

— THE DISTRICT — CHRONICLER

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

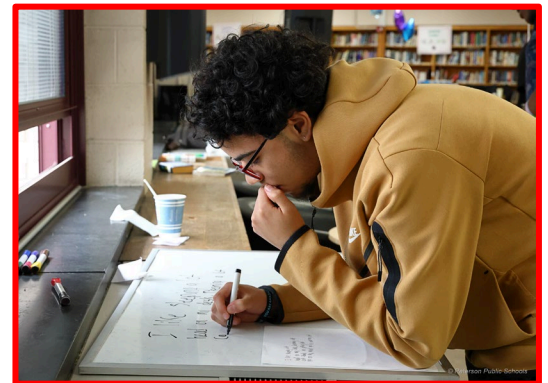
April 2024

LIFE BY METER

Students Across The District Take Part In National Poetry Month

April is National Poetry Month and many classes across the District had lessons about the art form as part of their daily plans. Some schools held events for students to showcase their original poems.

John F. Kennedy High School hosted three poets over four days in the middle of the month that led poetry workshops with students. Rashad Wright, poet laureate emeritus of Jersey City, Yolanda Simmons, the Community Program Coordinator at School No. 12, and Faye Flow, a Flow Artist/Motivational Speaker helped students in improving their skills and provided insights in writing. The students would later attend an open mic poetry event at the school the following week to perform their work in front of an audience.



School No. 21's students had a Poetry Reading on Friday, April 26. Over thirty students stood before their parents and peers to read their original poems during the assembly in the school's gymnasium. Students' work ranged in topic from their family's country of origin to identity and sports stars to seasons.



Eastside High School 11th grader Jaslynn Colon won 1st place in the Theater Art and Poetry Project Contest hosted by the Poetry Center at Passaic County Community College. She created the work in her Creative Writing Class with the guidance of her English teacher, Talena Queen, who is also the Poet Laureate for Paterson.

I Was Raised By *Jaslynn Colon*

I was raised by a Pepsi-loving crazy mother, by a Spanish and English-speaking mother.
Where if you act up she'll set you straight in front of people type of mother.
I was raised by a hard-working, always making sure we got a roof over our heads type of mother.
A strict divorced Paterson-born Puerto Rican mother raised me.

I was raised by a Hispanic joke-cracking, always working hard so his kids wouldn't starve type of man.
Where if you hurt any of his babies he'll be the first one banging on your door.
I was raised by an "I'm Papi Chulo" always smiling with his dimples type of man.
A man straight from the island of Puerto Rico raised me.

I was raised with my two older sisters who are annoying at times but always have my back no matter what. I was raised by my grandma and grandpa Lela and Lelo who always watched and cooked for me when I was sick. I was raised by an at times dysfunctional but strong-hearted Puerto Rican family.



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Autism Awareness Month

Flying The Colors

Students attended the raising of the Autism Awareness flag at city hall on April 8th. Dale Ave School students and staff took part in the festivities and listened to School No. 2's Principal Serrano deliver a speech.



AUTISM SPEAKS AT PUBLIC SCHOOL NO. 27

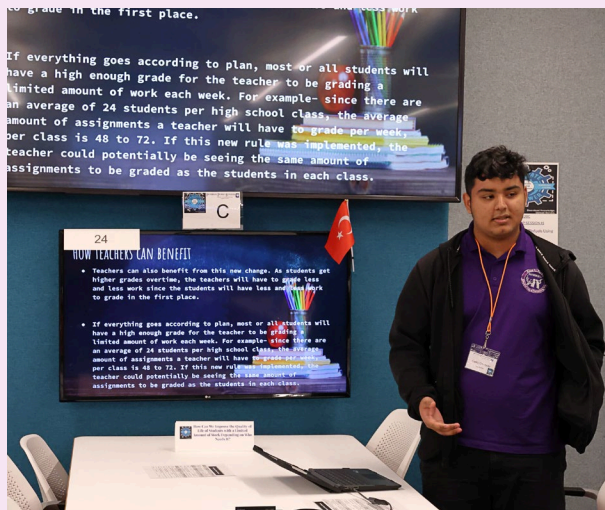
On April 25, six-hundred fifty students, one hundred thirty staff members, Principal Kelli A. White and Assistant Principal Jeimy Perez participated in an Autism Awareness Day Walk. The event was planned by Physical Education teacher, Tara Patula. Students and staff members wore blue and Autism Awareness shirts to support inclusivity, acceptance, and tolerance for people who have Autism. The funds from the event will be donated to Autism Speaks. Special Education teacher, Samantha Kelly, also provided each student with a puzzle piece, and the front entrance was decorated with creative artwork. "We want Autism to speak at Public School #27 and our community, so no one feels ostracized, isolated or less than," said Principal White.



