

— THE DISTRICT — CHRONICLER

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

June 2024

THE END OF AN ERA

Bessie Aimes retires after 50 years of service

Bessie Aimes, grade 3 science teacher at School No. 10, was celebrated by the District and recognized by the City of Paterson for her fifty-year service to our children. At an assembly on June 10, Ms. Aimes received a proclamation citing her dedication to education.



Ms. Aimes started working for the District in 1974 at School No. 6. and taught 4th and 5th graders there for 36 years. She wanted to do anything to make a difference in young people's lives, so when Principal Joseph Fulmore asked if she would be willing to take on a group of boys that no other teacher wanted to have, she said yes. In time, through patience and persistence, she was able to get the boys to not only learn, but to also tap into their curiosity and desire to improve. As the story goes, because of their efforts, the students were promised a trip to Africa. During the assembly, Ms. Aimes received from Dr. Fulmore a framed photo of the boys when they were on their trip to Gorée Island in Senegal.

In 2010, Ms. Aimes moved to School No. 10 where she teaches 3rd graders Science. In 2023, [Meteorologist John Elliot from CBS News 2 visited her class in early June](#). Normally, his presentations are short, about ten minutes, before he gives a tour of the station's Mobile Weather Lab and then leaves. He was so impressed with her class, with their engagement and knowledge, that he stayed for almost an hour. Ms. Aimes was unfortunately out sick that day, but she would have been proud of them.

Although Ms. Aimes is looking forward to new challenges, the opportunity to travel, and possibly write a book, she will still miss her students and school. "Enjoy education, that's the most important thing," she said.

[Coverage of her assembly on PIX 11 News](#)



Last YES Day Of The Year

The Youth Equity Stewardship program had its final YES Day of the year at School No. 16 on June 11. Student groups and their faculty advisors from International High School, Joseph A. Taub, Schools No. 28, No. 24, and No. 16 took part in presenting their final projects and practiced mindfulness exercises in the school's gymnasium. The day was led by the Mindful Schools' Argos Gonzalez and Tanya Farmer. The YES Program team of Wade Antonio Colwell and Benjie Howard could not attend, but did do a video call in to congratulate the students and encourage them in continuing to advocate for themselves and their peers.



High Achievers Enjoy BreakFast Together

The Educational Council of Passaic County hosted its annual breakfast honoring Passaic County Valedictorians and Salutatorians. The event was held at The Brownstone on June 4th where the top-ranking students of the graduating class were celebrated for their academic achievements. These students have demonstrated outstanding character, perseverance and dedication towards personal excellence. We are exceptionally proud of our students and wish them the best in their future endeavors.



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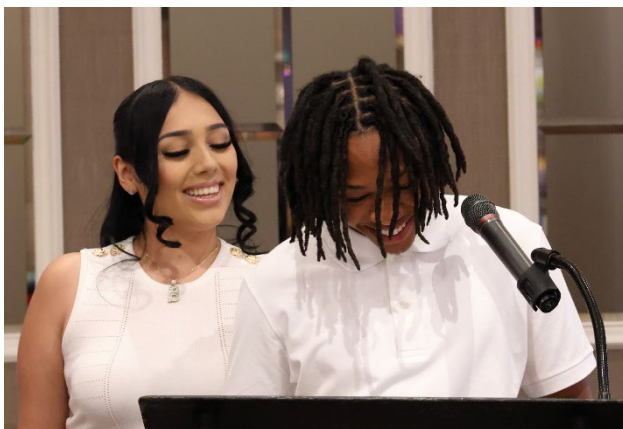
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Continuing Education

The Paterson Adult & Continuing Education school had its annual awards ceremony at the Brownstone on June 12. Students, whether new or far into their adulthood, received their certifications and recognitions for completing their respective programs.

On June 21, the school held its graduation ceremony in International High School's auditorium for those receiving their G.E.D.



SHOUT OUT !



When Tiffany Kidd-Schindler joined Paterson Public Schools in 2022 as John F. Kennedy High School's Nurse, she felt that could be the place in the District where she could make the greatest difference. She was connecting with the students, getting to know the staff, it was quickly becoming a second home for her, but there was one thing that she couldn't get used to and that was the hand-written health records for each student. Always willing to speak up, she made her case to Supervisor of Nursing Services Kimler Williamson. By the end of the school year, she was brought to Central Office and tasked as a newly minted School Nurse Coordinator to spearhead the District's effort to create a digital health record database. She believes that to ensure effective continuity of care, from the time the child is in kindergarten to when they graduate, consistency of data is crucial. It is a challenge that Ms. Kidd-Schindler is excited to undertake and one of many jobs on her long circuitous road to working in the District.

