



1986 to 2016



2015-16 Financial Report

SCHOOL FOUNDERS

**Oyin Kambon, Okanona Holmes
and Jasiri Kadiri**

SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Jahi Awakoaiye

BUSINESS MANAGER

Pamela Young-Williams

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Kelly Kouyate

MIDDLE SCHOOL COORDINATOR

Abubakar Omari

WO'SE SENIOR MINISTER

Minister Greg Hodge

WO'SE COUNCIL OF ELDERS

Minister Greg Hodge

Jahi Awakoaiye

Tracy T. Brown

Sidney Coulter

Ngina Lockett

Fanya Makini

Tyehimba Peyton

Pamela Young-Williams

Afuwa Yates



MISSION

To sustain an educational institute in the best traditions of our ancestors. We will give birth to the genius resident in every child, assist parents in their efforts to become models of right behavior and right order for their children, and provide a working environment that allows our educators to follow their passion of teaching and loving our children.

ILE OMODE SCHOOL

8924 Holly Street, Oakland, CA 94621

(510) 632-8230, <http://www.ileomode.org>

MEMBERSHIP

The school is a member of the Council of Independent Black Institutions (CIBI).

COVER PHOTO: Staff

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From the Director

Thirty years! We didn't arrive at this place by accident, and 30 years was never guaranteed. There were more than a few days that we wondered if Friday's checks would clear, and whether the heater would be on come Monday. A lot can go wrong in 30 years, but then again a lot can go right.

Our triumph today is only possible, because a lot went right. By the grace of the most high, and by our fervent belief in the power of ancestors, the spirit of our community, and the absolute righteous belief that "our course is a good one," we stand today, larger, better, and we hope, just a little wiser.

In 1986 we opened our school in a teacher's home, and welcomed a dozen preschool age children. The opening was not thoughtfully planned, and the "school" was woefully under resourced, but the ship had sailed, and the captains of that ship (our three founders) forced us to learn how to swim. And while at first we just treaded water, our numbers today suggest that we're finding our stroke. Ile Omode's preschool has nearly doubled since then, and each year we graduate students from our preschool, elementary, and middle school.

When I came to Ile Omode, I was a parent hoping to offer my services to help. It never occurred to me that I would become the longest tenured director in the school's history. But then my path is very similar to the journey of so many others who have contributed their work to our institutions.

Dozens of new graduates have arrived at our doorstep with a resume and a thesis on teaching African students, and just as many retirees have "un-retired", as they found their second calling at the "Ile". There are teachers who earned their stripes at the "Ile" and then went on to become principals at public schools, and there are principals who came back to "Ile" so they could "teach for real".

What has bonded our community together has been just that - "teaching for real". A desire that our children be "taught". And in the truest sense of the African philosophy, teaching is not simply the importing of static skills, but a call for inspiration and rebirth.

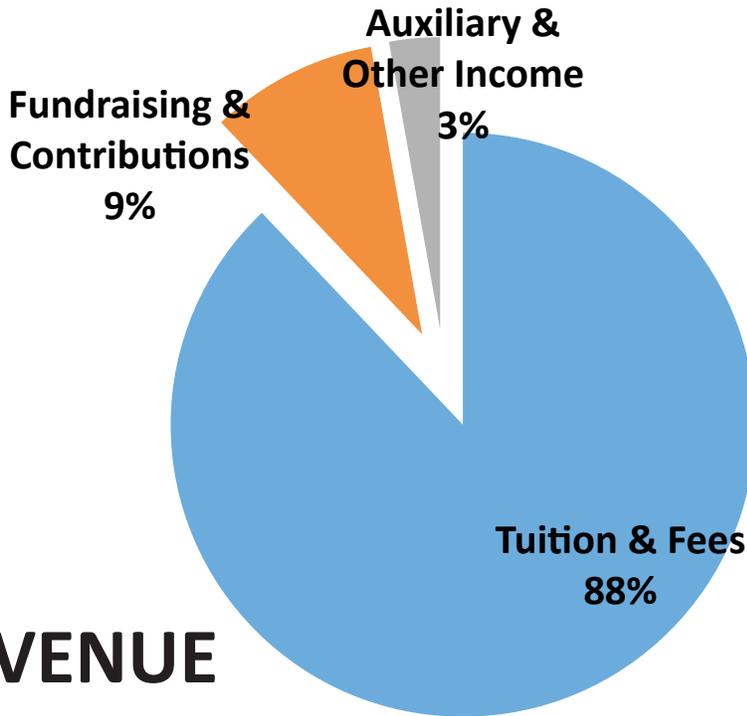
Our teaching has remained rooted in a desire to inspire our young people to raise their consciousness and demand the most from themselves, and in turn better us all. It is our hope that we earn the right to be blessed with another "30 years", and with your contribution to this community, I have no doubt that we will.

