

— THE DISTRICT — CHRONICLER

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

October 2023

THE DISTRICT EMBRACES HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

DALE AVENUE AND SCHOOL 3 CELEBRATES HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH FOR DIFFERENT CULTURES!



National Hispanic Heritage Month traditionally honors the cultures and contributions of both Hispanic and Latino Americans as we celebrate heritage rooted in all Latin American countries. Students and Staff from Dale Avenue and School No. 3 gathered Thursday morning for a school-wide showcase to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month. Dances from Mexico, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, and many more were performed by the students at the event.





SCHOOL 13 WAX MUSEUM

CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH WITH THEIR UNIQUENESS!

For School 13, the Hispanic Heritage Month took on a unique and interactive form, as students unveiled their very own student Wax Museum.

After a month-long celebration including daily announcements and a bulletin board contest, students participated in the culminating wax museum activity. The wax museum is an educational and cultural journey that brings history to life. Students dressed as famous and historic Hispanic figures from 20 Spanish speaking countries. The participating students stood still until the “button” on the floor in front of them was pushed by visiting students. The student then “came alive” with a brief

biography about themselves, speaking both in English and in Spanish.

The educational benefits of this project were multi-faceted, as students researched and dressed as their chosen historical figures, delving into their life stories, achievements, and contributions. The process involved critical thinking and research skills, in addition to creativity and multilingual public speaking skills, as students brought these legends to life.

Visitors to the Wax Museum praised

the students for their dedication to the project and the depth of knowledge they demonstrated, including students, teachers and parents. Visiting teacher Stephanie Mearizo commented, “The idea, the presentation, the presenters, and all of the thought and detail that went into the museum were so incredible! I cannot say enough about how much I enjoyed this and how much it appeared everyone was enjoying it!”

After the presentations, classes were invited to visit the array of vibrant exhibits, including authentic artifacts, flags, paintings, money and photographs. Before leaving the museum, students played a “Guess the Country’s Flag” game and enjoyed a piece of Guatemalan candy!

School 13’s very own Bilingual/ESL supervisor, Mrs. Elba Rosario judged the bulletin board contest, with Ms. Waker’s K-2 class (Argentina), Ms. Lighty’s 3-5 class (Chile), and Mr. Lipon’s sixth grade class (Panama) coming out on top! The winning classes will be rewarded with an ice cream treat for their creativity, attention to detail, and artistic board design.





EASTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL SPANISH HONOR SOCIETY CHAPTER

The Esther Forero Chapter of the Eastside National Spanish Honor Society (ENSHS) of Paterson, held its second year of talent show during Hispanic Heritage Month on October. Trophies and certificates were awarded to the first, second and third place winners.

Important city figures attended, such as Paterson Mayor Andre Sayegh and Councilman Luis Velez, as well as school administrators, teachers, parents, and students. The ENSHS advisor, Mrs. Marbel

Tamayo, highlighted the excellent work of

the students and mentioned that this effort will prepare them to have the opportunity to participate in the National Spanish Essay and Poster Contest sponsored by The American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) with the assurance that they will do a good job. We wish all the members success everything they will undertake in the future. ¡Todos a una!



Second Year Spanish Honor Society Talent Show with Councilman Luis Velez..

Photo Credit: Marbel Tamayo

SCHOOL 20 EMBRACED THE HISPANIC CULTURE



Public School No. 20 celebrated Hispanic Heritage by showcasing their students' talents which included art displays, singing and dancing. The administration, staff and students, came together to honor and celebrate the rich culture, traditions, and contributions of Latinos in America.

We incorporated a variety of musical genres, including salsa, bachata, and merengue with songs presented in both English and Spanish. A few of the songs prompted a delightful sing-along, with students enthusiastically joining in.

Our goal was to create an environment where everyone can embrace their heritage, instill a sense of pride and foster a greater appreciation for diversity within our school community. Bilingual ESL Teacher Mrs. Moto said, "The performance was incredibly engaging and everyone in attendance had an enjoyable experience. I would definitely coordinate another assembly like this."



