

— THE DISTRICT — CHRONICLER

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

February 2024

THEIR VOICES HEARD

District Leadership Meets With High School Student Councils

Over eight days, four high schools hosted Superintendent Newell and Deputy Superintendent Henderson as they met with the respective student councils for a conversation about the concerns and hopes of the students.

The first visit was to International High School, next was STEAM High School a few days later, then John F. Kennedy High School, and finally Newcomers High School. In the meetings, students shared what they wanted to have improved in their schools, what they liked about their schools, and what they hoped would be added to their educational experience. They opened up about what they and their peers have experienced as Patersonians and how it affects their learning. Many of the students expressed appreciation for their teachers, and an overall satisfaction with the progressive development of relationships with faculty.

Edwin Camacho, a social studies teacher at Paterson STEAM and advisor to the school's student council, said of the students, "They do all the work and make us look good."



International High School



Paterson STEAM High School



John F. Kennedy High School



Newcomers High School



NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELOR WEEK



Elementary School Counselors from across the District came to Central Office to be celebrated for National School Counselor Week. Director of Guidance & Counseling Tamisha McKoy, with Elementary Schools Supervisor Michael DuBose, and Student Support Services (SAC) Supervisor Laurel Olson hosted the event.

There was live jazz performed by John DuBose with his band and special guest speakers Superintendent Laurie W. Newell and Young Men's Leadership Academy Principal Marc Medley. Certificates of appreciation were handed out after the closing remarks, which were given by Dr. DuBose.

High School Counselors were celebrated at another event held elsewhere to which District representatives also visited to show appreciation.



Black History Month Celebrations

Schools held Black History Month celebrations throughout the month. New Roberto Clemente, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Roberto Clemente schools held assemblies that celebrated important African-American figures in American history. School No. 19 held a concert, and Paterson P-TECH held a program, “In the Mind of Our Heroes”.

Renaissance One School of Humanities held a celebration after hours that invited the school community to enjoy original student poetry readings, music provided by the Paterson Music Project, dance performances, and dinner.



School 16 hosted Matthew Whitaker, a piano prodigy with vision impairment, who is a rising Jazz star.



School No. 24's celebration featured special speakers Assemblyman Wimberly and Mayor Sayegh, and also bestowed recognitions on individuals that have played pivotal roles in shaping the School 24 community, such as Emery Allen, a teacher and coach for the cheerleaders, security guard Wayne Powel, and Assistant Superintendent David Cozart, Jr. for his support of the fine and performing arts program. Appreciation was also shown to Michael Hall, Paterson's first African American Fire Chief. The guest of honor was Darryl McDaniels of RUN-DMC, who performed his iconic hit, "It's Tricky", while backed by School 24's dancers.



Eastside High School put on several exhibitions of a program dubbed, “This Little Light of Mine”. It showcased a poetry reading, a dance performance by the Full Service Dance Club, and a performance of an original play, written and directed by Eastside HS Social Studies teacher John Mathis. The play, The Barbera Johns Story, tells the story of how Barbera Johns, a 16 year-old student at R.R. Moton High School in Farmville, Va. in 1951, led a student strike for equal education opportunities. After securing NAACP legal support, the Moton students filed

Davis vs. Prince Edward County, the only student-initiated case consolidated into Brown vs. Board of Education, the landmark 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision declaring "separate but equal" public schools unconstitutional.

BOARD OF EDUCATION AMBASSADORS!

High School Student Representatives Attend Their First Board Meeting

On Wednesday evening, two more attendees were seated with the Commissioners for their first Paterson Board of Education meeting. Thaddeus Chestnut of Paterson P-TECH serves as the lead, with Destine'e Petit of Rosa L. Parks High School as the alternate. Superintendent of Schools Laurie W. Newell appointed the seniors through a lottery of applicants.



