

— THE DISTRICT — CHRONICLER

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

December 2023

POSITIVE OUTLOOK FOR THE NEW YEAR!

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS AWARDED FIFTH FULL SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS (FSCS) GRANT

Paterson Public Schools has received a grant to fund a total of six Full Service Community Schools (FSCS) programs. The grant will fund four schools in the District and two schools of its partner district, Passaic Public Schools. These programs provide vital services to students that come from low-income families such as after-school and summer programs, school-based health clinics, behavior and mental health counseling, mentoring and anti-bullying programs, chronic absenteeism support, and other services. The grant will provide \$2,097,165.00 for the first year of five, in all totaling \$11,349,752, and is part of the nearly \$74 million of five-year FSCS funding provided by U.S. Department of Education's this year.

This is the District's fifth grant in thirteen years; the only city in the nation ever to have received as many. Partnering with Passaic Public Schools allowed the District to apply to the next level of funding, which requires the application of more than one school District. Passaic Public Schools was interested in opening FSCS programs of their own and saw the benefit of joining Paterson in the grant because of the District's extensive experience in such projects.

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY AT RECREATION CENTER



Community leaders on Tuesday celebrated the opening of a \$3 million expansion of the Great Falls Youth Center, a project that's supposed to increase by almost double the number of teens using the facility.

The expansion includes a new podcast studio, two multi-purpose rooms, a kitchen and a rooftop event space. The center on Front Street is owned and operated by the Paterson-based nonprofit organization New Jersey Community Development Corporation. Opened in 2018, it has served about 100 to 120 students per day prior to the expansion. The center expects the expanded facility to have programs for about 200 teens per day.

S.T.A.R.S./T.I.E.S. DOOR CONTEST

In a festive celebration, the STARS/TIES community had a blast with one of our many events for our “A December to Remember” week with an enchanting Door Contest. Distinguished judges from Central Office that included officials, directors, and staff, alongside our History School-Based Supervisor, were on hand to evaluate the creatively adorned doors. The decorations not only showcased artistic brilliance, but also demonstrated a commitment to Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) principles and met the rubric expectations for a well-rounded holiday experience for our students. The competition was fierce, but Room 109, led by Mr. Rodriguez, emerged victorious with the exceptional door titled “Grinch Who Stole Mr. Boz.”

Nevertheless, every door demonstrated remarkable creativity and effort, emphasizing that each one played a vital role in contributing to the success of our Holiday Climate & Culture and SEL project. Congratulations to all participants for making this door contest a memorable and spirited event!”



S.T.A.R.S./T.I.E.S. DOOR CONTEST



S.T.A.R.S./T.I.E.S. WINTER COAT DRIVE



In the spirit of generosity, STARS/TIES illuminated the holiday season apart of our "A December to Remember" week by holding a Winter Coat Drive. Throughout the week of events, staff and students from STARS, TIES, and STEAM united in collecting gently used coats from December 11 to December 22, contributing to a charitable initiative that extends warmth and kindness. Partnering with local faith-based shelters, our school aimed to make a positive impact in our community during this festive time. This project not



only helps those in need, but also imparts valuable lessons to our students about the importance of caring and sharing, aligning seamlessly with the six pillars of character we strive to instill in them. We are delighted to announce that we not only met but exceeded our goal by collecting **100+** coats, showcasing the power of our united community in spreading warmth and goodwill in the holiday season.



EASTSIDE NATIONAL SPANISH HONOR SOCIETY

"UNITED FOR THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC"

The Eastside National Spanish Honor Society (ENSHS) students, reached their goal of donating 17 boxes of essential items (food and clothing) that will benefit those affected by the recent rains and flooding in the Dominican Republic. Paterson City Councilmen, Luis Vélez and Alex Méndez, expressed their gratitude for such a generous effort. The ENSHS advisor, Mrs. Marbel Tamayo, highlighted the students' excellent job in the "United for the Dominican Republic" project and is proud of their generous and charitable spirit.

Congratulations to the 42-person ENSHS team as a whole! ¡Todos a una!



"STUDENT AWARDS CEREMONY"

The Esther Forero Chapter of the Eastside National Spanish Honor Society (ENSHS), held its Student Awards Ceremony last Thursday, January 11. The ceremony was attended by administrators, teachers, and friends. ENSHS students were recognized for their excellent achievements and received Principal's List, Honor Roll, and Citizenship Award certificates. The event ended with the presentation of the new ENSHS Officers. Congratulations! Let's keep celebrating their academic achievements with them!