Jahi Awakoaiye, Director

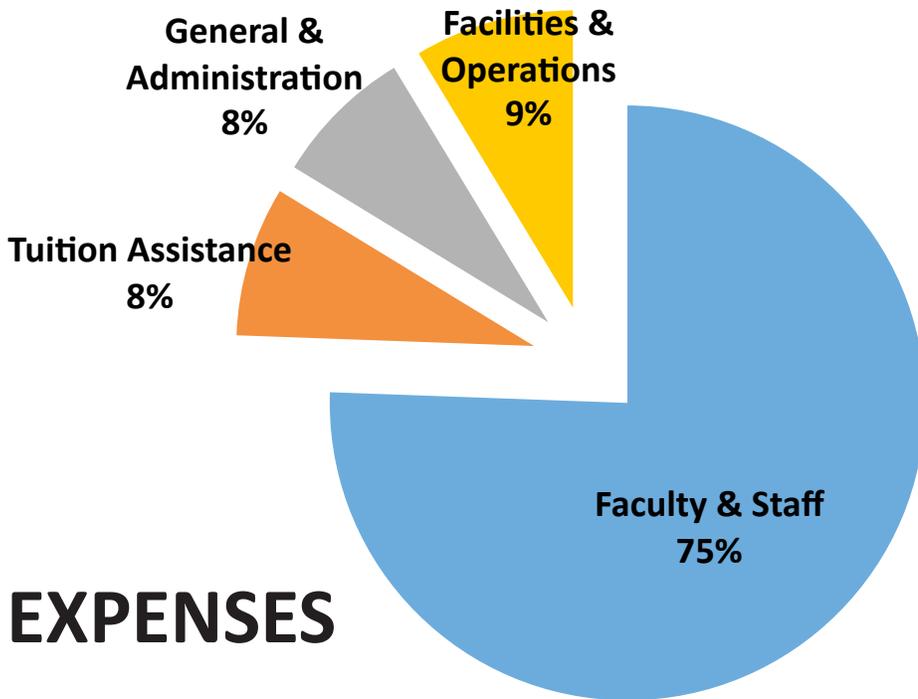
2015-2016

Operating Income and Expenses

Fiscal year runs from September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016



REVENUE



EXPENSES

2015-16 Revenue		2015-16 Expenses	
Tuition & Fees	\$627,647	Faculty & Staff	\$532,279
Fundraising & Contributions	\$66,187	Tuition Assistance	\$57,375
Auxiliary & Other Income	\$20,000	General & Admin	\$53,623
		Facilities & Operations	\$61,046



About Ile Omode

Educating Our Children Since 1986

Ile Omode has served students from Oakland and surrounding cities for 30 years. Initially begun as a home-based day care serving preschool children, the independent private school continues to grow.

From its 3-story building in East Oakland, the school serves students from preschool to 8th grade; providing a preschool, elementary, and middle school.

Ile Omode students meet a rigorous African-centered curriculum lauded for its strength across an array of disciplines, including language, science, technology, and mathematics. Students have:

- Engaged in extensive community-driven research projects
- Developed science projects
- Coded computer applications
- Enrolled concurrently in an advanced Algebra course at a local college.

Our tuition remains one of the lowest in the areas, while our services, including providing laptops/tablets, musical instruments, daily breakfast and lunch, included after-school services, is untouchable. We strive to remain affordable for families and support parents' effort to provide the best for their children.

2015-2016 Donors*

Asante ("thank you") for every contribution

**From September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2016; does not include cash contributions or local fundraisers when no donor information was provided.*

Community

Builder

**Supporter
Up to \$24**

Jazz Hudson
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Cynthia Dorsey
Lucas Kovar
Jessica Fernandes
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Minnie Bridgewater
Adele Berry
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Erica Moppins
Kimberly Blackwell
Laurie Fowler
Tamara Moore
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Darnisha Wright
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Yvette Flunder
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Constance Bridgeforth
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Tonya Hyder
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Best Tires
Brandon Shelton
Box Tops for Education
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Dianne Doss
Wanda Griffin
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Japan Pacific Resource
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John Halcomb
June Hill
Ngina Lockett
Titilayo Makini
Marcus Gary
Norkethia Guinn
Ronald Hall
Ajamu and Paula Stewart
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Yvette Flunder
Rakita O'Neal