Thaddeus Chestnut
Paterson P-TECH

Mr. Chestnut is a senior who is at the top of his class at Paterson P-TECH and is close to receiving his associate degree at Passaic County Community College. He is both the Senior Class President and the three-term Student Body President of Paterson P-TECH. Mr. Chestnut is also the Co-op Liaison to IBM, in which position he has led meetings for students to learn about changes happening in the tech field. Clubs in which he participates are the Gay-Straight Alliance and The National Honor Society.

Ms. Petit is a vocal major and will be attending the American Musical Dramatic Academy (AMDA) located in Manhattan, NY in the Fall. She is part of her school's National Honors Society and was active in the YES Program.

Superintendent of Schools Laurie W. Newell has appointed the two students to serve as student ambassadors to

the Board of Education (BOE), as required by a New Jersey State law signed into effect in January 2022.

Board President Manuel Martinez, Jr. said, "The way that these young folks came in here and presented themselves was indicative of the quality of students that we have throughout our district. They were well spoken, very poised, engaged and we expect a lot of goodness from their work going forward."

Superintendent of Schools Laurie W. Newell said of the representatives, "These two students are excellent examples of the District's efforts to help children achieve their potential. The student representative position is one that requires a high level of responsibility but allows a unique platform to express the ideas and concerns of students around the district. I know that they will make good use of the opportunity to represent their peers' interests."



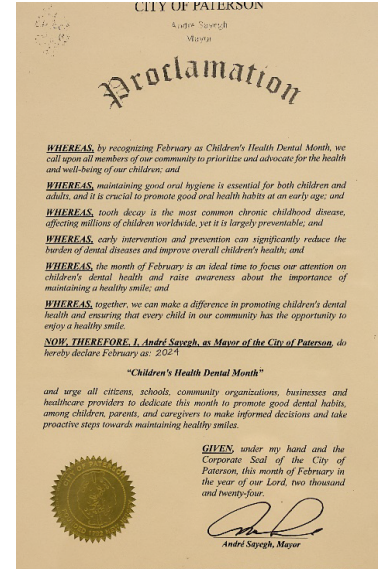
Destine'e Petit
Rosa L. Parks High School

Children's Health Dental Month Proclamation

The City of Paterson declared February as Children's Health Dental Month and Mayor André Sayegh presented a copy of the proclamation to representatives of the PPS Office of Dental Services team. Also on hand were Executive Director of Family & Community Engagement William Kemper McDowell and District Wide Community Outreach & Special Projects Coordinator Evelyn Peña.



(L-R) William Kemper McDowell, Miriam Martinez, André Sayegh, Nesime Dokur, Evelyn Peña



(L-R) Dr. Bethany Herila, Nesime Dokur CDA, Yana Zaydel RDH, and Miriam Martinez CDA



DISTRICT SCHOOLS CELEBRATE 100 DAYS

Staff and students across the District celebrated the 100th Day Of School on Friday, Feb. 23rd. At School No. 2 kindergarteners dressed up as centenarians. One class of special-needs students created oobleck, a slime made of cornstarch and water that can behave like a solid or a liquid depending on how much pressure is applied. Principal Serrano toured the classes and read the book, “The 100 Hats of the Cat in the Hat: A Celebration of the 100th Day of School” to students.



School No. 2



Paterson P-TECH



School No. 18



School No. 27



School No. 25

SHOUT OUT !

Yana Zaydel has been working in the District's Dental Services for 10 years. She is the office's Coordinator of Dental Services, but also serves as a teacher of Dental Assistance at STEAM High School. She came from Russia in the early 90's as a Dental Assistant. Shortly after her arrival she attended Baltimore City Community College where she earned her license and has been a Dental Hygienist. Ms. Zaydel worked for many private practices, but performing her duties while repeatedly maintaining the same position was straining on her shoulders. She stopped being a Dental Hygienist to open her own Dental Assistance school, then sometime later she also joined the District's Dental Services Department. She worked at both her school and for the District until it became too much, at which point she chose to close her school after seven years of business in order to dedicate herself to the District.