"ADIDAS" PARTICIPATED IN THE HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH WITH AN ART CONTEST

Paterson Public School students participated in an Adidas sponsored Hispanic Heritage Art Contest. The Walk-In-a business in partnered with generously contest.

At the ceremony at the Clemente School, Della Education Commissioner In-Closet Staples gift an art kit and to all winners. medals of an art kit and were distributed who submitted a the 7-12 grade winners were as follows:

Grand Prize: 7th Grade: Allyson Jimenez from Joseph A. Taub School

1st Place: 10th Grade: Anisa Shiraj from Kennedy High School

2nd Place: 12th Grade: Evelyn Sandoval from STEAM High School

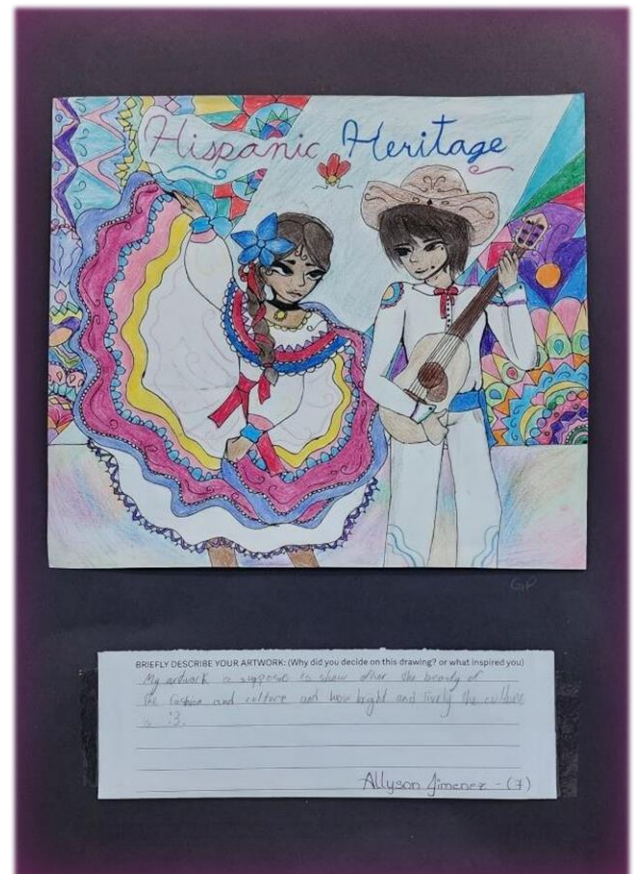
3rd Place: 9th Grade: Nour Yahya from Kennedy High School

As the John F. Kennedy High School art teacher Ms. Lym for the 3rd prize winner, Nour Yahya, I also picked up 15 medals of participation, t-shirts and an art kit for my art students who submitted a drawing entry.



Closet, which is Paterson Adidas, who funded this art

awards New Roberto Elementary McCall, Board and the Walk-awarded cards, trophies, an Adidas shirt In addition, participation, Adidas shirt to all students drawing entry, category





SCHOOL NO. 24 VIVID WITH CULTURE AND A BAND



School 24 Fine & Performing Arts Program recently came alive with the vibrant rhythms and colors of Hispanic Heritage Month as students and staff gathered to celebrate the rich cultural contributions of the Latino community under the theme of "Latinos: Driving Prosperity, Power, and Progress in America." The event was a delightful blend of music, poetry, academic recognition, and dance, showcasing the diverse talents within the school community. Several outstanding students were awarded for their dedication to their studies and teachers were also recognized for their invaluable contributions,

with recognition given by School 24 Principal Dr. Florita Cotto. Furthermore, several community leaders were acknowledged for their commitment to empowering Latinos in Paterson; including Jose Anibal De Jesus, Director of Community Events for the NJ Dominican Council, Norberto Rodriguez Vasquez, Chamber of Representative of the Dominican Republic, Angel Pichardo Acosta, Dominican Counsel of NJ, Victor Osorio, Founder of Mamajuana Café, and Emmanuel Guzman, International Musician. The event concluded with a burst of energy as students and attendees joined in a lively and colorful dance, a joyful celebration of Hispanic culture and a reminder of the importance of unity and diversity within the Paterson School 24 community. As a result of student performances and honored guests, videos of our school's performance have circulated online accumulating over 34k views.



