blackshear  
Susan Dunbar-Bey  
John E. Gilliams, Ph.D.  
Luis A. Lopez, Ph.D.  
Theo Spencer  
Nyeema Watson

## Six Schools Make Adequate Yearly Progress

*The following schools met Adequately Yearly Progress (AYP) in the 2006-2007 school year according to No Child Left Behind (NCLB) federal regulations.*

<b>High School</b>	<b>Principal</b>
<b>Creative Arts High School</b>	<b>Dr. Davida Coe-Brockington</b>
<b>Brimm Medical Arts High School</b>	<b>Ms. Thurselle Treece</b>
<b>Family School</b>	<b>Principal</b>
<b>R.T. Cream Elementary School</b>	<b>Ms. Joyous Carey, Acting</b>
<b>Elementary School</b>	<b>Principal</b>
<b>H. L. Bonsall Elementary School</b>	<b>Dr. Eileen Rock</b>
<b>Dudley Elementary School</b>	<b>Ms. Robin Wyche</b>
<b>George Washington Elementary School</b>	<b>Mr. Malcolm Adler</b>