

# — THE DISTRICT — CHRONICLER

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 

May 2024

## GLOVES ON THE GROUND

*District schools help clean up Paterson's National Park*

Students and staff from Schools No. 6, 7, 28, Alexander Hamilton Academy, John F. Kennedy High School, and Paterson P-TECH converged on the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park to help clean up the jewel of the city. For over an hour, the volunteers walked pathways, parking lots, fields and forests looking for refuse that they could fit into black garbage bags. Students also took advantage of the opportunity to be surrounded by nature on a beautiful day. Phones were pocketed as the students inspected plants, conversed, crowded to look at a snake, and skipped stones along the river surface. Over two hundred students took part in the clean up and then enjoyed a science fair during the last part of the event.



**Paterson—A Promising Tomorrow**

**Together We Can**





The science fair took place in the area around the Alexander Hamilton statue, with display booths for N.A.S.A., ham radio, local fossils, topography, and more. District schools also took part in the science fair presentation with P-TECH's Planetarium Manager Carlos Miranda and JFK's Honor Society providing demonstrations and activities. Equipment gained from the recent Citizen CATE project was on display at the P-TECH booth. The JFK Honor Society had activities and puzzles available for young learners.





# Recognizing Our Veterans

*Student produced short films highlight veteran PPS teachers*

District and William Paterson University officials, along with various school staff and students gathered at the university's 1600 Alps Rd. campus to attend the premiere of two student-created short films. The films focus on veteran teachers who answer questions about their longevity, talk about their experiences, and share what they plan on doing in the future. The films were produced by John F. Kennedy High School's and Rosa L. Parks School of Fine & Performing Arts' Communication students under the guidance of their respective teachers, Richard Solis and Nahmir Glass.



The films were funded through a grant provided by the Education Pioneers for Paterson (EP4P). William Paterson University and the District partnered to use the grant for a student-lead project that can be used as a recruitment tool to help close the District's teacher shortage gap. Sheilee Chocolatl, the District's HR Staff Recruiter and Certification Specialist, added that the films are also "a testament to the dedication and passion of our teachers, many of whom have been with us for years." She added, "We aimed to highlight the meaningful and fulfilling nature of a teaching career in Paterson, the supportive community we offer, and the unique opportunities available in our district."

One of the teachers highlighted was Bessie Ames, from School No. 10, who has been a teacher for elementary students for fifty years. Ms. Ames was present during the showing with many of the other featured teachers. Some of the teachers shed tears as they listened to themselves recount their memories on the screen.



The videos will soon be edited to shorter presentations for use on the District's social media platforms and for the District website.





## Preschool Awareness

The District's Department of Early Childhood Education held a Preschool Awareness Day event with partners at the Madison Baptist Church on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Superintendent Laurie W. Newell toured the expo with Director of Early Childhood Education Nancy Aguado-Holtje.



## Continuing Education

Staff members from various departments within Paterson's Board of Education Headquarters achieved something incredible on Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Five members have recently graduated with a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from William Paterson University. The staff members are Director of Staffing & School Support Services Susette Chavez, Administrative Assistant to the Deputy Superintendent Llicerda Munoz, Deputy Director for Compulsory School Attendance & Student Accounting/Special Investigations Unit Natalia Frazier-Thompson, Director of Full-Service Outreach & Special Projects Gilman Choudhury, and Supervisor of Human Resources Kyle Ruppel.

Virginia Jackson, Coordinator for Compulsory School Attendance & Student Accounting/Special Investigations Unit, graduated with a Bachelor's in Liberal Studies from William Paterson University on May 22, 2024.



Susette Chavez, Llicerda Munoz, Natalia Frazier-Thompson, Director of Full-Service Outreach & Special Projects Gilman Choudhury



# Future Proof

*District students meet professionals and university representatives for College & Career Week*

Across the District, schools held special events, meetings, and presentations for students to celebrate College & Career Week. One school, Rosa L. Parks School of Fine & Performing Arts featured day-long events that presented speakers such as the Superintendent of Schools Laurie W. Newell, representatives from the U.S. armed forces, some local universities, and individuals from within the Paterson community.