Principal List



Honor Roll



Citizenship Award



National Spanish Honor Society 2023 - 2024 Officers

SCHOOL N O. 21 ALUMNI RECEIVE HONORS

The School No. 21 community welcomed three special guests to celebrate their support of the school. Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly, Victor Cruz, and Paterson Public Schools' own Supervisor of Athletics at Eastside High School T.J. Hill. The guests were honored in remarks by Principal JoAnne Riviello and provided a show by the school's cheerleading squad. In a surprise announcement near the close of the assembly, Principal Riviello notified everyone there that the school's newly refurbished gymnasium was to officially be named after T.J. Hill and Victor Cruz, who are alumni of School No. 21. A committee is in discussions of what the official name for the gym will be and are due to meet soon.



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TWO INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ACHIEVED IVY LEAGUE SCHOLARSHIPS



Lucy Cano-Bartolo

Two International High School students, will be attending a couple of America's premiere schools in the Fall through Questbridge Match Scholarship. Lucy Cano-Bartolo will be going to Dartmouth College in New Hampshire and Nairenny Jimenez will be going to Wesleyan University in Connecticut. The scholarship is reserved for students from families earning less than \$65,000 annually for a household of four who have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement in advanced placement classes.

Through this program, the



Nairenny Jimenez

students have been accepted on early admission and will each have a full four-year scholarship, worth over \$200,000 that will cover all related expenses for their post-secondary education. Lucy Cano-Bartolo is very happy to have been matched with Dartmouth College, an Ivy League school, as is her family, especially since she is the first person in her family to attend college. Her family came from Mexico with a dream to provide a better life for their child, which she fulfilled through her hard work. Cano-Bartolo's schedule is full of responsibilities at school and home. She is the Public Relations Officer for the International Club, part of the French Honor Society, is a Physics and Chemistry peer tutor, and is a NJ Seeds College Scholar. Outside of school, she works a part-time job, babysits, bakes goods for donations to the homeless, and provides translations for her family for everyday things, from everyday conversations to official paperwork.

"I'm very excited, very proud of myself; it makes me feel like I accomplished something, especially for my family," said Cano-Bartolo. "My family has always wanted the best for me so they're very proud of what I've done." Cano-Bartolo has been to Dartmouth before, having participated in a Summer program there this year. She is looking to study Psychology and do pre-med to become a psychiatrist.

When Nairenny Jimenez took a tour of Wesleyan University back in February, she didn't know that she would be returning to it after her senior year. When she broke the news of being accepted, her mother jumped for joy and her voicemail soon filled with congratulatory messages from loved ones; she is the first in her family to go to college. Being matched to Wesleyan University is the crowning achievement of Jimenez's educational efforts. She had fully immersed herself in school activities during her time at IHS, being part of several clubs. She is in the National Honor Society, French Honor Society, the Spanish Club, serving as its President, the International Club as its Event Coordinator, and the Art Club. Jimenez is also a NJ Seeds College Scholar and Governor's STEM Scholar. Outside of school-related activities, she performs community service at the Father English Pantry. "My family is extremely hardworking and has not failed to show me that no matter the circumstances, we can succeed in life," Jimenez said. "They have shown me that it is possible to work hard and to look forward no matter what." Jimenez's life-long goal has been to become a Pediatrician. Once she starts at Wesleyan University, she plans on taking her first steps by studying Biology/Biomedical Sciences in the pre-med track.

P-CASA AWARDS DISTRICT STAFF

District staff were honored at Community Appreciation Luncheon hosted by P-CASA (Paterson Coalition Against Substance Abuse) through Montclair State University. P-Casa's mission is simple, "we want to stop alcohol, tobacco, and drug use among Paterson's youth." Recipients of the *Youth Impact Achievement Award* were given to School Counselor Ms. Julissa Batista, School Based Mental Health Counselor Ms. Chalyce Glover and both Supervisors of Physical Education and Health, Dr. Clarissa Adams and Ms. Shannon Malone. Recipients of the *Lifetime Commitment Achievement Award* were given to Supervisor of Student Support Services Ms. Laurel Olson and District Parent Coordinator Mr. Mark Fischer.



P-TECH "VOYAGE THROUGH THE SOLAR SYSTEM"

One Saturday in December, the Paterson Museum was abuzz with excitement as families and guests embarked on a "Voyage Through the Solar System." The event was organized in collaboration with Paterson P-Tech High School students, the Paterson Museum, Great Falls National Park, NASA Solar System Ambassadors, and the P-Tech Planetarium's portable program, aimed to inspire a love and appreciation for space exploration and science. Over 170 families gathered for a day filled with hands-on activities, informative presentations, and planetarium programming.