[Oye Come Ya Band Performance Video](#)
[Sway / Quien Sera Band Performance Video](#)
[Latin Fiesta Band Performance Video](#)



UPDATE!



An update on Camila Izaguirre, the young student from School 7 that is collecting money to fight Childhood Cancer. North Jersey Federal Credit Union gave a donation of \$1,000 to her collection.

Together with donations from fellow students and the community she has so far collected over \$1,700!

BREAKING SCHOOL NEWS

"SUNSET MEDITATION" IN THE DOME

A planetarium is known for its benefits in education. But did you know it crosses into other areas of our lives? Students at Paterson P-Tech High School were guided through a "Sunset Meditation" and were transported from their school and flown over the Grand Canyon to the North Pole. The night sky provided the perfect place to focus on students' emotional, physiological, and social well-being.

The portable planetarium is available for school visits. To reserve a day of stargazing and celestial educating, and meditation visit <https://www.ptechplanetarium.com/>



SEPTEMBER 11 TWIN TOWERS PRESENTATION AT SCHOOL NO. 10

In honor of 9/11, Ms. Ferrito would like to recognize the third-graders taught by Ms. Ames for creating three-dimensional representations of the Twin Towers.

We appreciate the support of our artistic students, understanding of how profoundly 9/11 will be remembered.



Alena Cuadrado Moran, Kamari Richardson, and Daveyon Green
Photo Credit: School staff

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ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

Lisa Vainieri is the District's Executive Director of Central Registration, and Transportation and has worked in the District for 20 years. Ms. Vainieri comes from Hudson County, raised close to Jersey City, and attended Jersey City University. She's a city person by nature, so after her first teaching assignment, a short one-year stay teaching Special Education in a Multiple-Disabled classroom in Wanaque, she sought to get back to working in an urban setting. Her desire to work in an inner-city school setting is fueled by a need for the kind of diversity she experienced while growing up.

When she came to the District, she started her career here as a special education teacher at Eastside High School. She held that position for six years as she took classes to earn her master's in educational leadership. Her interest in pursuing an administration position led her to be the Testing Coordinator at Eastside. Not long afterwards though, she was offered the Supervisor of Assessment for

high schools' position at Central Office. Yet, taking the position meant that she wouldn't have regular interactions with children, so she took a part-time night position in Central

Registration. When the position of Supervisor of Central Registration opened, she took it, but her responsibilities would grow in unexpected ways. After two years, Superintendent Evans wanted Transportation management back in-house. Ms. Vainieri was tapped to create the department despite having no experience in transportation management or logistics. She created her team, one of whom was a former student of hers, and through the last ten years has been working with them to transport Paterson's students. This year alone, Transportation serves over 7,000 students on 370 busses, while Central Registration handles 5,000 registrants annually ranging from public to non-public education. Her position gives her a great sense of fulfillment, but she misses teaching. "I miss teaching, I miss it a lot," she said. "When I retire, I probably will be pursuing an instructional assistant position again. Yeah, full circle, I feel like I can make more of an impact that way. The closer you are to the kids the bigger impact that you have."



The Best Part of My Day

"The best part of my day, which doesn't happen every day, is when I get to interact with a family because they're in need or crisis. I'll have a family in my office when I'm either talking to the parent about what help I can get them or talking to a student about getting back on track. I try to advocate for the parents or have them advocate for themselves to empower the students and families. I just got a master's from MSU in Child Advocacy two years ago, my second masters. That is what I really love to do; advocate for families."

A Quote to Live By...