John F. Kennedy High School had Gomo Educational Services' CEO Josue Falaise speak to students and a visit from the Passaic County Sheriff's Office's bomb squad.

Alexander Hamilton Academy was visited by Andrea Crespo, who spoke to the middle school students about real estate, the market, and the requirements to get into the field.

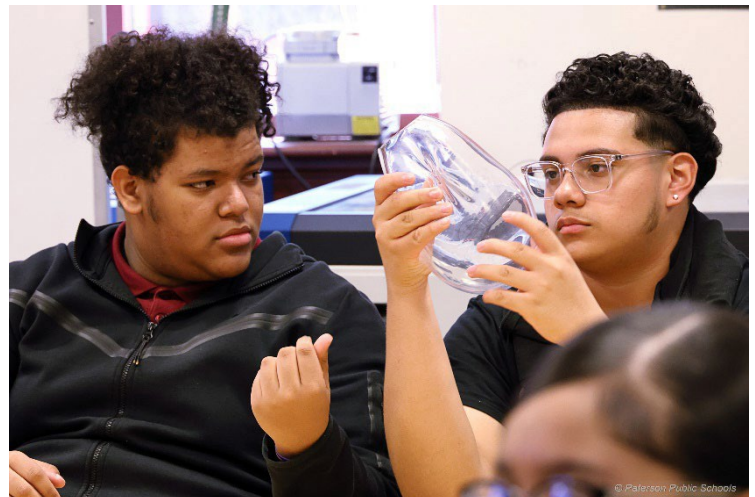
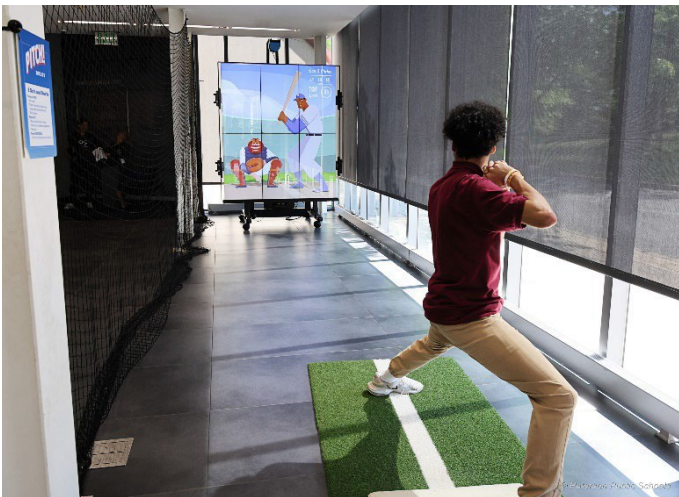




## “You Can Observe A Lot By Watching” ... *And Doing*



Students from Paterson STEAM High School and International High School visited the Yogi Berra Museum & Learning Center, located on the campus of Montclair State University, to take part in its BaseBuild May Days program. On three separate days, one for STEAM students and two for International students, the students full-day learning experience focused on basic concepts of engineering and the innovation design process. Groups of students rotated through a few activities that included drafting 3D objects using the Siemen Solid Edge's Computer-Aided Design (CAD) module, experiencing how designs are 3D printed in Montclair State University's state-of-the-art MIX Lab, taking a tour of the university campus, and exploring the museum itself. The trip was organized by the District's STEAM Education Department.





# Special Olympians

*Dr. Hani Awadallah and John F. Kennedy join competition at PCTI*

Student-athletes from the Dr. Hani Awadallah School (DHA) and John F. Kennedy High School (JFK) won medals at the Passaic County Special Olympics Track & Field competition held on May 4<sup>th</sup> at Passaic County Technical Institute. In total, 33 Gold Medals, 18 Silver Medals and 2 Bronze medals were won by student-athletes from DHA and JFK. The student-athletes will compete in the 2024 New Jersey Special Olympics State Summer Games at The College of New Jersey on June 7th through June 9th.