Her love of working with children and serving their dental needs is evident when she speaks about how effective the operation has become at fulfilling its mission. She takes immense pride in her team and their efforts, but also recognizes how the relatively new facilities that the dental clinic is now housed in help in their success. For years the clinic was located in the basement of the Paterson Board of Health building at 176 Broadway. It was a smaller space with aging equipment that limited the scope of their capabilities; at the time they could only serve around 700 children annually. Four years ago, the operation was moved to the Full Service Community Center on the corner of Market Street and Madison Avenue, but the Pandemic delayed the opening for a couple of years. They now have fully updated equipment and more space to house services, like digital radiography and an in-house lab. They serve children ages 3-17 that live within Paterson for free, regardless of whether they are District or charter school students, insured or not. Ms. Zaydel is also looking to extend hours to a few late evenings and some Saturdays to better accommodate families. As part of her efforts, since September, she has had Bergen Community College Dental Hygiene students come help treat patients in exchange for an opportunity to meet their program's requirements. Because of the new facilities, service quality, and word-of-mouth the clinic serves an average of 2,500 children annually.



The Best Part of My Day

Ms. Zaydel enjoys being surrounded by kids every day. During the day she works with teenagers while teaching Dental Assistance at STEAM. In the afternoon she meets with younger children while at the Dental Clinic.

A Quote to Live By...

"Improve children's lives one smile at a time" is not only the motto of the Dental Clinic, it is also Yana Zaydel's guiding principle.

SODEXO DONATION TO PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO COMBAT CHILDHOOD HUNGER

The Department of Family and Community Engagement received a donation of \$1,000 from the Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation. The contribution, announced on Friday, will be utilized to bolster the Backpack Food Program, aimed at alleviating food insecurity among children in the district.

"We are so deeply grateful to the Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation for their unwavering support," William Kemper McDowell, Executive Director of Family & Community Engagement for Paterson Public Schools said. "Their generous donation will enable us to expand our efforts in combating food insecurity among our students."

Most backpacks will include enough food to make a few healthy meals, including breakfast items like cereal, oatmeal or granola bars, easy to prepare meals like mac and cheese, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, or canned soup, bread, milk or juice, fresh or canned fruit, fresh or canned vegetables, and snacks.



SCHOOL 16 STUDENTS JOIN INTERMEDIATE REGIONAL CONCERT BAND

Two students from Paterson School 16 have secured spots in the prestigious New Jersey Intermediate Regional Concert Band, commonly known as "Regionals". Cecily Nunez, showcasing her vocal prowess, and Sahian Cuervo, with her percussion skills, have been selected to participate in this highly competitive ensemble.

"It is truly gratifying to observe the successful implementation of our initiatives for student development," Jason Quevedo, a teacher at School 16 said. "The efficacy of our in-school music program, fortified by steadfast support from the administration and the supplementary after-school assistance provided by PMP, underscores the dedication of our accomplished team. We remain committed to delivering enriching opportunities and contributing positively to the educational journey of our students."

"My love for singing has brought me this opportunity, and I'm so grateful," Nunez said. "This gives me a chance to show my talent. I was in a bit of shock when I found out I had been accepted and my mom was really proud to hear the news."

"I decided to do Regionals because I think it is a great opportunity to learn new things and possibly open other doors for me," Cuervo said. "I was so nervous about being rejected; it feels like a great goal achieved."



[More detail in TAPinto Paterson!](#)

INTERNATIONAL CLUB DRAGON DANCE TROUPE

IB World Language Teacher Tracy Chuan-chu Hong Syz is incredibly proud of the Dragon Dance team, which was initiated and organized by her through the International Club at International High School. Their recent off-campus performance at Rutgers University was a significant achievement. Following that performance the International Club hosted a Lunar New Year Community Event on February 27th. The event received sponsorship from the Paterson Education Association.