STEAM Power Is The Future

Annual High School STEAM Symposium

Three schools attended this year's Annual High School STEAM Symposium, hosted by Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine in Nutley, N.J. on Thursday. Teams from Paterson P-TECH, Rosa L. Parks HS, and Paterson STEAM HS attended the event to do presentations of STEAM themed projects that they had been working on for months. Projects ranged from crop evolution to using algae as a sustainable biofuel. Each team, seven in total, had a little over half an hour to give their presentation and answer questions.



Family STEAM Night

Grade 2 students and their families of Schools No. 5, 7, 21, and 26 enjoyed Family STEAM Night on Tuesday April 23rd. Organized by the District's Office of STEAM Education, Grade 2 teachers read the book, "Iggy Peck, Architect" by Andrea Beatty. The evening's activities were architecture based and inspired by the book. Every student who attended received their own copy of Iggy Peck's, "Big Project Book For Amazing Architects" to continue engaging in STEAM related activities.



A New Chapter



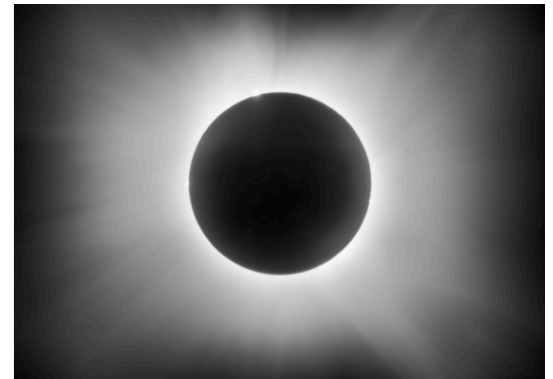
Director of Guidance Tamisha McKoy has been inducted into the Alpha Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. The society promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education. Congratulations Ms. McKoy on being recognized for your contributions in education.

Watching The Skies

Taking In The Totality

On April 8th, Dr. Miranda, the Planetarium Program Manager at Paterson P-Tech Planetarium, was part of a team that operated the Site 30 telescope set up that is part of the Citizen Continental-America Telescopic Eclipse (CATE) 2024 project.

The path of totality for the total solar eclipse traversed the United States, spanning from Texas through the Midwest, and reaching up to Maine. Funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and NASA, the CATE 2024 project deployed around 40 identical telescope setups along this path of totality. These telescopes were operated by teams of community scientists with an objective to capture and analyze the eclipse's phenomena in detail, contributing valuable scientific insights and data. Each CATE team received a comprehensive kit containing a telescope, camera, laptop, various observing equipment, and educational materials. Upon completion of the project, each team will get to keep the equipment for use in their communities. The instruments Dr. Miranda and his team had used will remain with Paterson P-Tech's planetarium program for future outreach events and heliophysics projects for students throughout the district.



Safe Viewing



Students participated in a solar eclipse safety lesson with Dr. Edghill on April 8th. Solar viewing glasses were donated to the students and staff due to our ongoing experiential learning partnership with P-TECH Planetarium.

Moving Up And Moving On

Families Of Students With Disabilities Explore Resources For Adulthood

The Dept. of Special Education and Services held its 2nd Annual Special Education “Ticket To Transition Fair” on April 20th. The event, organized by the District’s Teacher Transition Coordinator Crystal Cox-Tober, is aimed to empower families of students with disabilities ages 14 through 21 with information to help their children transition into adulthood. The event showcased agencies from the State and the region that provide resources to help in the confusing process. The event has grown since last year, with 26 vendors attending this year compared to last year’s 21 vendors.