The team was led by coaches Jackie O'Connor, who teaches physical education at DHA, Hathil Hammad, a bilingual teacher at DHA and Marie Scott, a special education teacher at DHA. Students competed in shot put, long jump, javelin, 400-meter dash, 200-meter dash, 100-meter dash, 4x100 relay and the 4x400 meter relay.

"We are extremely proud of all of our student-athletes who competed in the Passaic County Special Olympics Track & Field competition," said Ms. O'Connor.

## Medals

Joshua Barrera - 1 Gold , 1 Silver , 1 Bronze

Ayeleth Cabrera - 3 Gold , 1 Silver

Axel Cabrera - 1 Gold , 2 Silver

Jeremiah Fisher - 3 Gold , 1 Silver

Sophie Flores - 2 Gold , 2 Silver

Joshua Garcia - 3 Gold , 1 Bronze

Londyn Hemmings - 2 Gold , 2 Silver

Edward Huyhua - 1 Gold , 3 Silver

Juan Infante-Vidal - 1 Silver

Carlos Izaguirre - 4 Gold

Enoc Perdomo - 3 Gold , 1 Silver

Brando Pimentel - 3 Gold , 1 Silver

Jayce Rios - 3 Silver

Jayden Sepulveda - 4 Gold

Denise Car - 1 Silver

Maha Hussein - 1 Gold

Zuhier Hussein - 1 Silver

Katelyn Ludena - 1 Silver

Elachi Ruiz - 1 Silver

Lysias Ruiz - 1 Gold

Nicolas Saire - 1 Gold





## ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

Jenna Goodreau is the District's Director Of Full Service Community Schools (FSCS). In this capacity, she organizes the many events, logistics, and needs of the District's thirteen FSCS programs. She enjoys her position and sees how important it is to the educational communities of Paterson, but she did not expect to find herself in this position when she started.



Although born in Alabama, New Jersey has been Ms. Goodreau's home for most of her life. Her Dad being in the military, she moved around a lot during her youth, living in places like Hawaii, Florida, Massachusetts, and Virginia. Eventually her family settled in southern NJ when she was 15. Later, she would attend Rider University for her bachelors and then go on to Seton Hall for her masters. Paterson Public Schools would be her first career position, when she started as a grades 5-8 Social Studies teacher in 2005 at the Performing Arts Academy, then located on Smith Street.

Ms. Goodreau loved her job because she got to teach history and had the opportunity to assist with the drama and performing arts presentations that the school created. The only thing that she had any reservations about was the curriculum. At the time, the curriculum standard was not as developed as it is now, so she started to help with curriculum writing and

assisting the Social Studies department with summer programs. In three years, she was tapped to be the Social Studies coach at Central Office. Initially, she turned down the offer, feeling that she wanted to have more time as a teacher, to be with students, and gain more experience. It was her father that convinced her to take the position, saying that she could always go back to being a teacher if it didn't fit. Central Office accepted her reconsideration for the position, which turned out to fit very well. She did professional development with teachers, coaching, and organizing after-school programs. This work led to planning afterschool programs with Federal Programs under Director Of Federal Programs Marguarite Sullivan, which started her getting into grant writing and eventually. In 2016, she became part of FSCS.

### *The Best Part of My Day*

Jenna Goodreau's favorite part of the day is helping people. Whether it is through assisting the schools, helping the FSCS coordinators, providing more PD for teachers and after-school programs; knowing that these efforts are helping students and families. "I'm really thankful to be a support for other people," she said, "it's very fulfilling".

