

# — THE DISTRICT — CHRONICLER

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

January 2024

## BOOK BUNDLES ARRIVE AT SCHOOL No. 15



District and school administrators joined the Paterson Reads team to distribute Book Bundles to classes at School No. 15. The Book Bundles initiative aims to foster a love for learning and improve literacy among young minds. Each book bundle, consisting of four to five books, addresses various grade levels, spanning Pre-K through third grade, ensuring a diverse and enriching reading experience for the young learners of Paterson.

Superintendent Laurie W. Newell, Deputy Superintendent Rodney Henderson, and Executive Director Rosie Grant of the Paterson Education Fund took turns reading to different classes with School No. 15 Principal Ramona Garcia helping to translate the stories for ESL students.



Paterson Reads is a community collaboration led by Paterson Alliance with the Paterson Education Fund acting as the convener and Bookends Bookstore in Ridgewood as organizer of the books being donated. The initiative, started in 2020, has a specific focus on ensuring students read at grade level by the third grade.

# WORTH THE WAIT

*Postponed Winter Performances Take Stage*



Some schools around the District that had their winter shows delayed because of school closures due to multiple weather events in late December and mid-January finally got the chance to perform.

Superintendent Newell and Deputy Superintendent Henderson were able to visit Renaissance One School of Humanities' performance, "Peace on Earth".



## JFK Students Participate In Winter Art Exhibition



Tiphanny Garvoza Giron, 9th grade Foundations of Art student at John F. Kennedy High School, attended the Art Educators of New Jersey (AENJ) winter exhibition reception and certificate ceremony at the New Jersey Performing Art Center (NJPAC).

In late September, Tiphanny had drawn a portrait of her mother for Hispanic Heritage Month using markers and coloring pencils. She decided to draw another version of her mother for the AENJ exhibition, this time exploring the use of pastel pencils. Tiphanny's mother, Yerly Giron, attended the reception and expressed how proud she was of her daughter and her daughter's beautiful portrait of her.

John F. Kennedy High School Senior, Nataly Montiel, also had her abstract marker drawing selected for exhibition at NJPAC. AENJ exhibits the student artwork of teachers who are Art Educator members in a series of exhibitions at several locations besides NJPAC, such as at the state capital in Trenton and at various rotating county art exhibitions.





# THREE KINGS DAY TOY GIVEAWAY

On a holiday observed by many cultures, the tradition of giving was celebrated at the Family & Community Engagement Department's Full Service Community Center. Through the efforts of donors and volunteers, with the help of Councilman Luis Velez, CEO Guerlina De La Hoz of the Yo Soy Asi Foundation, and Manager of Social Services Jennie Vega of Oasis - A Haven for Women and Children, 500 toys were given to children at the Center's first holiday toy distribution event. Each child was able to pick their own toy and take pictures with family and friends.

The crowd was full of moms and dads looking to keep the holiday tradition alive. "Esta tradición es hermosa, si mis hijas son felices, yo también lo estoy (This tradition is beautiful, if my kids are happy, so am I)," said Saily Rojas, a parent who brought her daughters to the event.



The organizer of the event, District Wide Community Outreach and Special Projects Coordinator Evelyn Peña said, "We are grateful for all the donors and volunteers! Thank you for helping to bring this first toy giveaway. It's truly empowering when we come together to celebrate different cultures and traditions."



## DONATION TO HELP FUND CLOTHING BOUTIQUE

Visions Federal Credit Union, represented by Community Development Liaison Tatiana Lopez, gave a donation of \$2,000.00 for the Full Service Community Center to establish a new clothing boutique for families.

District Wide Community Outreach and Special Projects Coordinator Evelyn Peña said, “We are thankful for Visions donation to help us build out a clothing boutique. This will help us empower families with wrap-around services.”

“We are excited about our partnership with Visions Federal Credit Union, with their help we will be able to provide clothing support for our families in need, which we hope will help ease another non-educational barrier for student achievement.” said W. Kemper McDowell, Executive Director of Family and Community Engagement.