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." -Maya Angelou

DALE AVENUE HAVING A FIRE SAFETY WEEK

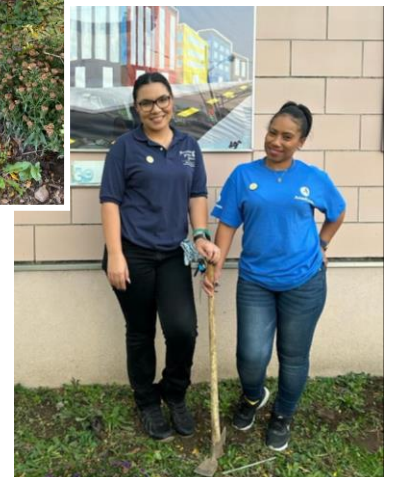
Members of the Paterson Fire Department held fire safety classes during an educational visit to Dale Avenue School.

Emergency service providers went to the elementary school to reach out to the children about the importance of fire safety and prevention at home and at school.



COMMUNITY CENTER BEAUTIFICATION

The Full Service Community Center, held a special event to beautify its green space. The “Mommy or Daddy & Me: Planting Daffodils” project involved 20 participants from the community center’s families. The event was planned by District Wide Community Outreach & Special Projects Coordinator Evelyn Peña.



BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

JoAnn Barca, Principal of Renaissance One School of Humanities held their annual breast cancer awareness walk on Friday. The students and families of School 1 donated over \$300.00 to this cause. The donations will go to Little Pink Houses of Hope. This organization helps breast cancer patients and their families through the cancer journey with direction, purpose, and hope.

John McEntee, Paterson Education Association (PEA) President, Charles Ferrer, Vice President of PEA, and Mayor Andre Sayegh, were in attendance to help support Renaissance One students and this wonderful cause.



Dr. Frank Napier, Jr. School of Science & Technology (School No. 4) held their annual walk around the neighborhood. Assistant Superintendent Cicely Warren motivated the students with encouraging words.



DISTRICT SHOUT OUT!

Francine Smart is the Unit I Assistant Superintendent Confidential Secretary at Central Office. Born and raised in Harlem, she came to Paterson later in life and has been with the District for almost 25 years. She has a passion for coaching, which started for her when she took a volunteering cheerleading coach position while off hours at Paterson Catholic High School. In 2000, her friend became the cheerleading coach at Eastside High School and Ms. Smart took the position as assistant coach. Together they started transforming the program at Eastside into one where the students

Quote to Live By

It is a lesson that her students can quote her to use regularly: "The ability to be great comes from within. Your focus should be that you will do one thing better tomorrow that you didn't do well today."



could begin to learn competitive cheerleading. When her friend took a leave-of-absence, Ms. Smart was asked to take over the coaching position and developed the program further. She left Paterson cheerleading for a short while; leaving Eastside in 2014 to pursue extra-curricular coaching programs in Teaneck and then at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Hackensack. She found herself back at Eastside in 2019 when she was invited by then-principal Gerald Glisson, who asked her to revamp the program. The Pandemic slowed, but couldn't stop, her program as she met with her cheerleaders virtually until the team could start performing while wearing masks as restrictions began to lift. She has since left Eastside and runs the Storm cheerleading program for Paterson Recreation. Ms. Smart is looking forward to someday having her own gym.

The Best Part of My Day

What makes Ms. Smart's day is her interactions with children, particularly when they ask for a hug. Through her coaching she can be a counselor, mother-figure, and support for her students.

By The Way...



Last issue we forgot to mention a story about a donation to our students. Early in September, the New Jersey branch of Marcus & Millichap, Inc., a commercial real estate services company, made its annual donation of twenty-five bookbags to the District. The bags were filled with school supplies and distributed to students soon afterwards. The program was founded by Bria Lightsey.

EASTSIDE COUNSELORS MOTIVATE HANDS-ON TRADE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Mr. Lawrence Smith and Mrs. Kristen May from the Eastside High School Counseling Department took 17 students to visit the Workmanship Program at Servant's Heart Ministry. The students received hands-on training and education from trades professionals. They were able to sweat pipes, competed in measuring tape challenges, wired circuits, use carpentry tools, and welding equipment. It was truly a wonderful experience to see them in action!