By The Way...

It was a special day on Friday, December 1, at Rosa L. Parks School of Fine & Performing Arts as they celebrated Paterson's Rosa Parks Day. The day involved special guests such as Judge Karen Brown, Councilwoman Ruby Cotton, and Superintendent Laurie W. Newell. To cap off the day-long celebration, the school jazz band and chorus gave a performance at the end of the day.



The FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) was at Public School 16, they talked about substance abuse and careers in the FBI. Around 180 students mainly 7th and 8th graders with 12 staff members were engaged and asked a great deal of questions. Unfortunately, they were not allowed to take pictures, "Hello... they ARE the FBI," but they allowed the students to take pictures in a "Future FBI Agent" frame.

Passaic County Sheriff Depart visited the Edward W. Kilpatrick School on Saturday, December 16th to distribute toys to all its students and community families. The annual tradition of the Sheriff's department chooses schools and their neighborhoods at random for Santa to visit and spread some holiday joy.



*Happy Victory Day
Bangladesh*

On Saturday, December 16th, at School 27 gymnasium, the Bangladesh community celebrated Bangladesh Victory Day. Over 70 children were registered, the majority of them being District students.

IT'S SHOWTIME AT INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Commissioner Della McCall was the MC of the 2023 District Winter Concert. The concert was supported by Addidas Cornerstone Community and showcased school performances by School No. 2, Norman S. Weir, School No. 24, and Rosa L. Parks High School.



School No. 2 Choir



School No. 24 Orchestra & Choir



Norman S. Weir Choir



Rosa L. Parks HS Jazz Band & Choir



SHOUT OUT!

Dianne Gallina is a Teacher Coordinator at the Alonzo “Tambua” Moody Academy. She was born and raised in the Bronx, New York, and later attended City University in New York. Gallina always wanted to be a teacher, wanted to work with children. After graduating with her teaching certificate, she was fortunate enough to apply and get a job in Paterson. She’s been with the District since 1971.

In the beginning, she was part of a follow-through program as a kindergarten teacher at School No. 28, using non-traditional methods to tap into students’ creativity. She stayed at School No. 28 for thirty-eight years. Then, in 2009, she moved to School No. 6 for a few years. From 2013 to mid-2015 she worked at Central Office. First as the Teacher Coordinator To The Special Assistant To The Superintendent, then as the Teacher Coordinator Of Professional Development. While at 90 Delaware, she took great interest in helping teachers improve their abilities to work with students on advancing their progress.

Ms. Gallina missed being around the students, so she switched back to working at the schools in the Summer of 2015 as a Teacher Mentor of Data within the alternative high school division. At that time, there were three alternative buildings, YES academy, Silk City, and Great Falls Academy. She worked at two of the schools, becoming a Teacher Coordinator first at Silk City, then at Great Falls. Eventually, all three programs were combined into a single operation in one building, the Alonzo “Tambua” Moody Academy on Market St. She enjoys it there and makes note of how the program approaches students from a philosophy of caring; getting through some of the layers and baggage that her students bring with them to school.

Ms. Gallina considers herself very fortunate, having to do what she loves every day. “I get to interact with some of the best students and best colleagues,” she said. “I learned a tremendous amount throughout my entire career in different ways and approaching it as a learning process.” Her longevity allows her the unique experience of telling a few of her students that she remembers having taught a few of their grandparents.

After 53 years Ms. Gallina has yet to consider retirement. “I enjoy what I’m doing,” she says, “and I plan to continue as long as I can.” She addresses the question that some have asked her, “Am I going to retire from my passion, from what I’m doing? I don’t think so.”



The Best Part of My Day

“Interacting with the students, There is no doubt, no question, just interacting with the kids,” says Ms. Gallina. “Greeting them at the door, saying hello, how are you, let’s have a good day, getting a smile from them, a hug from them, just a ‘how are you doing today’; It’s very important for us to give that to the students, it’s also very important for us to receive that back from the students”.

A Quote to Live By...

“Just do it.... Don’t let anything else come in your way. You have to set yourself a goal.” She tells the students to not let anything deviate them from what they really want to do. “If you really believe in something you go for it, so just do it”.

STEAM DAY

The annual STEAM Day was once again held at William Paterson University. The winners of each participating school's STEAM contest were invited to attend the event. The day started with an Expo, in which each school had time to present their project to each other and District staff. Next, the students attended STEAM related activities provided by the university. The day finished with encouraging words from Superintendent of Schools Laurie W. Newell and Director of STEAM Elizabeth Caccavella.