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# KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL AP SYMPOSIUM

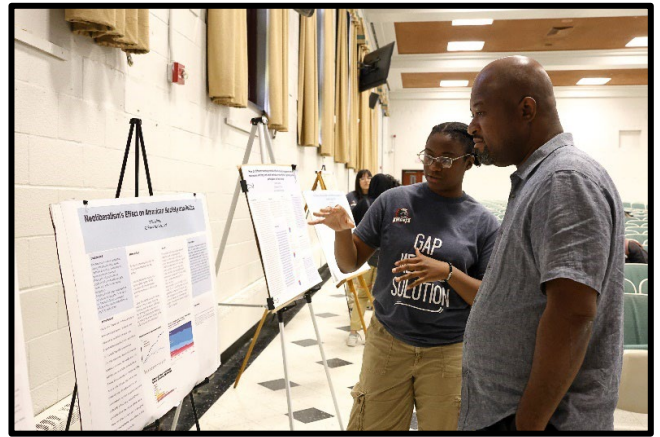


John F. Kennedy High School held an AP Symposium that showcased the projects from both the Seminar and Research parts of the class. In seminar, students worked on a semester long project that explored the answer to a question of their creation that was based on a theme, which was "Courage". In research, students worked on a year-long project based on a topic of their choosing. One example is "Neoliberalism's Effect On American Society and Politics by Solaris Paul, a junior.

Students were allowed access to William Paterson University's library materials to help them in their

research. Neil Grimes of the university's Cheng Library stopped by to see the results of the student's hard work.

The class is an elective, but challenges students to think and work independently. Their teacher, Iyani Basima, is the only instructor in the District that is still providing the class. Students credit her for inspiring them to continue with the rigorous workload. The elective has slowly, but steadily increased its enrollment over the past few years. Ms. Paul stated that the class helped her focus her interest in politics. She is now considering political science as her future pathway.





## FILM MAKERS SCREENING AT FESTIVALS

John F. Kennedy High School students enrolled in its Media and Sports Communication Program submitted a film entry, "Submerged Secrets", to the Passaic County Teen Art Festival (PCTAF). The short film premiered at the county festival on May 9., but had also been confirmed by organizers that it had been selected to advance to the statewide NJ Teen Arts on June 4,5 and 6.

Students worked on the film over a period of a few months, doing all filming during the one period of the day that they could work together and have access to equipment.

Click the below link to watch Submerged Secrets.

<https://pps.eduvision.tv/default?q=X3Y5NcZVhaAJjVaUutsKhQ%253d%253d>

## *Senses Tour*

The students participated in a guided 'Senses' tour of William Paterson University on Thursday, May 23. The tour included the outdoor sculpture and the art department studios in Ben Shahn Hall. Students made collages based on a prompt during the crafts workshop.



Thursday, May 23, 2024:  
William Paterson University 'Senses' Field Trip & Art Department Tour (Lym, Almeida, Solis)



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# Tapping Their Inner Power

Eastside student athletes welcomed Dr. Alex Ellis, a motivational speaker. The event was a collaboration between Eastside's athletic department and the District's Guidance and Counseling Department. Dr. Ellis is an award-winning author, international speaker, and activist with a mission to spread the message of building a positive image. He customized his seminar to address the needs specific to the student-athletes. Topics that he spoke about included dressing for success, particularly for young men, public speaking, and living in one's purpose.





# NATIONAL SPANISH AWARDS



Back in late April, the students of Eastside High School's National Spanish Honor Society (NSHS) chapter, Esther Forero, won several medals during the National Spanish Examinations, a program of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP). Students won eight gold, eleven silver, and 4 bronze medals, in addition to 10 honorable mentions. The chapter also won the Chapter of the Year award. Besides the awards that the school received, there was also a cash prize.

On May 31st, Eastside HS held an awards ceremony to celebrate its students. Dignitaries from Paterson's City Council were in attendance, as well as parents and faculty. NSHS Advisor and Spanish Teacher Marbel Tamayo organized the event.





## COLLEGE & CAREER WEEK AT SCHOOL NO. 5



College and Career Week was a blast with Guidance Counselor, Mr. Bautista leading the charge! Students rocked their favorite hats on Monday, showcasing their readiness for the future. Tuesday shone bright with colorful outfits symbolizing the promising paths ahead. Wednesday transformed the school into a hub of ambition as students dressed up for their dream careers. Thursday celebrated the heroes of decision-making, with students proudly sporting their favorite hero shirts. And Friday brought School 5 to life with college and university pride on full display.