Opening remarks by Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Coy were followed by the keynote address made by Transition and Employment Specialist Alyssa Lacey of the State’s Division of Developmental Disabilities. She gave an informative overview of the services available to families after their students graduate.



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THE BEAUTY OF EASTSIDE

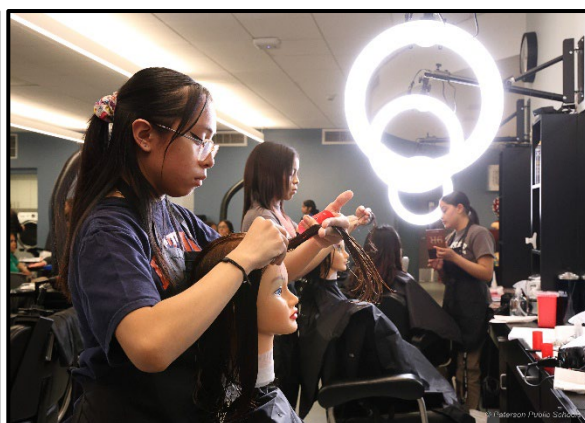
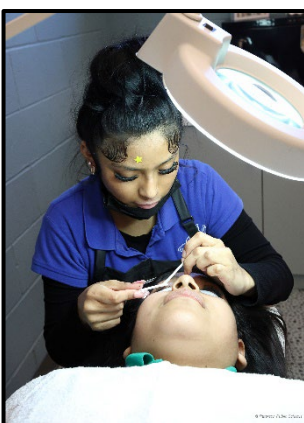
High school unveils its Cosmetology Program



April 23rd saw the ribbon-cutting ceremony of Eastside High School's newly minted Cosmetology program. The event was attended by District officials, faculty, local dignitaries, and community members. Students enrolled in the program showcased the skills and techniques that they are learning in order to earn a professional certification, so that they can begin working in the beauty field immediately after high school. The program gives Eastside students a distinct edge over aspiring beauty professionals that look to take classes post-graduation.

The program is also equipped with new professional equipment as would be found in a top tier beauty business. There are currently 74 students enrolled in the program and an additional 50 recently added; the popularity of the program requires that the facilities be expanded to accommodate the enrollment, hence a smaller adjacent classroom will be converted into a similarly equipped studio by next year.

For more information on the event, [read the article that appears in TAPinto Paterson!](#)



Money Matters

On Tuesday, April 16th, John F. Kennedy High School (JFK) students participated in the Great Falls Peer Financial Literacy Day. The event was organized by the Accounting & Banking Pathway at JFK and the New Jersey Community Development Corporation (NJCDC).

The program presented important financial literacy topics and gave participants an opportunity to meet banking professionals. Representatives from North Jersey Federal Credit Union, Columbia Bank, and Valley Bank gave seminars during break-out sessions that covered topics such as credit, credit repair, FICO scores, loans, and identity theft. They were assisted by student presenters that read presentation slides and helped facilitate interactions between their peers and the bank representatives.

At the end of the program, a raffle was held in which students that received tickets for actively participating during the break-out sessions could win a Sony PlayStation 5. In addition, all students received a special lunch and had an opportunity to interact further with the bank representatives.



KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS' ARTWORK GETS EXHIBITED AT THE VICTORIA THEATER LOBBY



Jennifer Ramirez (Grade 11)



Marina Acuna Luna Victoria (Grade 11)

John F. Kennedy High School students had their artwork selected for exhibition at the Early Spring: Art Educators of New Jersey (AENJ) Exhibition at the Victoria Theater Lobby at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark. The reception was held on April 7th.

Jennifer Ramirez, a junior in Art Teacher So Yoon Lym's 'Intro to Drawing and Painting' class, and Marina Acuna Luna Victoria, a junior in Art Teacher Christine Keppel's 'Foundations of Art' class, had their artwork selected for the event. A total of 30 student artworks from across the state were chosen.