Mildred Rose
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Linda Donaldson
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Roland Wilson
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Crystal Henderson
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Ethel L and James Haskins
Janeca and Stevann Jones

Leader's Circle

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der Liedesdorff
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Bossett, Charles and Pretrice
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Dr. Dehab Gaime
Eugenia Asante
Gale M Madyun
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Ramoniah Hall
Ethel L and James Haskins
John Halcomb
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Assoc
Jan & Gerald (Jamal) Hunter

Legacy

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Community Car Wash
Eleanor Mason Ramsey
Mxolisi Ozo Sowande

**Black Star Line
\$5,000 & up**

Willie Thompson
Brotherhood Of Elders
Bay Area Black United Fund
Matching Funds Donor
Tuition Scholarship Donor

Performing Arts Grows



The reputation of Ile Omode's performing arts program continued to grow.

Entering his second year as the school's artistic director, Baba Neemly Napla incorporated boys into the dance ensemble while adding even younger students. Baba Neemly is the former director of the Liberian national dance company, and this experience has influenced his vision.

Neemly added an element of acrobatics to the repertoire, and the

children were more than happy to respond, especially the boys.

Yhzekel Kahsai (6th) liked the athleticism the dances required. "You have to really be in shape".

The ensemble's highlight performance was an invitation to perform at Berkeley High School's Black Baccalaureate program, but the year also saw them perform to standing ovations at Merritt College's African Studies Department Black history month program and at Berkeley City College as well.



Mama Kara Cotton

Teacher inspired by Wangari Maathai.

After a trip to Kenya, Mama Kara Cotton (2nd) wrote and directed a play about the Kenyan environmentalist. Joined by Mama Darnisha Wright (1st) the collaboration produced an amazing play by our young students. The students learned about Maathai, but also about the importance of protecting the environment, and that even small steps produce significant results.



Wine & Cheese event raises nearly \$4,000.

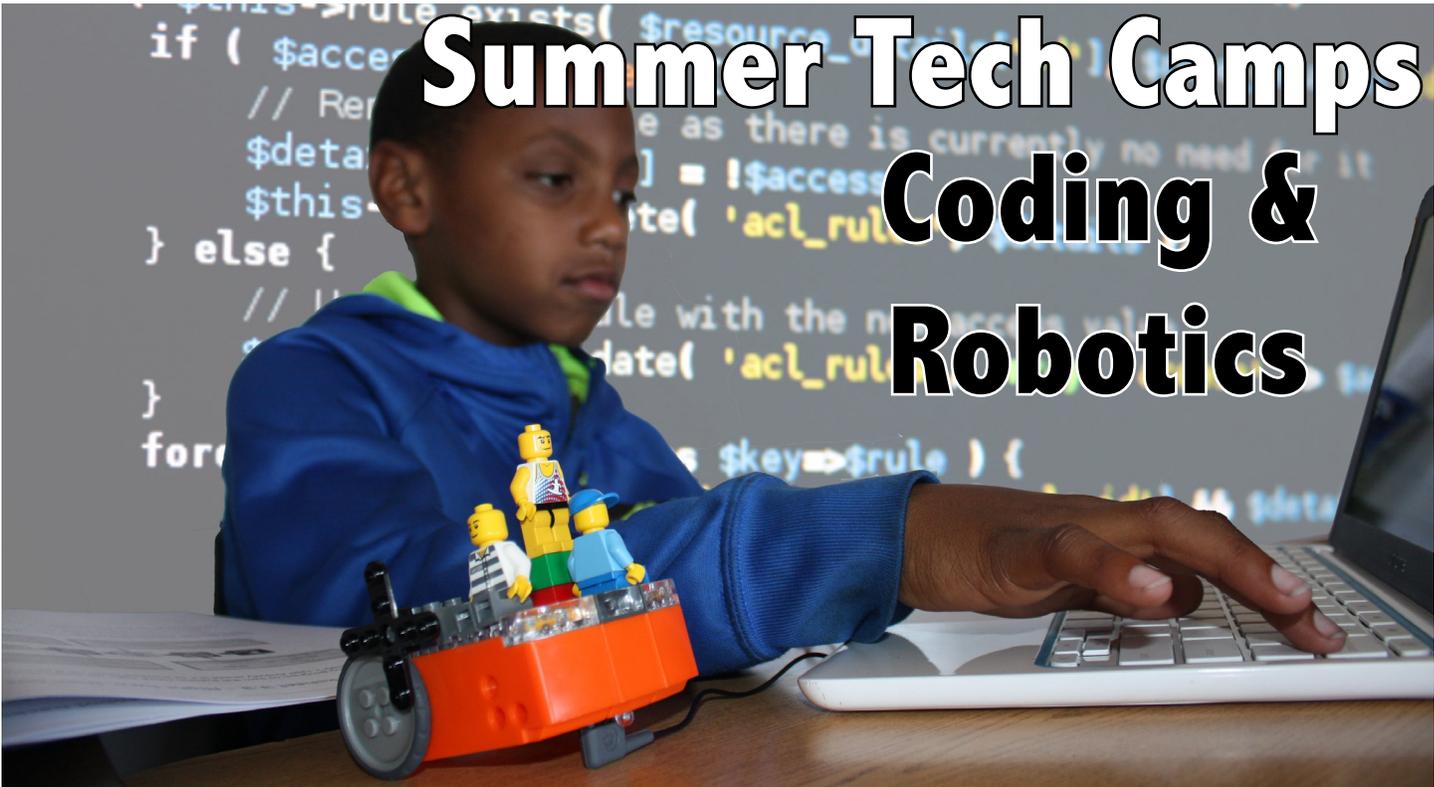
Held at the home of Mama Pamela Williams (Ile Omode's business manager), the 5th annual event featured music from Baba Damu Sudi Ali's band.