(L-R) W. Kemper McDowell, Tatiana Lopez, & Evelyn Peña

## PATERSON TEACHER AWARDED \$1,000 GRANT TO FURTHER STEM EDUCATION

Michelle Albritton of School No. 12 is one of ten teachers across New Jersey to be awarded a grant from offshore wind company Bluepoint Wind to further STEM education in her classroom.



The award, valued at \$1,000, will provide an interactive STEM kit from KidWind, an international leader in renewable energy education, to the District. KidWind will also provide the winners with training on how to incorporate the STEM kits into in-school and/or out-of-school learning environments.

School No. 12 Principal Boblyn Ranger-Dobbs said, “Ms. Albritton is a gem, and we are so very proud of her award.”

“The next generation of renewable energy workers who will power New Jersey are sitting in middle school classrooms right now,” said John Dempsey, CEO of Bluepoint Wind.

“Paterson Public Schools teachers are regularly looking for new ways to engage their students and strengthen their desire to learn,” said Superintendent Laurie W. Newell. “Ms. Albritton’s effort for her students’ advancement in Science is a great example of Paterson’s educators. I commend her and congratulate the students of School No. 12 on their incoming STEM kits.”

[Read the story in TAPinto Paterson for additional details!](#)



# MSU Red Hawks Read To Students



The 2nd Annual Reading with the Montclair State University Men's and Women's Basketball Teams, the Red Hawks, took place at Senator Frank Lautenberg School (SFLS). Both the Men's and Women's Team came and read books to our students, had a Q&A about college, goals, etc. The Women's Team met with the school's cheerleaders and invited them to cheer at one of the university's home games, while the Men's team shot hoops with students and also invited SFLS's basketball players to a home game.

The goal of the Red Hawks' visit is to make an impact on young impressionable people and that they can help change the world by giving back to the community.





## Book Reading Visit To School No. 28

School No. 28 welcomed Superintendent Laurie W. Newell as she visited to read to fourth graders. Offered the option to bring a book of her choice, Dr. Newell instead opted to read one of the students' favorite books, "Hey, Little Ant", written by Phillip and Hannah Hoose with illustrations by Debbie Tilley. Afterwards, Dr. Newell fielded questions related to the story from students and asked them for their insights about the characters in turn.

"My thanks go to Principal Castro and the staff for their hospitality, and especially to the students for their excited engagement," said the Superintendent.





## Joseph A. Taub Middle School Teacher Selected For Summer Trip To South Korea

Grade 6 Science teacher Ivette Soto will be part of the Summer 2024 Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad to South Korea. She was provided with the opportunity to apply for the program through the WPU Professors-In-Residence partnership as well as from the work that she is doing with the Aquaponics and Hydroponics lab here at JATS.

Participants will attend pre-trip workshops, will travel as a group to South Korea in the summer of 2024 for approximately 30 days, and will engage in post-trip professional development. Ms. Soto will present the lesson plans and modules that she develops at professional venues.

The Fulbright Hays Program awards grants to individual teachers, educational administrators, and U.S. institutions and organizations. The purpose of the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects is to enrich education through cross-cultural exploration involving learning from technology and pedagogy innovations in South Korea.



## The Esther Forero Chapter of the Eastside National Spanish Honor Society held its Student Awards

The Esther Forero Chapter of the Eastside National Spanish Honor Society (ENSHS) of Paterson held its Student Awards Ceremony on 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 2023-2024.



## Six Years In A Row!

*International High School Earns the College Board's AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award*

For the past six years, IHS has been proving to be a reliable school to push for gender equity in AP Computer Science. The honor recognizes the work of engaging more female students in computer science. IHS is recognized by the College Board as one of only 34 schools in New Jersey to achieve this important accomplishment in AP Computer Science Principles.