EASTER EGG HUNT 2.0

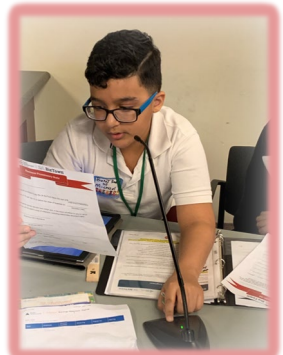
STEAM High School, STARS High School, and the TIES Program were thrilled to have an Easter Egg Hunt 2.0, with a creative twist that celebrates diversity and inclusivity as we approach Autism Awareness Month. Led by the innovative STEAM Student Ambassadors and Mr. Garrabrant, Math teacher, this year's hunt takes on a new dimension, incorporating elements of STEAM & STARS from the traditional egg hunt. Dr. Bess, STEAM Principal, and Mr. Jones, Sped Supervisor, joined the event as a wonderful way to celebrate unity across THE CAMPUS.

Thank you to Dr. Bess, Mr. Jones, Mr. G, and the STEAM Student Ambassadors for spearheading this initiative and for their dedication to creating an inclusive and engaging event for all students."



WORK EXPERIENCE

The Grade 5 Knights visited Junior Achievement's BizTown Simulation Center in Edison on Tax Day, April 15th. Students were employed as CEO's, CFO's, bank tellers, health care workers, radio DJ's and more. They performed duties at Citizens Bank, Horizon Wellness, NJBiz Radio and they even staffed a Chick-Fil-A! The trip was full of hands-on learning opportunities for students to demonstrate leadership, teamwork, experience the world of work and the responsibilities of citizenship.



RENAISSANCE ONE VISITS NY OPERA

Students in Grades 3, 4, & 5 attended a performance of the opera, "*La Rondine*", at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. This was a culminating activity of classroom repertoire exploration workshops provided by Teaching Artist Karla Hendricks of the Met. Students learned about this particular opera in addition to utilizing their tableau tools to become various characters at the café in La Rondine, once back at school.



MOUNTED POLICE UNIT “GALLOPS” TO DALE AVENUE



The Passaic County Sheriff’s Office’s Mounted Police Unit visited Dale Avenue School to talk with students about the role the Mounted Unit plays in helping with the Sheriff’s Office’s patrol operations, crowd control, as well as search and rescue missions. Students were given a chance to pet the horse after the presentation and ask questions.

CONSERVATION PROJECT

The 8th grade students of Ms. Grevesen at Alexander Hamilton Academy participated in “*Innovate to Mitigate*”, a national competition to design innovations that mitigate global climate change. Their team, Popeye’s Pirates, won 1st Prize in the 2023-2024 competition! Funded by the National Science Foundation, the project was administered by TERC, an internationally recognized STEM education institution located in Cambridge, MA. Middle and high school students collaborated in teams on projects with a goal to preserve biodiversity and mitigate climate change. Projects ranged from designing an efficient wind turbine and battery systems, creating and testing green roofs, and writing and delivering lessons for elementary grade students to learn about the importance of conservation methods. In interviews, students described how they self-organized to divide tasks, remained engaged and committed over months of project work, and worked together to produce videos of their work. Ms. Grevesen commented on how the students are “the innovative change for our future.”



Eternal Flames

New members join the ranks of nationally recognized students

A select group of students at School No. 10 had their induction into the National Junior Honor Society on April 24th. After lighting the candle and taking their oath, students listened to the keynote address given by Assemblyman Benjie E. Wimberly.



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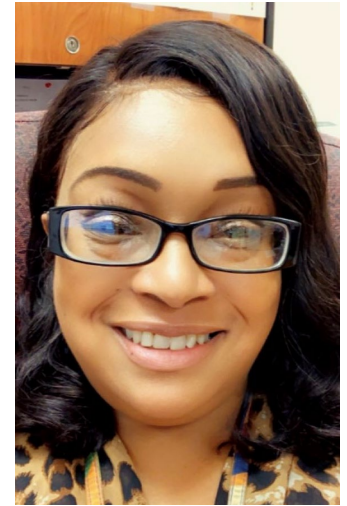
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SHOUT OUT !