[See additional photos and video here!](#)



EASTSIDE NATIONAL SPANISH HONOR SOCIETY BRINGS JOY THROUGH MUSIC AND DANCE

The Eastside High School National Spanish Honor Society (ENSHS) Chapter Ester Forero visited “Mi Casa Es Su Casa” Adult Center in February, in a vibrant celebration of Dominican Folklore Day. They danced, sang, and at the end of the event, distributed 80 gifts to the elderly attendees at the center.



S.T.A.R.S./T.I.E.S. LOVEUARY WEEK

“Love and respect filled the air at STARS/TIES during the week of February 12th as part of our LOVEUARY Week celebration,” said Kai Jones, Supervisor of Special Education. Staff and students alike participated in various themed days, showcasing the spirit of unity and positivity fostered through their Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) initiative.

Each day offered unique opportunities for expression, from showing love for hats and socks to wearing tie-dye shirts in the name of peace and love. Wednesday saw a sea of pink, red, and white attire as we embraced the theme of wearing love. Thursday encouraged comfort and coziness, while Friday celebrated celebrity crushes and sports teams. Amidst these festivities, morning reflections centered on the five core SEL competencies: Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, and Decision-Making. Love and respect permeated every aspect of the STARS/TIES school community.



JOHN F. KENNEDY INTERNATIONAL DINNER NIGHT

The John F. Kennedy High School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) celebrated the school's cultural diversity for an evening. The PTO, through the efforts of teachers and parents, served dishes from each participant's culture for a shared meal on February 1st.



NEW ROBERTO CLEMENTE MINI COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR



New Roberto Clemente (NRC) held a "Mini Community Health Fair" in which they were able to engage with parents and community members. Various partners were present, providing information, goodie bags and resources. The list of community partners was as follows: School NRC Counseling Department, NRC School Nurse, NJ Snaps Food Support Services (CFBNJ), NJ Family Care, NJ Lead. Here was a great turnout of parents engaging with each table, a total of 28 families. NJ Snaps provided enrollments into their program. Similarly, the Health Clinic gave out enrollment packets NJ Family care had multiple families attempt to enroll or get

clarity on the status of their previous applications. NJ Family Care took the extra time to see all of the families that needed help getting medical insurance; their table was moved to the Health Clinic from the lunchroom after the Health Fair was over. Overall, beyond just numbers, everyone walked away with a tank full of knowledge on better ways to be mindful of their child's health and needs.



NEW KICKS AT SCHOOL NO. 20

In a message to Michele Weatherholt, Manager of Strategic Partnerships for Shoes That Fit, School No. 20 Student Assistant Coordinator Tayron Glover expressed deep gratitude for a great donation.

Shoes That Fit is a non-profit organization based in Claremont, California, that provides new shoes to children in need. The mission of Shoes That Fit is to tackle one of the most visible signs of poverty in America by giving children in need some new athletic shoes.

Mr. Glover stated in the message, “Your donation has significantly enriched our students' educational experience and instilled a sense of value and self-worth. The positive effects of your contribution will resonate throughout our school community, fostering a supportive and inclusive environment.” He included photos of the students with their new shoes and extended an invitation to the Shoes That Fit representative to visit the school to see the positive effects of their generosity firsthand.



A NEW RECIPE FOR LEARNING

Ms. Feng Xiao Liu from the Folklife Center at PCCC, visited students at Renaissance One School of Humanities. Students in Mrs. DiLauri and Ms. Casale's Grade 3 classes learned how to make Chinese dumplings, eat with chopsticks, and learned some phrases in Chinese. The students had great fun while learning about a different culture.



Support For Our Supporters

The Passaic County Sheriff's Department's (PCSD) Community Policing Unit was welcomed at School No. 21 by Principal Riviello and her staff for a special luncheon on Thursday, February 29th. The event was held as a show of support for the PCSD in the wake of the January 23rd passing of Richard H. Berdnik, the former sheriff of Passaic County.