### 2023 AP<sup>®</sup> CSP Female Diversity Award



## Paterson P-TECH Students Soar to Victory in NASA's Tech Rise Student Challenge!

P-Tech High School students shine as one of NASA's 60 winning teams in the Tech Rise Student Challenge – a nationwide competition fostering tech, science, and space exploration. Winning a \$1,500 award, our team secures a spot on a NASA-sponsored high-altitude balloon flight this summer. Our experiments will float at 70,000 feet, collecting vital radiation data in Earth's upper atmosphere during the four-hour flight. The exposure to the unique thermal and atmospheric environment of the stratosphere provides conditions for student experiments that cannot be replicated in ground-based tests.

The challenge was open to students in grades six through 12 at American public, private, or charter schools, including those in U.S. territories. This year, winning teams include about 500 students representing 38 states and territories.





## ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER



Pamela Powell is the Principal of School No. 7, and has enjoyed 22 years working for the District. She is a Paterson native who attended School No. 6 and graduated from Eastside High School. After attending Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA, she started a corporate career at HBO. She worked there for a few years, picking up a masters in Divinity from New York Theological Seminary, and then felt compelled to do something different with her life.

After rearning her teaching certification, Ms. Powell returned to her hometown as a Teacher of Special Education in 2001 at her old elementary, School No. 7. She stayed there for ten years before switching over to John F. Kennedy. At JFK, she started out as a teacher in the Business, Technology, Marketing, and Finance academy, but very quickly ascended the ranks to become its principal by 2014. When the opportunity came in 2016 to go to Central Office, she took it and became the Superintendent's Chief of Staff. In 2020, with the Pandemic at its height, she took on the principal position for Eastside High School's Hospitality, Tourism, And Culinary Arts academy for a year before returning home to School No. 7.

Her career has allowed her to not only practice the art of education, but to also see how the business side of it works on a wide scope. Having worked at Central Office gave her the opportunity to build relationships there. Through those connections, she was able to understand how things get done that would benefit students and their academic efforts. In every position she has taken something that makes her a stronger person it terms of understanding people, her purpose, and how to influence change; these experiences help in her passion to support her students, teachers, parents, and school community as a whole.

### *The Best Part of My Day*

As with many educators, the best part of Ms. Powell's day is interacting with students. "I think we provide hope and they become my why, even though it's not always easy," she said. "There are so many things thrown at us; the job can be challenging, but it strengthens me to keep pushing forward so that I can prepare our students to meet new challenges, to maximize their potential academically, to be able to respect one another, and to become good citizens. We need to show more kindness, we need to show more respect; even if you don't agree with each other, you don't have to be nasty. While we are doing academics here, we want to help young people learn how to interact with one other."

### *A Quote to Live By...*

Ms. Powell's motivational quote comes from her mother, "Rise above it or let it be." She says situations will come that you either have to rise above and focus on solving or you just have to let it be. 'Rise above it' to her means having to give her best to her students and staff.





## Lady Ghost Player Sets New Record

Grade 11 Paterson P-TECH student, Nevaeh Banks, is now the all-time 3-point leader in Eastside Lady Ghosts basketball history. Shattering the previous record of 157 by achieving 175 with more to come.

"I would like to thank my parents for allowing me to play for Eastside High School," said Ms. Banks. "I also want to thank all my coaches who work hard and dedicate their time to help me before, after, and during practice. I would like to thank my teammates for trusting me to shoot the ball and making this achievement possible. I am proud of this achievement and look forward to accomplishing more goals that my team and I have set for this season.

## A Ghost Legend Takes Center Court At Eastside High School Again

Between the JV and Varsity Eastside basketball games held on January 30<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor of Athletics at Eastside High School T.J. Hill took time to recognize one of the school's living legends. Aundrey Bease, who attended the school from 1975 - 1979 was given a commemorative golden basketball during the tribute to his accomplishments at Eastside and in the Paterson sports community. During his senior year, Mr. Bease was All-County in Basketball and was both All-County and All-State in Football. After graduation he attended Upsala College in East Orange where he continued to play basketball while earning his degree. In 1993, he started the Positive Impact program that coached young men in sports. He would also go on to coaching girls softball in 2005 and continues to be active in the Paterson sports community today.