But the excitement didn't stop there! Students also delved into environmental science presentations and embarked on virtual field trips via Kai XR, an immersive platform sparking STEAM exploration. What a week of inspiration and discovery! Here's to our bright futures and the adventures that lie ahead!



## SWAG Room Opens At School No. 5

Paterson Public School's newest SWAG Room opened at School No. 5 on Thursday. The room, decked out in physical and video gaming options, will be utilized to reward students that are doing well with their school work. This is the sixth room in the District, all of which are outfitted and designed by Zone6ix LLC.





# A Story Told In Movement

Inner City Ensemble and the students of School No. 15 had a special presentation on Thursday morning. A select group of students have been learning dance presentations with the nonprofit, which has been providing free training and performing opportunities to under-served youth in Paterson for over fifty years. The routines that the students learned and performed for their peers during the assembly used dance to tell a narrative. After the students' performance, alumni from Inner City Ensemble performed a few routines for the students.





# SCHOOL NO. 21 PLAYGROUND KICKOFF

School No. 21 held a Green Schoolyard Kickoff Event. The all-day event allowed the school's students to provide personalized crafts that will be used for the coming playground. Students attended in cohorts organized by grades PreK -2, 3-5, and 6-8. They watched a brief presentation about the project before the activities, which were divided into different stations. There was rock painting, bird house decorating, and butterfly crafting.

The playground project is funded through a City Green grant that was awarded a few years ago. It was delayed by the COVID-19 Pandemic, but will finally have its groundbreaking soon. The playground will be developed through a partnership with the Trust For Public Lands.





## Born To Run

On Saturday, May 18, 2024, School No. 20 participated in the 5k Girls on the Run in Sparta NJ. The school's previous counselor, Mrs. Stephenson started the program in 2021 and it has been continued by School No. 20's volunteer coaches, Mrs. Artis-Stone, Mrs. Olivares, and Mrs. Ritter. This season, 15 girls from grades 3 through 5 finished the program.

The Girls On The Run program is designed to have girls recognize their individual strengths and build connection within a team. At season's end, the team completes a Community Impact Project and a 5K together.



## School No. 10 Honors Inductees

The Junior National Honor Society at School No. 10 held a special luncheon last Thursday to celebrate their individual academic accomplishments. Superintendent Laurie W. Newell visited the junior scholars to provide the keynote speech for the event.



## School No. 6 Artists On Exhibit

Eighth graders Yosmeilin Amarante and Yumairy R. Vargas from Senator Frank Lautenberg (School No. 6 ) have artwork on display at the College of Education at William Paterson University for the 12th Annual Professional Development School Art Exhibition.

Yosmeilin Amarante was able to attend the exhibition opening and receive her certificate.



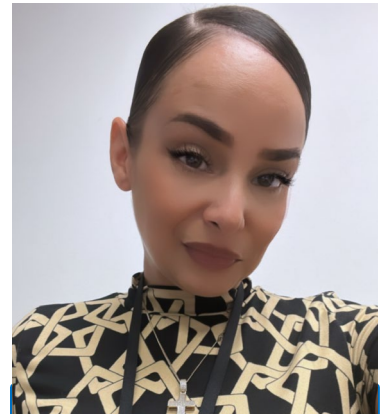
# SHOUT OUT !

Jajaira Ortiz is a Parent and Community Outreach Coordinator with the Family and Community Engagement (FCE) Department. She has been with the District for nearly 10 years, but as a native Patersonian had grown up in its schools. She attended School No. 15, Eastside High School, and then Silk City Academy. As an adult, Ms. Ortiz worked in retail for many years before finding herself back in the schools. She has worked at Schools No. 24, 2, 3, 9, 16, Roberto Clemente, New Roberto Clemente, and now 24. She also spent some time working at her childhood school, No. 15.