Annette Huntley is the Confidential Secretary for the Assistant Superintendent's Office for Unit III. She is a native Patersonian, the middle child of five, and has spent her entire career with the District. Ms. Huntley is an alumnus of Public Schools No. 3, 2, and John F. Kennedy High School. It was there that she got an opportunity to work for the District as a student - worker through the Student Workforce program at 15 and learned at that early age that she wanted to be a secretary. As a student worker, regular employees in Central Office were amazed by her typing skills and speed. Two years later, after graduation, she was hired by the District. She credits Jean Sanford and Maria Santa for her early experience and has served in many capacities over her tenure, starting with the Department of Special Services. She has worked in several departments, for Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents. In total, she has done her part in serving the children of Paterson for 38 years.



The Best Part of My Day

"When parents call and helping them, calm them down a little bit; many parents go through a lot in this community. Just to know that I helped one family get a resolution to whatever problem they called in about and that their child will get a quality education."

She loves and cherishes Paterson, simply loves the city that has been the setting for so many fond memories. As a girl, she attended Father English Community Center to learn ballet, dance, jazz, and was on their cheerleading squad during the 70s and 80s. She grew up on Mill Street and Slater Street, remembered going to a "spring" on Grant Street, and walking to the Great Falls every weekend with her parents. She mentions the Bicentennial Celebration, when Evel Knievel rode on a tight rope over the Great Falls. "Paterson has so much history that you would be amazed and astounded growing up in the city," she said.

Ms. Huntley also remembers teaching the student-workers that came to Central Office after her, until the program ended. "My first day after being hired, we were so family oriented, I learned so much from the older women," she said. "I remember the first day, the older women gave great, great advice". Eventually, she would be the one taking in student workers through the RECEP work force program that came from the high schools and then hiring them. She is grateful to see so many of those former students go on to do better things, become parents, and just be successful adults.

Ms. Huntley believes in humbly giving back to the community and has impressed this belief on her own children. Her oldest daughter works as a first-year special education teacher for Dale Ave.

A Quote to Live By...

“Good, better, best, never let it rest till your good is better and your better is best.”

By The Way...



In early March, the Mighty Ghost JROTC Battalion gave amazing performances, dominating the Drill Competition at the League Level held at Union High School.

Eastside High School cadets won 8 trophies during the competition that comprised 12 schools within the tri-state area.

LET 1 drill squad - 1st place
Drill unarmed platoon - 2nd place
Unarmed inspection - 3rd place
Drill armed platoon - 2nd place
Armed inspection - 2nd place
Drill Knockout round:
1st place - Jhonsy Encarnación
3rd place - Julio De Jesus
4th place - Luis Rosa

Major Luis Barraza, Senior Army Instructor and Department Chairman, said of the cadets, "Outstanding job by the Mighty Ghost Battalion Cadets and all instructors. The last 30 days have not been easy, but the dedication put forth by everyone was unbelievable. So proud of everyone's effort."

[To see video of the cadets run their drills, click here!](#)

KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL GIVES PAGT/SCH 28 A YES

Written by Alyna Lopez, 11th Grade

In March 2024, John F. Kennedy High School's Youth Equity Stewardship (YES) program visited PAGT/School 28 with hopes of enlightening their YES students on the true meaning of YES in their schools. Youth Equity Stewardship is more than a club. Finding your voice may take a lot of work for some people. Luckily, YES sheds light on equity and equality and ensures every student's voice is heard and appreciated in school regardless of race, gender, religion etc. To appeal to the students more deeply and assist them with their culminating project - JFK YES facilitated smaller groups to further discuss and answer questions students may have.



Ms. Tanya Williams told YES JFK students that she “believes that the program at PAGT will move forward with a better understanding of what the YES program is with the assistance of the JFK advisors and stewards!” VP Quince McMillan shared that, “it is not often that high school students have the opportunity to work with or mentor elementary students. We are very excited that all the students found value in the experience.”

John F Kennedy YES advisors:

Vice Principal Mrs. Kaela Quince-McMillan, Ms. Sharon Allen, and Ms. Nicole Fuller.