\$9,000 donation match offered by anonymous donor.

Ile Omode launched a \$30,000 Friends of Ile Omode Spring Campaign to honor 30 years of teaching and celebrating the genius of Black children.

One of our committed "Friends", who prefers to remain anonymous, agreed to match all donations up to \$9,000, and this addition to the campaign saw donations surge - in less than a month we had raised \$18,000. Who's ready for the next challenge?



Summer Tech Camps Coding & Robotics

Brotherhood of Elders Network funds 4 weeks of STEM camps

Two grants during the spring from the Brotherhood of Elders Network (BOEN) helped to build Ile Omode's instructional infrastructure, and provide scholarships for 2, two-week summer intensive camps.

The first, a \$20K grant, supported building media stations in each classroom for better instructional delivery, the purchase of Chromebook laptops as well as additional iPads at the school. Now, nearly every room is equipped to deliver fuller content and better instructional support for all subjects, but especially coding and robotics instruction.

The infrastructure additions allowed the school to host multiple classrooms during the summer, and the camps attracted over **100 students from 6 to 13 years of age** across as **page 6**

many as 4 age groups.

BOEN's scholarship funding made it possible for Ile Omode to support more students (62% of campers received a scholarship), and hire and train additional staff.

The staff attended a 2-day computer principles workshop hosted by the CIS department at UC Berkeley, and spent several days in intensive preparation for the camps.

Ile Omode's computer tech program is unique for several reasons - among them, an emphasis on mathematics.

Students attended math workshops in the morning sessions. In just two weeks, students' math competency improved by 20%, and those students in the Pre-Algebra/Algebra sessions improved by 30%.

During the afternoon students spent the first camp learning computer programming, where students completed nearly 20 hours of coding. In the second camp, the students were introduced to robotics, and the building of "helper" and "battle" droids.

Many students were inspired to become "coders", and they're well on their way.



Class 3 - 9 and 10 year olds



Graduating Class

The Mama Jasiri preschool, named after one of Ile Omode’s founders, graduated its 30th class in 2016, with 10 children advancing to kindergarten, and the middle school advanced its eighth class.

The preschool students were beautiful in their white graduation attire, created by a local tailor, with head dresses and necklaces made by our wonderful preschool staff.

In the hands of a dedicated staff, the preschool has never been stronger. Thanks to preschool director, Mama Kelly, and instructors Lisa Smith, Aisha Stephens and Karla Jones, the

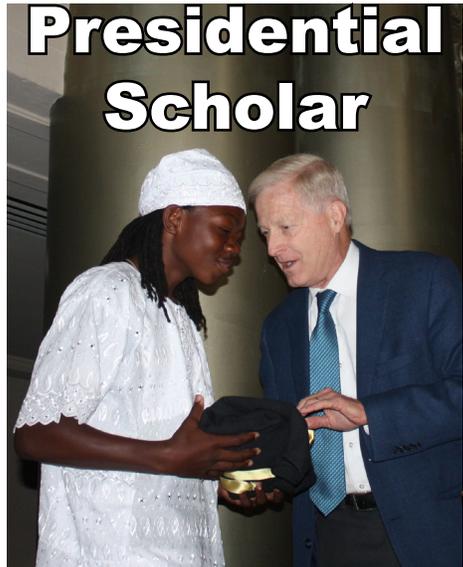
young scholars received excellent instruction and attention.