As an outreach coordinator, her responsibilities are focused on helping parents navigate through the school system and educate them about the resources available to them. For Ms. Ortiz, her job is her passion, "I love what I do," she said. What she does is to inspire parental engagement in their child's education and to become self-sufficient so that they can show their children how to do the same. She notifies parents of the many workshops that FCE holds, such as resume building, learning English, guidance in achieving a G.E.D., and coaching on how to get insurance. More than that, she listens.

Paterson has many stories, one of which is that it is a city of many refugees. People come to Paterson needing help and, "you have to sit and listen to them, to build their trust," she said. "I have heard stories that make me really appreciate America; I am grateful to be living in America. They really appreciate all the help."

Ms. Ortiz credits her mother with inspiring her to join the District. Also a Parent Coordinator, Theresa Claudio is stationed at Central Office. They meet often and compare notes. Ms. Claudio has been in the District for over twenty years and uses her experience to give Ms. Ortiz tips on how to increase workshop attendance.



## The Best Part of My Day

Jajaira Ortiz enjoys mornings most, particularly when the parents drop off their children, "then I can talk to the parents and tell them about upcoming opportunities to learn," she says.

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

"Positive mind, positive life," is something that Jajaira Ortiz reminds herself of every day.

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# Flag Football Day

Players on Eastside's Flag Football team enjoyed a day of celebration with friends and family members.



## Coach Of The Year

Teacher Mentor Of Climate and Culture Candice Cotton is also the softball coach for John F. Kennedy High School. She has been named the 2024 Liberty Division Coach of the Year. She was also recently recognized as she led the JFK girls softball varsity team to the State Tournament for the first time in over 40 years.





## Top Eastside Athletes Join University Teams Next Year

Four students that play on Eastside High School's Ghosts sports teams have signed on to play at universities starting this Fall semester.

Jhy'Deisha Stewart attended Paterson P-TECH and played Girls Basketball & Flag Football for the Ghosts. She will play for Morgan State's women's basketball team, coming off of four successful years with the Ghosts. She has been a starter for all four years of her high school basketball career, helping to win two county championships and four league titles.

Nydia Cos-Rivera is enrolled at International High School and is this year's valedictorian. She played for the Ghosts' Girls Soccer, Softball & Flag Football teams, and is called "Ny" by friends, teammates and coaches. She will be going to the University of Connecticut for Biology, with plans on becoming a neurologist. Although she will be going on an academic scholarship, she plans on continuing to play in the school's flag football club.

Jayden McKenzie of Eastside High School was on the Track & Field team. He will be attending Saint Peters University for Computer Science on a partial scholarship.

Malachi Bethea of Eastside High School played on the Ghosts' Football team. He will be attending Western Connecticut University, majoring in Business Management and minoring in Entrepreneurship. The school has offered him a full scholarship.





# *By The Way...*

## **THE HONORS ARE ALL THEIRS**

### **National Junior Honor Society Inductees At Alexander Hamilton Academy**



Alexander Hamilton Academy announced that 15 students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. Students were selected for membership based on demonstrating the five pillars of NJHS: scholarship, leadership, citizenship, character, and service. The ceremony, held at the school on Friday, April 26, was well attended by family and friends of the students and was followed by a reception in their honor. Assistant Superintendent of Unit III Cicely Warren gave the students advice about life as well as their career as students and thanked the families for their support. Principal Cosmo Braico thanked the advisers Sherri Rothstein and Alyssa Radomski for their initiative, dedication, and hard work. Congratulations to Zion Green, Lisanna Sanchez Espinal, Nehemiah Watson, Aaliyah Armfield, Elizabeth Audelo-Gutierrez, Shaylie Capellan, Ashley Marrero, Paris Moseley, Soleil Vazquez, Jayla Cornish, A'nyilah Randolph, Jaz'myne Cromartie, Alaylah Tyre, Winsel Capellan, and Koran Hendley.