Aundrey Bease (center) poses with family while holding his commemorative basketball. Eastside HS Principal of Operations Edgard Nieves (left) and T.J. Hill (right) stand on the ends.



# *By The Way...*

## **Boys to Leaders Foundation Rutgers University**

Back in October, Joseph A. Taub School (JATS) students were able to attend the Boys to Leaders Foundation's Tenth Annual Young Men's Leadership Conference at Rutgers University – Newark. JATS Vice-Principal Amod Field led the student delegation to the conference.

The annual youth conference is specifically designed for male students and is geared towards promoting a culture of leadership and communication skills which are fundamental to achieving personal development and professional success. It was also an opportunity for the JATS students to meet prominent leaders from agencies and companies like M&T Bank and were able to build relationships with successful professional adults who offer hope, opportunities, and mentorship.





# FEBRUARY 2024

## SELF-CARE CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Ask a friend how they have been feeling recently	2 Do an act of kindness	3 Get back in touch with an old friend you have seen for a while
4 Look for good in others	5 Share something you find inspiring	6 Smile	7 Thank someone and tell them they made a difference for you	8 Focus on being kind	9 Share what you're feeling with someone you really trust	10 Support a local business
11 Respond kindly to everyone you talk to today	12 Help out with a new chore	13 Walk outside and enjoy the crisp air	14 Tell a loved one or friend why they are special to you	15 Give sincere compliments	16 Watch your favorite show	17 Make uninterrupted time for your loved ones
18 Call a friend to catch up	19 Remind yourself, you got this!	20 Bring your friend a snack	21 Exercise for at least 30 minutes	22 Declutter your space	23 Enjoy your favorite comfort food	24 Stretch and enjoy a nap
25 Make an uplifting playlist	26 Check in on someone you love	27 Wake up early and move your body	28 Paint a kindness rock	29 Do a digital detox		

This information is provided to you by:  
 **PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
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# FEBRERO 2024

## CALENDARIO DE CUIDADO PERSONAL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Pregúntale a un amigo cómo se ha sentido recientemente	2 Haz un acto de bondad	3 Póngase en contacto con una vieja amiga que no ha visto por un tiempo
4 Buscar el bien en los demás	5 Comparte algo que te resulte inspirador	6 Sonreír	7 Agradezca a alguien y dígame que hicieron una diferencia en ti	8 Concéntrate en ser amable	9 Comparte lo que sientes con alguien en quien confías	10 Apoyar un negocio local
11 Responde amable a todas las personas que hablas hoy	12 Ayudar con una nueva tarea	13 Camine afuera y disfrute del aire fresco	14 Dile a un ser querido por qué es especial para ti	15 Dar piropos sinceros	16 Mira tu programa favorito	17 Haz tiempo ininterrumpido para tus seres queridos
18 Llama a una amiga para ponerte al día	19 ¡Recuérdete que lo tienes!	20 Trae a tu amiga un bocadillo	21 Haga ejercicio al menos 30 minutos	22 Ordena tu espacio	23 Disfruta de tu comida confortable	24 Estírate Disfruta de una siesta
25 Crea una lista de musica edificante	26 Visita a alguien que amas	27 Levántate temprano y mueve tu cuerpo	28 Pinta una roca de bondad	29 Haz un desintoxicación digital		

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## Important Dates



<b>February 9</b>	Early Student Dismissal – PD for Staff
<b>February 12</b>	Report Card Parent Conference (JAT and NRC)
<b>February 13</b>	Report Card Parent Conference (Grades Pre-K - 8)
<b>February 15</b>	Report Card Parent Conference (Grades 9 - 12)
<b>February 19</b>	District Closed – Presidents' Day
<b>February 23</b>	Early Dismissal



### **Board of Education Meeting**

The February 7th Board of Education Workshop meeting will be held at 90 Delaware Avenue. Those who want to give public comment must do so in person. They should register for the meeting.

The February 14th Board of Education Regular meeting will be conducted remotely.

It will also be live streamed at [pps.eduvision.tv/LiveEvents](https://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](https://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](mailto: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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