SUPER SNIFFERS OF THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

The Passaic County Sherriff's Department Canine unit came to P.S. # 25 to speak to the 7th graders about the training, methods, type of dogs, and job of the canine units. The goal of the Sherrif Canine Officer Paul Ogden and his partner spoke on the importance of how the canine finds drugs, types of drugs, and gets the bad guy. In attendance were 56 7th-grade students, the guidance department, the administration, SAC Supervisor Laurel Olson, and the P.S. # 25 security team. The presentation was facilitated by Student Assistance Coordinator Alvin Bush.



PATERSON POETRY FESTIVAL WINNERS

Congratulations to our student poets!

Norman S. Weir

August Asiedu- *My Sister and Me*
Mia Pierre-Louis- *Baking Up My Dream*
Jacqueline Wilkins- *Rocking Chair*
Melissa Fernandez- *Recipe for the Future*
Jaila Robinson- *Little Brown Dancer*
Mikayla Moody- *Waterfalls*
Ja'Niyah Briggs- *My Uncle*
Messiah Shabazz- *I Wish*
Nia Goodwin- *My Curly Kinky Hair*
Amaya Jones- *Grandpa and Me*
Jayalisse Garcia- *Proud of Myself*
Chase Miller- *My Home is Where My Heart Is*

School #28

Savannah Gonzalez- *Who Am I?*
Rahma El Agamy- *Egypt is Me*
Lia Perez- *All About Me*
Sophia Sayegh- *New York*
Haley Dannel- *Lost in My Own Thoughts*
Jeriel Polanco Sanchez- *Just Breathe*
Mostafa Elagamy- *Legos*
Zainab Elfrid- *About Friendship*
Parvana Haslani- *The Ocean and Me*
Abdelmoujib Azennag- *Lost in Time*
Vianny Tavaréz- *Rain*

School #2

Yoselyn Medina- *Me and the Moon*
Anyia Singletary- *Thinking*

School #9

Hodi Elbakly- *A Recipe to Make My Cousin*
Sumaya Rodriguez- *You Can Do Anything*
Lizmari Vasquez- *Black and Brown Matter*

International High School

Michelle Fabian- *A Tribute to Madeleine McCann*

Eastside High School

Lisangel Nunez- *I Miss*
Arianna Perez- *If I Were a Jellyfish*

P-Tech

Jhy'Deisha Stewart- *Rain Drops*
Ja'Shante Evans- *My Great Virtuosity*
(Grade 12 last year) T'Ziah Webb- *Lost*

John F. Kennedy High School

Taslina Rimi- *Empty*
Elya Hemaïd- *The Rain*

STEAM Academy

Jenna O'Connor- *Today's Norm*
(Grade 12 last year) Ryan Joseph- *Meursault and Me*

Renaissance School One

Lovely Shefa York- *I Am a Young Woman*
Tennile Morgan- *My Teacher*



Important Dates

November 7	District Closed – Election Day
November 9 & 10	District Closed – NJEA Convention
November 11	Veteran's Day
November 15	1 st Marking Period Ends
November 22	District Early Dismissal
November 28	Report Card Parent Conference (Grades 9 - 12)
November 29	Report Card Parent Conference (JAT and NRC)
November 30	Report Card Parent Conference (Grades Pre-K - 8)



Board of Education Meeting

The November 8th Board of Education Workshop meeting will be held at Joseph A. Taub School.

Those who want to give public comment must do so in person. They should register for the meeting.

The November 15th Board of Education Regular meeting will be conducted remotely.

It will also be live streamed at pps.eduvision.tv/LiveEvents.

Simultaneous Language Interpretation

Online simultaneous language interpretation is available at all Board meetings in Spanish, Arabic, Bengali, and Turkish. Simply choose the preferred language at pps.eduvision.tv/LiveEvents.

The District Chronicler is a publication of the PPS Department of Communications. We welcome your submissions on school and district-related news. Submit stories and photos to

ppscommunications@paterson.k12.nj.us.

Mr. Daniel Juan, Interim Director of Communications Department
Mrs. Maria D. Rosado-Leon, Confidential Secretary to the Communications Department

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