Work has been a steady theme in Ms. Kidd-Schindler's life. At the age of ten, she emigrated with her family to Brooklyn from Jamaica. Only a few years later she started her first job as a sophomore at Brooklyn Tech high school. Her school employment counselor suggested working at the New York City Police Department headquarters doing data entry for accident reports for the Summer. In 1995 she enrolled in Brooklyn College and sort of settled into a career as she studied, working for a few companies in the advertising field throughout those years. She wanted to become an obstetrician, but figured that Pre-med Calculus was too hard at the time, so she chose to study Psychology instead. Later, she changed her major to Comparative Literature since she loved English, and so transferred to Hunter College in Manhattan. As her education proceeded, so did life. She met her first husband and had the first of her two children. She eventually earned her degree in 2006 and found herself as a client account manager. Operations had begun to slow down after a few years and she saw the writing on the wall, knowing that the company was bound to close. This made her reflect on her career and how this path didn't make her feel fulfilled. "In advertising, the way you see your worth is measured in how many views your commercial gets, how much money you made for your client. It's so removed from people; I needed something that provided connection," she said. "I wanted to impact someone's life positively every day."

In 2010 she enrolled at Bergen Community College to attend their nursing program and received her RN in 2014, but life would take a hard turn for her family. It was around that time that she noticed changes in her husband, and on her advice went for an exam that revealed that he had cancer. The diagnosis was terminal. Throughout his illness she was his nurse. When he passed in 2016, she knew that she was done with hospitals; that she didn't want to work with sick people. "I want to be with kids," said Ms. Kidd-Schindler, "I want to get to know them, see them every day and know what their family life is like and know how they are."

During that hardship, she was able to find work in her children's school district as the school nurse for the middle school while completing her School Nurse Certification. Although she enjoyed being there for years, she felt that she could do more, even if it had to be somewhere else. Her search introduced her to Supervisor of Nursing Services Kimler Williamson, who offered her the position at JFK.

The Best Part of My Day

When I feel like I've helped a nurse do something, especially knowing what they're experiencing in that position. Whether it is a question about infinite campus, or if they want to just bounce ideas off someone; they need someone to listen to them. A school nurse's office is a safe haven. Nurses sometimes need to be counselors, sometimes they need to mother. So, they need support in order to keep doing those things effectively.

A Quote to Live By...

"I lead with love in all things, I am love, I radiate it. I get it back."

More Eastside Students Light Their Candle

On June 14, the National Spanish Honor Society at Eastside High School inducted thirty-four new members. The event was led by the chapter council which was in charge of welcoming the administrators, teachers, parents and students.

Principal of Instruction Andre McCollum and Principal of Operations Edgard Nieves spoke to students and assisted in the awarding of the certificates. The District's Director Of Multilingual Learners Liza Otto also helped in awarding of the recipients' awards. The society's advisor and Spanish Teacher Marbel Tamayo was honored with a Certificate of Appreciation for her dedication to the students at Eastside High School.



Art And Nature

High schoolers visit New Jersey's Grounds for Sculpture

On June 7th, John F. Kennedy students were taken on a field trip to Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, NJ. The group of 28 students were accompanied by their teachers, Mr. Almeida, Ms. Lym and Mr. Springsteen, and were divided into two equally sized groups to enjoy different guided tours of the sprawling 42-acre grounds on a beautiful sunny Friday. Grounds for Sculpture opened in July 2000 to the general public and surprisingly has not been visited yet by any Paterson Public School until now, as JFK students took their last field trip of the 2023-24 year. Grounds for Sculpture has a collection of 270 contemporary sculptures with many large-scale works that can be touched.

JFK students were able to step into life size recreations of famous Impressionist paintings as well as view larger than life sculptures in meticulously landscaped settings. Students enjoyed a leisurely lunch at the 'Peacock Café' at Grounds for Sculpture before the 90-minute bus ride back to Paterson.