PAGT YES advisors:

Ms. Tanya Williams, and Ms. Micole Williams

“HER-STORY”

STEAM, STARS, and TIES have displayed an inspiring mural titled "HER-STORY" to celebrate the remarkable educators on our campus and districtwide. This initiative was aimed not only to honor these female staff members but also to ignite a sense of empowerment and motivation among young female scholars. Through "HER-STORY," these educators share their personal narratives, recounting tales of overcoming challenges, breaking barriers, and achieving success. Students from STEAM, STARS, and TIES had the opportunity to delve into these stories, finding moments of inspiration to fuel their own journeys. The mural serves as a platform for female faculty members to connect with and inspire the next generation of young women. The administrative teams of STEAM, STARS, and TIES extended their appreciation to the schools' female faculty members for their invaluable contributions to the students' lives every day.





MAY 2024

SELF-CARE CALENDAR



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Set your self-care goals	2 Call a family member and check on them	3 Look out for positive new and reasons to be cheerful today	4 Sleep late
5 Walk for 40 minutes	6 Organize your bookshelf	7 Write yourself a letter about your needs in life	8 Practice responding instead of reacting today	9 Read for pleasure	10 Do something nice for a coworker	11 Apologize to someone you've wronged
12 Make yourself feel content and relaxed	13 Celebrate a small achievement	14 Sit in the sun and meditate	15 Don't be afraid to enforce your boundaries	16 Do something you enjoyed as a child	17 Order takeout	18 Take time to appreciate nature
19 Take a technology time-out	20 Create a positive affirmation for yourself	21 Remember to take things one step at a time	22 Turn on some good music for a mood boost	23 Add a variety of veggies to your dinner	24 Movie Night	25 Take a positive action to help in your local community
26 Make space for quiet and reflection today	27 Work on coping skills	28 Share a happy memory with someone	29 Be EXTRA kind to your mind	30 Switch something up in your day	31 Reflect on this month and repeat an activity that made you feel good	

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PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Department of Student Support Services
SAC and Social Emotional Learning
90 Delaware Avenue, Paterson NJ 07653
Office: (973) 321-0694 lolson@paterson.k12.nj.us



MAYO 2024

CALENDARIO DE CUIDADO PERSONAL



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Establece tus metas de cuidado personal	2 Llame a un familiar y miralo cómo está.	3 Esté atento a noticias positivas y razones para estar alegre hoy.	4 Dormir hasta tarde
5 Camina por 40 minutos	6 Organiza tu tabla de libros	7 Escribete una carta sobre tus necesidades en la vida.	8 Practica responder en lugar de reaccionar hoy	9 Leer por placer	10 Hacer algo lindo para una compañera de trabajo	11 Discúlpate con alguien a quien has hecho daño
12 Hazte sentir contenta y relajada	13 Celebra un pequeño logro	14 Siéntate al sol y medita	15 No tengas miedo de hacer cumplir tus límites	16 Haz algo que disfrutaste de niñez	17 Ordena comida para llevar	18 Tómame tiempo para apreciar la naturaleza.
19 Tómese un descanso de la tecnología	20 Crea una afirmación positiva para ti	21 Recuerde tomar las cosas paso a paso	22 Pon buena música para mejorar tu ánimo.	23 Añade una variedad de verduras a tu cena.	24 Noche de película	25 Tome una acción positiva para ayudar en su comunidad local.
26 Haz espacio para la tranquilidad y reflexión hoy.	27 Habilidad de afrontamiento lento	28 Comparte un recuerdo feliz con alguien.	29 Sé EXTRA amable con tu mente	30 Cambia algo en tu día	31 Reflexiona sobre este mes y repite una actividad que te hizo sentir bien	

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Important Dates

May 7	National Teacher Day
May 10	Progress Report (Pre-K – 12)
May 10	PD Staff/Early Student Dismissal
May 24	PEA/Staff & Students Early Dismissal
May 27	District Closed – Memorial Day



Board of Education Meeting

The May 6th Board of Education Workshop meeting will be held at 90 Delaware Avenue. Those who want to give public comments must do so in person. They should register for the meeting.

The May 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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