While welcoming a new cohort to kindergarten, our community said goodbye to our 3 eighth grade graduates. This was Ile Omode’s smallest graduating class in six years, but the three were no less dynamic, and all three were gifted artists who contributed mightily.

Mazi will attend Bishop O’Dowd High School (see side bar), while both Cierra and Zhane will join three classmates from last year at Envision Academy, a charter school in downtown Oakland.



**8th Grade Graduates
Cierra Mathis-Gibson, Mazi Wyatt, and Zhane Garcia**



Presidential Scholar

Mazi Wyatt, a graduating 8th grader in 2016, was an honored graduate at the elementary and middle school graduation. Mazi was accepted to Bishop O’Dowd High School and received the school’s Presidential Scholarship, which was awarded to him during Ile Omode’s 30th commencement celebration by Bishop O’Dowd president, Dr. Steve Phelps.

The meritorious scholarship provides \$2,500 annually for four years, and is given to students with exceptional grades, demonstrated leadership and skills, and who score high on the nationally administered High School Placement Test.

Mazi graduated from middle school with a 3.6 GPA and earned scholar honors in at least 8 of 12 quarters. He also scored above the 90th percentile nationally on the HSPT.

Ile Omode has had a history of producing O’Dowd presidential scholarship. Past recipients include Keli Secrease (2015), Mazi’s sister, Adeya Wyatt and Khukheper Awa-koaiye (2014), and Zenzile Riddick (2011). Ile Omode students have an 88% acceptance rate at the parochial high school.

DC College Tour



In April, the middle school returned to the nation's capitol for their third college tour in Washington, DC since 2009. The trip marked the fifth college tour since 2009, with the other two trips to the south. After raising money and organizing the trip for most of the school year, 21 students and 7 chaperons spent a week in Washington, DC, including one day in Virginia.

The students visited Howard University in DC, and two of Virginia's best known HBCUs, Hampton University and Norfolk State University. Our alums (see below) and Mama Kara Cotton, coordinated the tour. Mama Kara, the 2nd grade teacher at Ile Omode and one of the chaperons, is a 2014 graduate of

Howard University and was happy to be back on her old stomping grounds.

Along with a tour of the campus, the students also visited two classes. One, a course on Black Education, was taught by Mama Kara's former teacher. The second course was arranged by one of the student's aunts. She is a sorority sister with the university's Civil Engineering chair, Dr. Kimberly Jones, and Dr. Jones invited over a dozen of her students to share their experience in the college of engineering.

For the first time, Ile Omode students traveled to Virginia, and the students were quickly enamored with Hampton's beautiful campus. The tour was

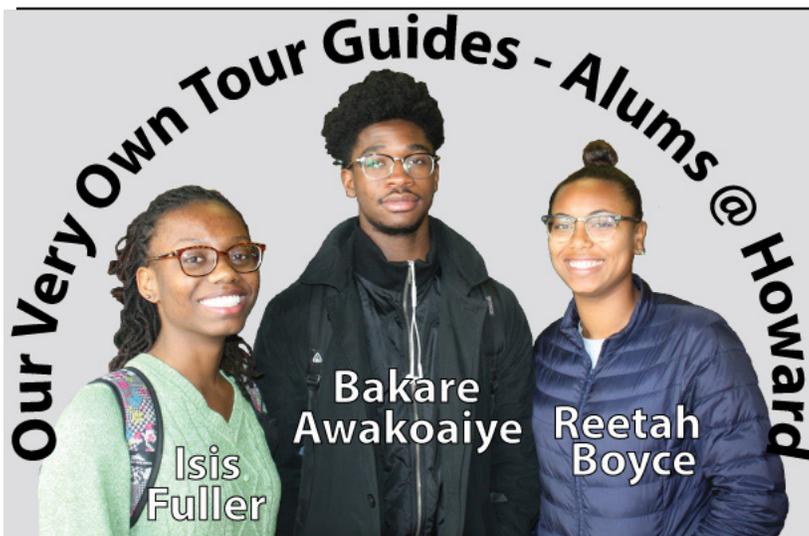
led by a pre-med student who had to dart off to class at the tour's conclusion, but invited the entire group to her class. Students were treated to a tour of Hampton's chemistry and biology labs. After Hampton, the group visited Norfolk State University, and marveled at the school's new construction.