Local Student Artists Chosen For Teen Arts Exhibit

John F. Kennedy Art Teacher So Yoon Lym attended the 'Teen Arts Summer Exhibit' reception at the Passaic County Community College Art Galleries on Thursday, June 13 to recognize her JFK 'Foundations of Art' students, freshmen Ronny Nunez and Nour Yahya, for being selected to exhibit their work in this summer art showcase.

Ronny's watercolor and graphite portrait of Allen Iverson and Nour Yahya's charcoal portrait drawing of Malcolm X will be on display until July 31 along with other student artworks from JFK, New Roberto Clemente, and other schools from around the region.



Ready For Bu\$ine\$\$



Rutgers Business School held its Global Supply Chain Management (GSCM) Case Competition recently and John F. Kennedy took first place in the Comprehensive High School Division.

Students enrolled in the school's Business And Marketing Pathway spent countless hours during the third marking period developing an action plan to modernize a fake company, focusing on supply chain agility, sustainability, corporate social responsibility, technological innovation, and continuity of supply.

A big thank you is extended to Mr. Solis and his TV production students at JFK for their exceptional work in creating the entire 20-minute video presentation.

Associate Professor of Professional Practice Ann D. Bagchi, whose expertise is Supply Chain Management, stated that, "this year's competition was extremely close in both divisions across all competitors. All teachers and students should be very proud of your efforts, which made the judging this year very challenging."

Hand In Hand

School No. 10's June "Daddy + Me Chill and Paint" event took place. Designed to get the fathers/father figures from the School No. 10 Community to share some quality time, the event is an opportunity to create a keepsake by tracing their hands and their child(rens) hands together on a canvas.

Doug Goulding, whose program Fathers Matter Go F.A.R. (Fathers, Advancing, Reconnecting) is housed within the New Destiny Family Success Center, came out as the guest speaker. The program offers activities like kayaking down the Passaic River, hiking, crafting, and more to help inner-city attendees and their children connect on a deeper level. Additionally, Mr. Goulding noted that they also host support groups for fathers, life skill trainings, and parent education. Attendees received wrist bands that had a QR code on it that goes to the Fathers Matter Go F.A.R. program's website. Mr. Goulding has already committed himself to the upcoming 2024-2025 school year at School No. 10.



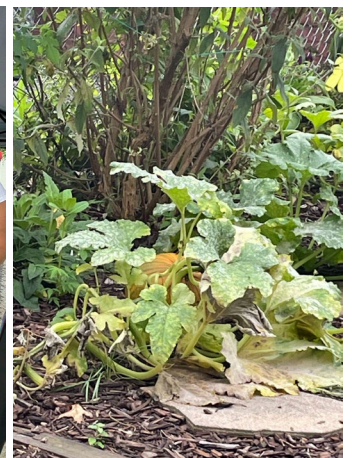
Walk Against Gun Violence

June is National Gun Violence Awareness Month. On Friday June 7th, Renaissance One School of Humanities had their second annual school-wide National Gun Violence Awareness Walk. School staff and students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade wore orange clothing and ribbons to raise awareness for this extremely important cause. All proceeds will be donated to the Paterson Healing Collective.



Knights In The Garden

The School One Knights celebrated the Spring weather and budding blooms from their award winning garden on June 7, 2024. The event, which was inspired by Principal JoAnn Barca, was held outdoors on the school grounds. Students in grades 1 - 5 enjoyed tea party decor, refreshments, music and dancing.



Through The Looking Glass

Students from the 4th and 5th grades at School Number 5 brought the whimsical world of "Alice in Wonderland" to life in a delightful performance on June 10. Under the guidance of their Grade 4 Teacher Shereen Jaloudi, the young actors captivated the audience with their portrayal of Lewis Carroll's classic characters.

The New Jersey Community Development Corporation (NJCDC) played a significant role in preparing the students for the enchanting production. Their support was instrumental in helping the children learn their lines, and their creativity was on full display with the creation of a stunning backdrop and a vibrant balloon arch, setting the perfect scene for the play.

The event highlighted the importance of arts in education and the positive impact of community partnerships.



Readers Flock To Book Fair

School 5 buzzed with excitement from June 11th to 13th as students and teachers alike enjoyed a successful book fair. The event, which took place in the School 5 Den, was met with great enthusiasm and provided a fantastic opportunity for everyone to explore and purchase new books. The success of the book fair was credited to the hard work and dedication of Ms. Dimaria and Ms. Patel.