As part of the luncheon, the attending deputies were also given a chance to enjoy the school's SWAG Room, a space for leisure and games meant to reward students that are academically high achieving or in need of social/emotional support, and met two therapy dogs from The Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs, Inc. One of the dogs, Lulu, visits the school biweekly as part of the school's grief-sensitive program, Supporting Students Who Grieve: Easing Grief, started by grade 2 Teacher Erica Bernard-Parker. Additionally, Grade 2 student Ramaj Smith read the book, "The Memory Box: A Book About Grief," for the deputies. At the close of the luncheon each of the officers received a grief pin that represents adult grief.

Sheriff's Department members remarked how it was more than they expected and how thankful they were for the support.



The Passaic County Coaches Association Honors Two JFK Knights Staff Members

Congratulations to JFK Boys Basketball Coach Tommie Patterson for receiving the Victory Award and Mr. Romal Patterson for receiving the Honor Award from The Passaic County Coaches Association. The Victory Award is bestowed for every 100 wins a coach earns; Coach Tommie Patterson it is for his 300th win. Mr. Romal Patterson was chosen for the Honor Award by the JFK Athletics Dept. because of his support of the Knights athletic teams.

They will be honored on March 27 at the Brownstone at 7:00 P.M. Tickets are available for purchase in the JFK Athletics Office.



Setting The Bar High

JFK Girls Wrestling Student Athlete Makes History



(L-R) Wrestling Coach Jason Brandt,
Solaris Paul, Assistant Coach Anthony
Vasquez

Solaris Paul is a junior at JFK High School and has been wrestling for three years. Solaris won the North 1 Regional Girls Wrestling Tournament that was held at Vernon High School this past Sunday, February 25th. By the end of the week, she would qualify as third place victor in the State Championships.

Entering the regionals tournament with a record of 10-1 made her the top seed for the 165 lbs. weight class. After three victorious bouts in a row, each won by fall, she beat Abigail Loszynski from Bergenfield High School, 1-0, in the final round.

With a 14-1 record, Solaris continued her journey later in the week down in Atlantic City. The State Championships started on Thursday, February 29th and lasted three days, ending with the finals on Saturday, March 2nd.

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ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER



T.J. Hill is a native Patersonian who wants to give back to his hometown. He is an alumni of School No. 21 and Rosa L. Parks School of Fine & Performing Arts, where he was once student-of-the-year. Having played the saxophone since the fourth grade, he focused on instrumentals in high school under now retired music teacher Peter Nelson, and took part in the Jazz Lab and concert bands. He played for the Eastside's Ghosts varsity teams in basketball, under the coaching of Henry Baker, baseball under Coach Benjie Wimberly, and football under Coach Donald Davis. He served as captain of each one of the teams, was an All-County player on the basketball and football teams, and also a blue-chip prospect in football. His work ethic and athletic ability earned an athletic scholarship at Northeastern University. At university he was voted All-American during his junior and senior years, and ranked 3rd best safety nationally during his junior year.

After earning his Bachelor's of Science in Psychology in 2002, Mr. Hill would go on to play professional football for 12 years. During this time, he would play in the NFL for the Kansas City Chiefs and then the New York Giants. Afterwards he would spend time with the Las Vegas Gladiators before eventually moving over to the Canadian Football League where he played for the Montreal Alouettes, Edmonton Eskimos, and Ottawa RedBlacks.

During the last three years of his professional football career, he took classes to achieve his Master's of Education in Early Childhood/Special Education from New Jersey City University. In the off-season he would come back to New Jersey to study in-person, and then take online classes during the season. He knew that he wanted to prepare for life after football. When he does speaking engagements at colleges he advises players to be aware that playing professionally doesn't last forever and to keep in mind what they can do afterwards. He credits family, mentors, and teachers for guidance in the right direction, that of always having a plan.