Along with touring area colleges, students also had a chance to visit historic sites. Their first day was spent touring the Washington Mall and observing the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument. The mall is also home to several memorials to military battles, including WW2, WW1, the Korean and Vietnam wars.

DC has the African-American Civil War Museum. One of its guides was dressed as a Union soldier and his dramatization greatly helped students understand the role of African Americans during the war.

Although they are not often associated with Washington, DC, Frederick Douglass and Mary McLeod Bethune were DC icons. Both leaders had homes in DC, and students toured each.

While students worked through the week long trip they also took time to enjoy themselves, with swimming, movies, and a semi-formal dinner. Students didn't want to leave, but Atlanta awaits next year.



The trip to Howard University was especially heart warming since two of the students from the school's very first college tour are now sophomores at the school, and another school alum is attending the school.

Reetah Boyce attended Ile Omode in elementary, while Ba-

kare Awakoaiye and Isis Fuller were two of the inaugural "DC 9" from Ile Omode's first college tour in 2009 when the group visited Howard for the first time. The three organized the tour; Bakare recruited several Howard men; Reetah took the middle school girls on a tour, and Isis joined the group for lunch after her classes.



For the first time in its 30 year history, Ile Omode fielded an elementary girls basketball team. Well, actually, it was the first time any basketball team was formed.

Baba Eugene Hamilton, a parent and the physical fitness instructor for 2 years, wanted to organize a girls basketball team. The girls were initially unmoved until the school's director, Baba Jahi Awakoaiye, told them they could design their own uniforms (later, it was revealed that this wasn't quite the case - Baba Jahi apparently sells used cars in his spare time). But they were hooked.

The girls practiced at the school several days a week. Baba Eugene coaches high school football and various levels of basketball, but he soon realized that this team of 4th, 5th, and a few 3rd graders might be his greatest challenge.

Although fairly motivated, almost none of the girls had ever played basketball - at all! So he began with just the fundamentals - understanding the game flow, learning how to guard a defender without giving them a bear squeeze, dribbling while at the same time walking.

He had a little help. A parent with only sons, Mama Donyale, was a surprising volunteer, but was captivated by the girls' spirit, and her son, Damario, a 5th grader and classmates to most of the girls, wanted to help as well. And

lastly, one of the girls' older sisters, an Ile Omode's alum and a member of San Leandro High School's varsity girls basketball team, Kardiere Johnson, also agreed to help out.

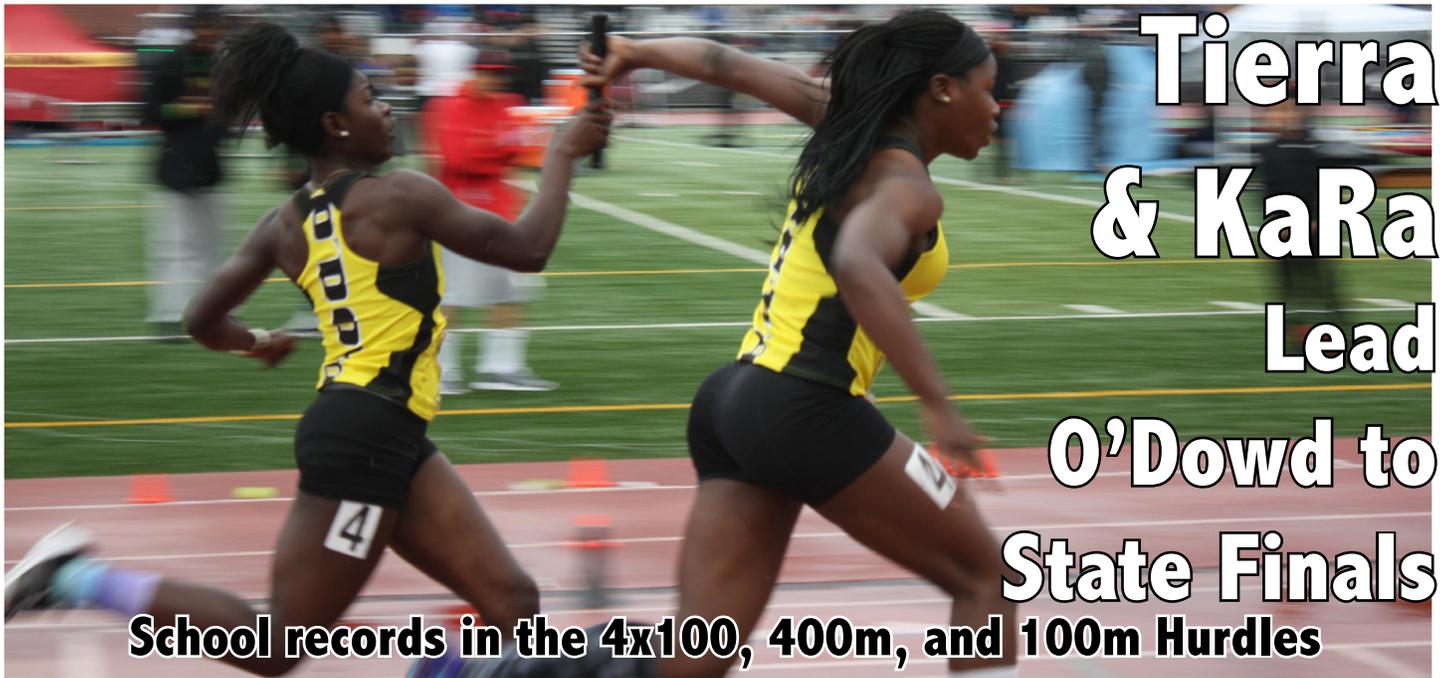
The team played in the Oakland recreation league against other middle schools, and the Ile Omode contingent outmatched the opponents fan base at practically every game.