Students eagerly browsed through a wide selection of books, from thrilling adventures and heartwarming tales to educational materials that will support their studies. Teachers also took advantage of the fair, selecting books that will enrich their classroom libraries and enhance the learning experience for their students.



Principal Jorge Ventura said, "On behalf of the entire School 5 community, we extend our deepest thanks to Ms. Dimaria and Ms. Patel. Your dedication and hard work have left a lasting impact on our school, and we are grateful for your contribution to fostering a love of reading in our students. We look forward to more successful events in the future, made possible by your continued support and enthusiasm."

Every Cookie Count\$\$\$

Eighty-five girls at School No. 27 participated in a twelve week Girl Scout program. The young ladies were recognized at a special event at the Morris Museum, located in Morristown, N.J. The scouts sold 1,776 boxes of cookies, worth a total of \$10,656.00. A portion of the funds will be utilized for educational programs and Girl Scout Activities. The program will be expanded for the 2024-2025 school year.



Appreciation Well Earned

The staff and students of School No. 20 wanted to show how extremely grateful they are for the diligence, hard work and dedication they have received from the Facilities Department. To show their appreciation, students and staff created cards thanking the Facilities Department for all that they have done for the school. Principal Michael Hill announced a Facilities Department Appreciation Day on Friday, June 7th as part of the show of appreciation. He said that the Facilities Department's hard work, "ensures our learning community is a healthy, safe and pleasant school to attend daily".



Spring Harvest

Throughout the school year, Joseph A. Taub School (JATS) students became horticulturists, cultivating and harvesting the crops that were grown in the school's Aquaponics and Hydroponics lab. The students received support and guidance from Science Teacher Ivette Soto, William Paterson University Liaison Dina Scaccetti, and consultants from "Drop the Beets". Additionally, many of our other JATS students learned media production, graphic design, and culinary arts, under the guidance of the school's Full-Service Community School Coordinator Adam Jawiech and JATS staff members, Eric Quispe and Diana Gerges. The JATS administration and staff are proud to share that, as one of the culminating activities, all of the student groups collaborated to create a ["JATS Farm to Table" video guide](#). During the school's Spring Harvest in May, parents and family members were invited to place their order for specifically grown locally-sourced produce to bring home and enjoy. With each order, all parents and family members received a recipe guide, which was designed and created by student graphic designers. The guide included six different recipes, each one containing the leafy greens as a main ingredient.



JATS
COMMUNITY
Harvest
RECIPES

BASIL PESTO
-Basil
-Parmesan (or any grating cheese)
-Garlic
-Olive Oil
-Salt and Pepper
*Remember ingredients and amounts can vary per serving
Blend all ingredients and serve with your favorite pasta shape and chicken
...

CILANTRO LIME DRESSING
-Cilantro
-Garlic
-Lime Juice
-Maple Syrup/Honey
-Ground Coriander
-Olive oil
Blend ingredients and serve over your favorite salad mix
...

COLLARD GREENS
-Collard Greens
-Garlic
-Seasoning
-Smoked Turkey/meat of your choice!
-Granulated Sugar
Sautee garlic and smoked meat, add collard greens, seasoning and granulated sugar to taste.



COMMUNITY
Harvest
RECIPES

RED BUTTER LETTUCE SALAD
-RED BUTTER LETTUCE
-AVOCADO
-CHIVES
CHOP AND ADD DRESSING OF CHOICE

RED BATAVIA SALAD
-Red Batavia Lettuce
-Shallots (thinly sliced)
-Lemon Zest
-Parmesan Cheese
-Crushed Red Pepper
-Garlic Pepper
Chop ingredients then add to bowl along with olive oil.

LETTUCE WRAPPED TACOS
-Water Crisp Lettuce
-Ground Chicken (or any meat of your choice)
-Sliced Chili Pepper
-Paprika
-Salt and Pepper
-Any Vegetables of your choice!!
Add all ingredients except lettuce into pan with oil, sautee on high heat, then add into lettuce cups.

Bound For The Horizon

We want to recognize our colleagues who have made that decision to take a well-deserved rest, to move on to other life plans, or to follow their dreams that have been on hold. You have made a great contribution to the District and to the educational experience of our city's children. Be well, good luck, and enjoy your retirement.