After his retirement from professional sports, he wasted no time in sharing his experience and knowledge with children. He helped out in sports camps, clinics, local recreation departments, and coaching, which he has done in Paterson and Randolph, NJ.

In 2015, Mr. Hill returned to Paterson Public Schools, this time as a teacher and coach. He would eventually become the Supervisor of Athletics at Eastside in January 2021.

He feels that his purpose is to continue passing the torch to new generations of Paterson Athletes.

The Best Part of My Day

Mr. Hill tries to cherish each moment, but he sees each morning as another chance to improve himself mentally, physically and spiritually. The days that he feels content are when he pushes himself to keep his mindset elevated, to challenge his emotions, because that is what he is trying to impart on his students and other around him.

A Quote to Live By...

"A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives."
- Jackie Robinson

MARCH 2024


SELF-CARE CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Add a little fun into your day 	2 Make room in your life to recharge
3 Check in with your energy levels	4 Power pose for 2 minutes 	5  Treat yourself with dessert	6 Close your eyes and breath for 30 seconds	7 Step outside of your comfort zone	8 Start a puzzle 	9 Make your sleeping space more relaxing
10 Stretch 	11 Let go of people's expectations	12  Make a new friend	13 Moisturize your hands 	14 Write 3 thank you notes	15 Try mindful movement	16 Compliment someone 
17 Eat something green and nutritious 	18  Learn 5 things about a different culture	19 Set some new boundaries	20 Take a warm bath	21  Do a self-interview	22 Make a relaxing plan for the weekend	23 Try a new food 
24 Go to bed 40 minutes earlier	25 Find a new podcast to listen to	26  Quit a bad habit	27 Catch up with a family member	28  Eat clean	29 Take a day off from social media	30 Take an afternoon nap
31 Play your favorite song and dance 						

This information is provided to you by:
 **PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS** 
 Department of Student Support Services
 SAC and Social Emotional Learning
 90 Delaware Avenue, Paterson NJ 07653
 Office: (973) 321-0694 johnson@paterson.k12.nj.us

MARZO 2024

CALENDARIO DE CUIDADO PERSONAL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Añade un poco de diversión a tu día 	2 Haz espacio en tu vida para recargar
3 Controla tus niveles de energía	4 Postura de poder por 2 minutos 	5  Date un postre	6 Cierra los ojos y respira por 30 segundos	7 Sal de tu zona de confort	8 Iniciar un rompecabezas 	9 Haz tu espacio para dormir sea más relajante
10 Estirar 	11 Dejar de las expectativas de personas	12  Hacer un nuevo amigo	13 Hidrata tus manos 	14 Escribe 3 notas de gracias	15 Prueba el movimiento consciente	16 Felicitar a alguien 
17 Come algo verde y nutritivo 	18  Aprende 5 cosas de una cultura diferente	19 Establece algunos límites nuevos	20 Toma un baño tibio	21  Haz una autoentrevista	22 Haz un plan relajante para el fin de semana	23 Prueba una nueva comida 
24 Acuéstate 40 minutos antes	25 Encuentra un nuevo podcast para escuchar	26  Deja un mal hábito	27 Ponte al día con un miembro de la familia	28  Comer limpio	29 Tómate un día libre de las redes sociales	30 Toma una siesta por la tarde
31 Toca tu canción favorita y baila 						

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Important Dates

March 1	Early Student Dismissal – PD for Staff
March 15	PEA / Early Dismissal
March 28	Early Dismissal
March 29	District Closed – Good Friday (Grades 9 - 12)



Board of Education Meeting

The March 13th Board of Education Workshop meeting will be held at 90 Delaware Avenue.

Those who want to give public comment must do so in person.

The March 20th Board of Education Regular meeting will be conducted remotely.

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

Simultaneous Language Interpretation

All previously recorded Board meetings provided captioned translations 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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