While clearly newbies, the girls played with vigor and determination and over the course of the relatively short season, Baba Eugene's coaching became visible.

Girls began to play structured team defense, and observers could see the personalities of NBA players emerge in the girls. There was a Dennis Rodman, and a pre-surgery Derrick Rose.

The star of the team was Anaya Hamilton, who was the point guard, and leading scorer. But other girls grew. Klade Windross and Jian Kennedy were great rebounders, and Kardiere's younger sister, Khimera was a quick ball handler and defender. Third graders, Marlee Richards and Jamilla Cooks began to power the second team, and Alima Clay began to find her shooting stroke.

It was a great season, and a lot of fun, and we're hoping they'll all return for another season of b-ball.



Tierra & KaRa Lead O'Dowd to State Finals

School records in the 4x100, 400m, and 100m Hurdles

The “dynamic duo” of Tierra Robinson-Jones (c’14) and KaRa Awakoaiye (c’12) have been linked together in track ever since KaRa joined Tierra on the track when they were 9, and when competitors would confuse them for each other (they were once the same height).

Coached by Ile Omode parent, Jamal Cooks, the two earned national honors, winning multiple top finishes at the junior Olympic championships when they competed for Cook’s C.A. Track Club, and eventually followed Cooks to Bishop O’Dowd High School, where they finished their last year together in a flurry, with KaRa heading off to study business in the honors program at Howard University on a full academic scholarship, and Tierra, with two more years of high school, already fending off full athletic offers from division 1 schools.

Running 1-2 on the school’s 4x100 relay, they reprised their first national championship in the relay when they were 12 years old, and they powered Bishop O’Dowd to one of its strongest relays in recent memory. They won the Meet of Champions and the North Coast Section (NCS) and finished with the 7th fastest time in the state.

While powerful teammates they excelled individually. Tierra was one of the most dominant 200 meter and 400 meter runners in northern California, and while only a sophomore Cooks says she “became the soul of the girls team”. She won both events

at the North Coast section championship, while also leading the 4x400 relay to a championship.

Earlier in the year, KaRa declined athletic offers from the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, UC Riverside, and others, and still saved her best runs for the end of the season. Cooks calls her, “the fastest hurdler I have ever coached in the short hurdles...and is the essence of an excellent high school scholar athlete.” She was honored to end her “track career with someone who I’ve started with...It felt like the right ending.”

She earned a silver at the NCS finals, and joined Tierra as the first individual female medal recipients at the state championship for O’Dowd in over a decade.

Tierra finished in 4th place, and is the #3

sophomore in the country at 400 meters. She was undefeated in Northern California for the entire year, and her time of 54.05s in the 400m set a new O’Dowd school record, but each year she plans “on breaking my own record”.

KaRa also finished in 4th at the state meet, while breaking a 22 year old O’Dowd hurdle record; running 13.78 seconds. She now ranks #36 all-time in California history at the event, and was the #1 senior in California, and the #9 senior in the nation.