Carmen Abril
Donna Actable
Eunice Adams
Marisol Afanador
Bessie Ames
Julio Anguita
Rafaela Aquino
Lourdes Arrieta
James Avino
Richard Basilicato
Donna Berg
Carla Brothers
Teresa Burgos
Dorian Butcher
Dory Canto
Gina Cevallos
Carmen Chalas
John Chapman
Mary Chowhan
Nylda Colon
Nancy Constable
Ailyn Costa-Minch
Luis Davis
James De Sopo
Sara Ducos
Petronila Espinal
Michael Fede
Vilma Ferreri
Joanne Franco
Elaine Green

Patricia Grieco
Judy Haglund
Lena Mae Hall
Doreen Hammond
Aida Hernandez
Helen Hickmon
Therese Hipkins
Nora Hoover
Glenn Houthuysen
Eloy Huamanchumo
Ronald Humphrey
Marcy Jatovsky
Gina Johnson
Cheryl J Krapohl
Renee Lee
John Lopez
Diane Malzone
April Martin
Olga Martinez
Ann Mathews
Joanne McShane
Alicia Medina
Alba Mitchell
Ann Morris
Susan Mroz
Bassima Mustafa
Dulce Nunez De Rodriguez
Connie Oblige
Eric Oliver
Ricardo Orellana

Gladys Pareja
Dolores Pereira
Dante Petretti
Christine Pini
Michele Pio
Rafaela Pizarro
Robert Pleasant
William Ramos
Digna Rivera
Emily Rose
Amy Rothenberg
Isabel Rubina
Miguel Rubina
Michelle Serrano
Lories Slockbower
Joseph Smallheer
Marcia Stancil-Lawson
Sherman Staton
Marni Sultanof
Venita Tomlinson
Alicia Torres
Alexander Towli
Carlos Vargas
Lisa Weaver
Donald West
Shirley Wheeler
William Willemsen
Tammy Williams
Eileen Zimmer

In Remembrance

We want to take the opportunity to remember those colleagues that have passed on. We remember their camaraderie, professionalism, and care with which they performed their duties.

Denece DiGioia-Sall

3rd Grade Teacher at School 20

Dr. Donnie W. Evans

Former Paterson Public Schools Superintendent

Roberto Howell

District Mail Carrier

Renee McMillan

Retired Vice Principal of JFK

Christopher Sloane Lewis

Retired Teacher

Annemarie “MiMi” Urgovitch

Retired Vice Principal of School 21

Gloria Wheeler

Retired Teacher of Edward W. Kilpatrick School

We want to also to recognize those family members of our colleagues that have passed on. May their memory endure.

Michael Conner

Brother of Michelle Glisson (Fleet Coordinator)

Anthony DeLeon

Son of Efrain DeLeon (Chief Custodian/Central Office) & Stepson of Jannilka DeLeon (SPED Supervisor)

Cono Anthony DelRosso

Husband of Irene DelRosso (Supervisor of NCLB)

Mary S. James

Mother of Debra James (Instructional Aide at JFK)

Peggy A. Leary

Mother of Lolita Vaughan (Principal of School 10)

Carolyn Martin

Mother of Charlene Simmons (Teacher at JFK)

Jane Medley

Mother of Marc Medley (Principal of YMLA)

Congressman Donald Payne, Jr.

Brother of Nicole Payne (Principal of ATMA)

Carolyn M. Price

Mother of Dr. Dorothy Douge (Principal of School 26)

John H. Sullivan

Husband of Marguerite Sullivan (Director of Federal Programs)

James Watkins Sr.

Father of James Watkins, Jr. (SRO at STEAM High School)

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Message From The Editors

It has been a pleasure and an honor to share your stories across the District. We thank our contributors and look forward to serving all of you again in the next school year.

We would also like to take the opportunity to inform you of the impending arrival of our new Director of Communications, Aida Rosario, who will be starting in July.

Have a wonderful Summer!!

Important Dates

July 4	District Closed – July 4 th
July 5	District Closed
July 8	Summer School Begins
August 20 - 22	Administrator's Institute
August 27 - 29	New Teacher Orientation



Board of Education Meeting

The August 7th 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 August 14th 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/LiveEvent

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