## National Honor Society Inductees At John F. Kennedy High School



On April 18th, thirty students were inducted into the National Honor Society at JFK High School during a special induction ceremony. With school administration in attendance, special guests Paterson Mayor Andre Sayegh and Councilman-at-Large Mr. Uddin awarded seniors with Certificates of Special Recognition from the City of Paterson, honoring their commitment and effectiveness as members of the National Honor Society.

"Each member has exemplified outstanding leadership, scholarship, service, and character," a school official said, "core values deeply embedded in our school community."

## SUPERHEROES AT MLK

In a display of solidarity and support, the students of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School donned their superhero capes and rallied together to raise awareness for Autism Acceptance Month this April.

Under the banner of the "MLK Superheroes," students, teachers, and staff came together for a series of engaging and educational events throughout the month. From a vibrant bouncy house to a spirited field day, the school community embraced the opportunity to learn and celebrate together.

One of the highlights of the month was the annual autism walk, where students marched alongside their peers, parents, and teachers. Decked out in colorful superhero costumes and waving handmade signs, the MLK Superheroes showcased their support for individuals with autism and their families.

Throughout the month, students also had the chance to participate in classroom activities and discussions focused on autism awareness and acceptance.







# June 2024

## SELF-CARE CALENDAR



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Set your self-care goals for the month
2  Take a long walk	3 Give yourself a compliment	4  Eat a healthy lunch	5 Tell someone you love the truth	6  Speak up for what you believe in	7 Try to make someone else happy today	8  Plant some flowers
9 Eat at your favorite restaurant	10 Remind yourself, you deserve forgiveness	11 Send a thank you note	12  Do 25 jumping jacks	13 Start a good habit	14 Take breaks during your day	15 Declutter your space
16  Drink a cup of tea	17  Do 10 push ups	18 Find small ways to be generous today	19  Do a relaxing yoga flow	20 Try a new vegetable side dish	21  Happy summer! Really take time to enjoy nature	22 Reflect on priorities in your life
23  Sit outside and read	24 Relive funny moments to put a smile on your face	25 Move your body	26 Offer your ear when someone needs support	27  Tell someone no	28 Drink at least 64 oz of water today	29  Pamper yourself
30 Write down your goals for summer						

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 Department of Student Support Services  
 SAC and Social Emotional Learning  
 90 Delaware Avenue, Paterson NJ 07503  
 Office: (973) 321-0694 [tolson@paterson.k12.nj.us](mailto:tolson@paterson.k12.nj.us)



# June 2024

## CALENDARIO DE CUIDADO PERSONAL



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Establece tus objetivos de cuidado personal para el mes
2  Dar un largo caminar	3 Darte un Piroppo	4  Come un almuerzo saludable	5 Dile a alguien que amas la verdad	6  Habla por lo que crees	7 Intenta hacer feliz a otra persona hoy	8  Plantar algunas flores
9 Come en tu restaurante favorito	10 Recuerda que mereces el perdón	11 Enviar una nota de agradecimiento	12  Haz 25 saltos de tijera	13 Comienza un buen hábito	14 Toma descansos durante tu día	15 Ordena tu espacio
16  Toma una taza de té	17  Haz 10 flexiones	18 Encuentre pequeñas formas de ser generoso hoy	19  Haz un flujo de yoga relajante	20 Pruebe un nuevo plato de verduras	21  ¡Feliz verano! Tómate el tiempo y disfruta la naturaleza	22 Reflexiona sobre las prioridades de tu vida.
23  Siéntate afuera y lee	24 Revive momentos divertidos que pon sonrisas en tu cara	25 Mueve tu cuerpo	26 Ofrece tu oído cuando alguien necesite apoyo	27  Decirle a alguien que no	28 Beba al menos 64 oz de agua hoy	29  Mímate
30 Anota tus objetivos para el verano						

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## Important Dates

June 19	Juneteenth - District Closed
June 27	Last day of classes
June 27	Graduation Day
June 28	Last day for staff



### Board of Education Meeting

The June 5<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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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