The two also helped set the school record in the 4x100 relay. Breaking 3 school records at the state meet was “a humbling experience” for Cooks. Tierra says it wasn’t until the state championship in Clovis (June 3-4) that she realized, “that was my last 4x100 relay with KaRa - her last high school state championship.”

Their commitment to each other and their team brought tremendous team honors. O’Dowd’s girls team won the league title for the 2nd time in 3 years, and they won the North Coast Section title; beating over 150 high schools.

Although the two have experienced tremendous success on the track since they were 9 years old, their relationship transcends track. Tierra calls KaRa, not her teammate, but, “she’s my family; my sister.” For KaRa, there connection has, “meant a lifelong sisterhood and friendship”.



Coach Cook’s most prolific youth track athletes

HIGH SCHOOL ALUMS

Nyzja Waler (c'15) was 1 of only 20 students chosen by USC to participate in a 1 week marine biology internship at the Catalina Islands - she spent the week working with local researchers, snorkeled and kayak while exploring the marine protected areas around the island...**Adeya Wyatt** (c'14) finished her 2nd year at Bishop O'Dowd with a 4.52 GPA, and is founding member of the school's Girls in STE(A)M Club...**Maya Jenkins** (c'14) improved greatly in the discus for Bishop O'Dowd's track team finishing #12 in the North Coast section...she was joined with strong

Freshman, **Barry Esteen** was flown to Florida by his school, the Jewish Community High School in San Francisco, where he participated in an annual diversity conference... **Malik Bossett** (c'15) was accepted in San Francisco Academy of Sciences' Careers in Science internship where he participates in field studies and teaches science to the Academy's audience on the weekend, and **Khukheper** completed a 2-week biological research program at UC Berkeley during the summer...**Abdenna Barrie** will attend Spelman College... **Barry Brand** (c'14) wrote an app with the Hidden Genius Project which

Alumni Updates

performances in track by **Khukheper Awakoaiye** (c'14) who finished with a 4.2 GPA at O'Dowd and was selected to compete in the Children's International Games in Taipai, Taiwan with the 100 Black Men, where he advanced to the finals in the 400m and 4x100 meter relay...after serving as the lead drummer in Ile Omode's west African drumming corp, **Kelinde Secrease** (c'15) brought his talents to O'Dowd, where he created the rhythms and led the drummers during the school's Black History Month program. **Barry Brand** (c'14), **Barry Esteen** (c'15), **Nkosi Moore** (c'13), **Galanafai Windross** (c'14), and **Kelinde** completed their second year with the Hidden Genius Project, where the 5 worked to develop web apps...

connects donors with people who need support meeting medical expenses; the honor roll student is also a member of the Red Cross Club which hosts blood drives

COLLEGIATE ALUMS

Congrats to **Ray'ah Blacksher** who enrolled this year at Bethune-Cookman University...**Reetah Boyce**, a sophomore at Howard University changed majors and is now studying information systems and completed an internship with Kaiser... **Bakare Awakoaiye** (c'10) finished on the dean's list at Howard University with a 3.9 GPA and interned with the Mentoring in Medicine and Science...As part of Howard University's Minority Health and Health Disparities International Research Training Program **Isis Fuller**, traveled to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to conduct research on the gut microbiota of sandflies and mosquitoes**Zenzile Riddick** (c'11) finished her freshman year on the dean's list at UC Santa Barbara (3.8 GPA) and has been incredibly busy, including serving as the BSU's Programming Director, the Multicultural Awareness Chair for her residence hall and was a marketing summer intern for AEG, the property managers of the Oracle Arena and the Coliseum in Oakland



Class of 2012 students graduated from high school this year, including Bishop O'Dowd grads, KaRa Awakoaiye, Tajiri Hunter, and Maia Morgan. KaRa will attend Howard University; Tajiri, Grambling University; and Maia begins at Clark-Atlanta University where she will major in communications. Each of our graduates (including Halim Muhammad) received a books and materials scholarship from Ile Omode at a Wo'se service in April.



Nandi - youngest Oakland Youth Poet Laurelist Finalist



Turhan competing at the regional championship

Turhan Ammons, who didn't begin running until high school is now one of the top male sprinters at Kennedy High School in Richmond.

8924 Holly Street
Oakland, CA 94621



“Everyone has the power for greatness, not for fame but greatness, because greatness is determined by service.”
-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

ILE OMODE IS AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OF WO'SE COMMUNITY



To donate, contact Pamela Young-Williams, Business Manager,
at 510.632.8230 or pamela.williams@ileomode.org

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since 1986**